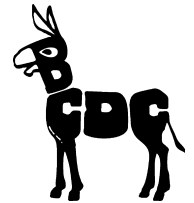


# Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

February, 2005

## Next Meeting

**Tuesday, February 22, 7:30PM**  
**David K. Hayward Center**  
**2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.**

### Senator Debra Bowen



Our February speaker will be California Senator Debra Bowen. A lawmaker for more than a decade, Senator Bowen has authored numerous

bills to protect the state's natural resources and its children, help Californians protect their privacy and their pocketbook, and make it easier to gain access to and understand state government.

Her AB 1624 unlocked the Legislature's computer files and gave computer users worldwide Internet access to information about bills, Committee records, and more. Her SB 168 makes it much more difficult for criminals to commit identity theft, in part by preventing companies from using Social Security numbers as public identifiers.

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Bowen graduated from Michigan State University in 1976 and earned her law degree from the University of Virginia in 1979. In 1984, she started her own California law firm specializing in small business start-ups, tax law, land use, and environmental issues.

## Welcome New Members

Eric Mah from Manhattan Beach  
Andrew Gamet from Redondo Beach  
Dale Petrusis from Redondo Beach  
Kenneth & Susan Sarno from Hermosa Beach  
Denise Ravatt from Hermosa Beach

## CDC Endorses Dean for DNC Chair

FEBRUARY 7

Following a canvass of Democratic clubs and county committees throughout California over the past ten days, the California Democratic Council is pleased to announce Governor Howard Dean has earned CDC's endorsement for DNC Chair. On the first round of counting, Governor Dean well surpassed the 60 percent threshold needed for CDC's endorsement.

Representatives of more than 100 chartered Democratic clubs and county committees throughout California cast ranked votes via e-mail and phone after discussing the issue with

the members of their local organizations.

The California Democratic Council was founded in 1953 by leaders including Alan Cranston, Phil Burton and Joe Wyatt. CDC serves as California's statewide association of Democratic clubs and county committees. Thousands of grassroots Democrats from throughout California are represented by the 147 Board members who cast votes on this recommendation.

Best Democratic regards,

Chris Stampolis

President, California Democratic Council

323-653-1091 \* [www.cdc-ca.org](http://www.cdc-ca.org)

## Volunteers needed

BCDC is looking for a website manager and someone to keep our Yahoo group updated. We also need phone tree volunteers: about 350 members are unreachable by email.

Please sign up to call your fellow Democrats for meetings and special events. We also have a speakers' committee and a fund raising committee in need of members.

## Dues Overdue

Membership chair Barbara Blum reports that there are still about 60 members who have not paid their dues. With such a large membership, it is crucial for us to keep up with mailing expenses, and we have recently pledged to donate a large amount of money to local candidates. Please mail in your check right away or bring it to the February meeting.

## Marge Winston

With sadness we report that our wonderful club member Marge Winston died on February 1. Marge was one of the people who, as soon as she joined the club, volunteered for a job. She cheerfully mailed the newsletter until late last year, saying it was "the least she could do."

Marge was a generous person who loved flowers, dogs, and people. In her career as a psychotherapist, her patients were fond of her.

Marge is survived by her two sons. A memorial service will be held on February 27 in the San Fernando Valley. For details, contact her son, Brian Shepherd, at (818)705-6590.



Visit our Website at [lafn.org/politics/bcdc](http://lafn.org/politics/bcdc)

## From the President's Pen

After all the hand wringing, soul searching and death notices of the Democratic Party, I am here to say that it's a lot of talking-head hype. The so called "liberal" media has a job to do, and that is to make our situation seem so hopeless we'll all just go away. Yes, we lost the Presidential election, causing me to stay in bed with the covers over my head for a few depressing days. Yes, the Emperor with no clothes is sworn in for another 4 years, but the more I have thought about it, the more I realize how much we have gained.

For years we have been told that no one cares about politics anymore. Everyone is too busy with their lives, families, careers and a myriad of entertainment outlets. Too busy to care about a baseless invasion of a sovereign nation, too busy to care about the environment, health care, and staggering deficits. But they were wrong. Millions of people across the country who had never been involved in politics came out to participate and vote. Right here in the South Bay we had one of the most dynamic grassroots organizations in the country. Thousands of people volunteered, gave money and time, traveled to other states to walk precincts and worked tirelessly for a better government.

This is real and solid and exciting. After every defeat there must be a time to reflect. Think about what George Washington was thinking and feeling at Valley Forge, in the dead of winter, with his rag-tag army, would they starve or freeze first? He had to reorganize, regroup and plan for another day. It is appropriate for us to go through this now, it is our "time to



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## January Recap

### More from our candidates

Local candidates were on the agenda again this month as we heard updates from their campaigns.

#### Redondo Beach:

**Lee Fink** reported his campaign for city council in the 4<sup>th</sup> District is in good shape. He would like to have a precinct captain in each of the district's nine precincts to reach voters directly. He is also distributing lawn signs.

Three Democrats competing for city attorney spoke next.

**Stevan Colin** has been a city councilman for the past eight years and has served as mayor pro-tem and chairman of the Redondo Beach Redevelopment Agency. He wants to stop excessive spending by the city on outside attorneys. He is funding his own campaign and only asks that people put up lawn signs and talk to their neighbors.

**Tory Erikson**, who spoke last month, says he will work to eliminate closed sessions and make city government more transparent. He is taking out ads in the Beach Reporter and Easy Reader and has a website, [Erickson@pacbell.com](mailto:Erickson@pacbell.com).

**Dave Wiggins**, also speaking for the second time, pledged to reduce the

city's reliance on outside law firms and comply with state laws such as the Coastal Act and the Public Records Act. He brought up the competing ballot options on the aging AES power plant. Option A, which he favors, would turn the area into a regional park. Option B, called Village Park, would build homes and other structures on the site. Dave's campaign site is [DaveWiggins.net](http://DaveWiggins.net).

A brief debate followed in which each candidate stated his position on the issue. Steve Colin is concerned with contamination on the site and is not in favor of either plan as written. He said the city has 65,000 residents and it is not obvious where the funds would come from.

Tory Erickson also regards both options as faulty but says he favors the village plan, which would get rid of the plant and build homes on the site.



RB School Board candidate  
Dale Petrusis

## Club Business

Tammy Minion has volunteered to be our new mailing chairperson. We are also forming a fund raising committee and a speakers committee; new member Marija Kosanovich will serve on it.

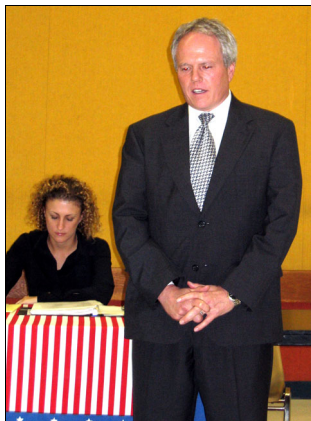
Lori Geittmann reported that the 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Committee is looking to open a permanent office. They have elected new officers: Mustapha is chairman, Bobbi vice-chair, Lori secretary, Shirlee treasurer. The committee is setting up a rapid response team to send letters and make phone calls to office holders.

Courtney Wong from Mike Gordon's office introduced herself.

She said Mike is having a great time in Sacramento and is on the Health, Natural Resources, and Appropriations committees and chairs Veterans' Affairs. Mike is the only assembly member to serve on the Little Hoover commission which does government budget review.



Courtney Wong



*Kurt Schmalz, running for mayor of Redondo Beach*

**Kurt Schmalz** then spoke about his mayoral campaign. A councilman for the past four years and former chairman on the Planning Commission, he would

be the first Democratic mayor in 25 years. On the council, Kurt was instrumental in bringing the Artesia Boulevard upgrade in on time and under budget, and in getting a bike path built. He has been in negotiations with Target over their planned facility on the former Levitz property, winning \$100,000 in concessions.

On the power plant, he thinks the owner, AES, should pay for seven years of back taxes amounting to \$20 to \$30 million and that we should negotiate an exit agreement.

Schmalz owns his own law firm, is a business owner with 25 employees, and has been a litigator for over 21 years. He is endorsed by the LA county Democrats and Assemblyman George Nakano.

**Dale Petrusis**, an educator with 36 years of experience, is running for school board. She has been a principal for 20 years and is currently director of instructional support services, in charge of curriculum for 65,000 students. She has written \$3 million worth of grants and believes we can improve the schools by changing working conditions and schedules for teachers. She is concerned that No Child Left Behind has led to the proliferation of largely unregulated charter schools and privatization of the public school system.

#### *Manhattan Beach:*

Councilman **Jim Aldinger** said things are going well in the city. We took in \$3.5 million more in property taxes last year than we spent. A recent open space ruling has gone into effect that requires second story additions to have an 8% volume setback. Jim said it will encourage remodels and hold down the number of oversized new homes. Jim has also worked to oppose the LA airport expansion, keep the air force base open, and preserve the 310 area code.

**Eric Mah**, also appearing for the second time, said this election would give Democrats a chance to have a majority on the city council. Eric is a graduate of UCLA and has a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins, with experience in helping kids with substance abuse problems. He supports healthy partnerships between the school



*Eric Mah*

board and city council, and common sense government. He believes the permanent absentee ballot is a strong weapon for the Democrats: the efficacy rate is 80% versus 20 to 25% for conventional ballots.

**Rick Norris** is running for treasurer against Linda Wilson. He is a CPA who graduated from law school and has worked for Barbara Boxer. His website is [norrisfortreasurer.com](http://norrisfortreasurer.com).

We passed a motion to donate \$250 to each candidate endorsed by the County Democratic Party. Following is the list of all the Democratic candidates with an asterisk denoting AD endorsements.

#### **Manhattan Beach**

*City Council:* Jim Aldinger,\* Eric Mah,\* Nick Tell \*

*Treasurer:* Rick Norris \*

#### **Redondo Beach**

*Mayor:* Kurt Schmalz \*

*(Continued on page 4)*



## **Monroe's Corner**

In these trying times of terrorism and attack attempts by unseen enemies, and also protected by the

infamous Patriot Act, I have been keeping a personal dossier on a few significant individuals. One such individual & prime suspect is Herr Arnold (the Gropenator Extrordinaire!)

Our press has been overloaded with President Dubya & his plan to destroy the Social Security system, which needs some limited 'tweekin' but nothing like the major revisions that are part of a vast right-wing revolutionary conspiracy to expand the privileges of the economic elite. These are meant not to scale back the Great Society & New Deal programs, but to erase them from existence. After all, Dubya has been called by God to lead our nation.

As a Jew, I am particularly concerned that the God he hears is not the same God I speak to in the Synagogue. But I digress from my initial thought to address our California monster dilemma & danger, which is Herr Arnold from Austria (& forgive the reference, but this is the same Austria that gave birth to the deadly & infamous Adolph Hitler).

I recently suffered a bout of bloody noses caused by a deviated septum. With Herr Arnold we have a deviated political mentality. Let me mention a few: (1) Straining the fund raising limits after indicating he is rich enough to do the right thing. (2) Wants to eliminate independent oversight bodies to give the governor more freedom & flexibility. (3) Accepted at least \$1 million from auto & related industries. (4) Devised a budget plan that requires substantial borrowing with a huge projected shortfall. (5) Wants to limit lawsuits & reduce healthcare coverage for workers. (6) Vetoed bills to raise

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## Beach Cities Democratic Club

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P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

*President*

Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890

*Vice-President*

Lee Fink—310-370-3020

*Treasurer*

Shirlee Browne—310-798-0908

*Secretary/ Publicity*

Kathleen Paralusz—310-621-3734

*Newsletter*

Moira Zucker—310-546-7562

*Database*

Steve Zucker—310-546-7562

*Mailing*

Tammy Minion—310-406-8057

*Web Manager*

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

*Membership*

Barbara Blum—310-540-6346

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*(President, continued from page 2)*

sow,” to decide what our true identity as a party is what we stand for, and where we are going.

As I write this, it looks like Howard Dean will lead the DNC. Through his groundbreaking use of the Internet, he rejuvenated the process and changed forever the way campaigns will be run. His message reached and motivated millions of young people to get involved. He has energy, talent and new ideas. He knows how to make defeat a learning experience to grow from. We must look at this with great optimism. Right now we need the growth. We need rebirth, refinement, and rededication. If we are going to compete and win in the future, we must build on the success we have had in energizing new and young voters, and keep them engaged and motivated.

We must start now to organize for the big fight that is coming in November. Ah-nold and his big donors across the country want to change the future of California to be in line with the radical agenda in Washington. But, recent

polls in the LA Times indicate that he is losing support among the Democrats who voted for him. We must do everything we can to bring those voters home. We can't afford an insidious repetition of the "Reagan Democrat" syndrome. We must work to defeat his initiatives this year, thereby weakening him for a knockout punch in 06.

First however, we must elect Kurt Schmalz as Mayor of Redondo Beach and all our other great Democrats to every office in our communities. I hope everyone is helping in every way they are able, because as we know, all politics is local.

*Bobbi Buescher*

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*(Candidates, continued from page 3)*

*City Council:* District 1: Steve Aspel, Gary Snelson. District 2: Bill Brand District 4: Lee Fink \*

*City Attorney:* Stevan Colin,\* Tory Erickson, Dave Wiggins

*School Board:* Genie Davis, Drew Gamet ,\* Jeffrey Hazelton, Todd Loewenstein(\*pending), Dale Petrulis \*

*(Monroe, continued from page 3)*

the minimum wage. (7) Turned down two energy bills. (8) Vetoed bill to limit air pollution in the ports. (9) Vetoed nine bills to cut prescription costs. (10) Worst of all, reneged on commitments he made to Teachers & Native American Indians. If any bills reach his desk that endangers any of his donors it is instant "KAPUT."

In spite of all I have written so far, I must agree with his positions on embryonic stem cell research and with a plan to re-draw gerrymandered voting districts.

And then there is his clever "Girlie men" remark about Democrats. It may have escaped much notice, but Herr Arnold and wife Maria were on a cover of Vanity Fair magazine recently. Coming from a Fashion industry, I think his hair is much too orange to be his own, and I'd like to remind folks that he was a steroid user before Dubya thought it wrong for steroids to be used by professional athletes.

*Monroe Weinstock*

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