

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2005

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Janice Hahn



We're excited to have LA City Councilwoman Janice Hahn as our April speaker. She will talk about issues related to the Port of Los Angeles including homeland security; economy/jobs; environment/air quality, water pollution, traffic, and more.

Janice Hahn was elected in the 15th District in June of 2001, encompassing Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, San Pedro, Watts and Wilmington.

Councilwoman Hahn chairs the Committee on Education & Neighborhoods where she works closely with a network of neighborhood councils to ensure they have a say in local issues. She also serves as vice chair of the Commerce, Energy & Natural Resources Committee, overseeing the Port of Los Angeles, LAX and the Department of Water & Power.

Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser

Join us for an evening celebrating
Cinco de Mayo

Saturday, May 7, 5PM
(dress for outdoors)

448 23rd St. Manhattan Beach
Gourmet cook: Shizue McNay
Cost: \$25.00, cash bar
Hosts: Sander & Ranoo Shipper
RSVP: Ranoo Shipper at
ranooshipper@hotmail.com
Or Sally Boyle, 310-376-5717

Parking is available at Grand View School on 24th and Grand View. Make check payable to BCDC. Send to Sander Shipper, 448 23rd St. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

CDC Convention

CDC is preparing for their June 17-19 State Convention in San Bernardino.

The CDC calendar will be kept updated on their website, www.cdc-ca.org. Each affiliated club and county committee may appoint committee members to participate.

President Chris Stampolis announced the appointment of LA County Southwest Area VP Josh Futterman as the new chair of the Organizational Development standing committee. He also thanked Larry Trullinger for leading the committee for several years and guiding CDC through its many redistricting changes.

Environmental Forum

Friday, May 13
Light refreshments 6:00 PM
Program 7:30 PM
Pacific Unitarian Church
5621 Montemalaga Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes

Because taking action to limit global warming is becoming more urgent every day, the Environmental Priorities Network is sponsoring this public forum.

Snacks and drinks will be available at 6:00PM and the program will start at 7:30. Professor Alex Hall of the UCLA Department of Atmospheric Sciences will speak on "Climate Change: The State of Current Knowledge."

Professor Hall has done extensive research on how much the earth's climate is currently changing and how much it might change in the future because of greenhouse gas emissions. He will indicate how best to take action to minimize the danger to our planet.

The Unitarian Social Justice Committee and the South Coast Interfaith Council are cosponsoring this event. Environmental organizations are invited to set up tables. To arrange for a table or find out more about this event, please contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384 or at lklight@verizon.net.



Visit our Website at
lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

The traditional April Fool's Day on the first of this month has been expanded by the Fool in Chief himself. This year, April is "All Fool's Month."



From W's selection of Paul Wolfowitz as head of The World Bank, to John Negroponte as director of National Security and Intelligence, Jr. has really outdone himself. Now we must endure John Bolton's nomination as Ambassador to the United Nations.

This is the worst assemblage of incompetents, with wrong headed, single minded, failed policies since Don Rumsfeld and Condie Rice teamed up.

The way to get ahead in Washington these days is to be dead wrong. Scare the population, miscalculate everything, lie, smile, then pick up a Medal of Freedom on the way to your new more impressive position.

I guess this is "The New World Order" Poppy was always talking about. Really, it's just "Peter's Principal" gone berserk.

Speaking of outrageous things, here are a few more:

Gas is \$2.69999 a gallon.

We're spending billions of dollars a day in Iraq, but we don't count that in the budget.

Our trade deficit reached a record high at \$61 billion, but analysts say this reflects a strong US economy.

April Fools? No, reality under this radical rapture right regime.

And how about our governor? His policies are getting about as much mileage as his Hummer, but he's still running around the country amassing millions to put California more in line with his not so hidden, right wing agenda of privatize, cut and call names. Any semblance of being a moderate

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March Recap

Post election highs and lows

Since President Bobbi was away at another meeting and our scheduled speaker Janice Hahn was off helping with her brother's mayoral campaign, Vice-President Lee Fink led our post-election meeting joined by many of the candidates.

Leading off was our reelected Councilman Jim Aldinger (Manhattan Beach), who said we would probably be hearing soon from the other Democrat elected to the council, Nick Tell. Jim said that Tell walked every day and talked to many people, which was why he won so handily. Jim thanked everyone for working on his campaign.

Steve Colin, who ran for city attorney (Redondo Beach), said he never worked harder on anything than this race. His opponent Mike Webb's campaign outspent the competition three

times over at close to \$90,000. Webb, now in a May 17 runoff with Dave Wiggins, is a city prosecutor. Many of his contributions came from criminal defense lawyers which is a clear conflict of interest.

A motion was entered to endorse Dave in the runoff and to donate \$250 to his campaign. The discussion included a defeated amendment to double the donation to \$500. Dave graciously said that he was touched by the show of support but, given our treasury balance, preferred to leave the amount at \$250. He said he would appreciate volunteers to help with calling and walking.

Dale Petrulis spoke about her run for Redondo Beach school board. She said she learned a lot during the election and she's not going away. She sits on several committees and intends to continue holding the school district to high standards.

Lee conveyed a message of thanks from Kurt Schmalz, away attending a Redondo Beach council meeting. He



Clockwise from upper left: Dale Petrulis recaps her school board campaign; new school board members Tod Loewenthal and Drew Gamet; George Naksno updates the club on his Senate race.

singled out Larry Fox, Tony Hale, and Monroe Weinstock among the people who helped him in his mayoral race.

Lee then gave an emotional summary of his own city council race. He said you really find out who your friends are when you lose an election. Now it's time to turn our energies to electing a city attorney in May, and after that, a new governor in 2006 and a Democratic president in 2008.

George Nakano's 2006 State Senate campaign is already underway. He said that endorsements don't get you elected, walking precinct gets you elected. There's no substitute for meeting and talking to your neighbors. He has already received endorsements from Jane Harman, Barbara Boxer, Mike Gordon, and several mayors and council members.

Then we heard from our fundraising chair, Ranoo Shipper. She's planning a series of dinner parties and urged everyone to come to our inaugural Cinco de Mayo event; see page 1 for

details. Ranoo also wants to hold a big garage sale toward the end of the year. Save your used household and clothing items, and contact Ranoo at 545-5808 or Edna Murphy at 989-3701.

We learned that Jim Aldinger is running against Kevin Biggers, president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club, for Regional Director in the 17th Assembly District. Incumbent Eric Bradley is planning to run for state party controller. We voted to endorse Jim.

We also voted to endorse Lori Geittmann who is running for chair of the Senior Caucus.

We heard from Drew Gamet and Tod Loewenthal, just elected to the Redondo Beach School Board. Gamet said the Governor is coming to gut our schools and the battle is shaping up for summertime. He and Tod are going to Sacramento to challenge the budget cuts. The new board will be sworn in April 12 and they look forward to getting down to work.



Write a Letter to the Editor: The Bush Budget is a Disaster

Ordinary Americans are facing severe cuts if George Bush's new budget becomes law. Bush plans devastating cuts to America's top priorities, from homeland security to health care to education to benefits for veterans and much more. Despite these cuts, this budget is a fiscal disaster, with Bush's trademark irresponsibility pushing America deeper into the red with another record deficit.

For more details, go to <http://www.democrats.org/action/index.html>

Help Air a New TV Ad on Social Security

George W. Bush is going to make Social Security privatization a key part of his State of the Union address this week. After his speech he is going on a cross-country tour to promote his agenda. MoveOn.org needs to raise \$500,000 for TV ads in key congressional districts to expose Bush's plan to cut Social Security benefits in order to pay for private accounts. Go to their website, Moveon.org, to view the commercials.

Also consider buying their collection of essays *50 Ways to Love Your Country*. Combining personal stories with resources for taking action, it answers the question that more and more citizens are asking: "What can I do?" Also available on CD, MP3-CD and audio download.



Monroe's Corner

It is almost as easy to criticize the media as it is to chew out a politician. It has been said that politicians

are like children's diapers, they need to be changed often...for the same reasons. A free press is the sign of Democracy; it is there to inform the public; it helps insure justice & the rule of law; it helps make prudent & intelligent judgments; but in the USA today a free press is a *question mark*.

Today we face a press consolidation that has 22 companies controlling 70% of the nation's newspapers & 10 companies own broadcast stations that reach 85% of the USA. The top 20 Internet news sites are owned by the same media conglomerates that control cable & broadcast networks.

The *bad* poster boy is Rupert Murdoch, who publishes 175 newspapers, owns Fox Network, 20th Century Fox studios, & 35 TV stations. One of his execs is quoted as saying, "We decide what the news is. The news is what we tell you it is." And another *bummer* is the Sinclair Broadcasting Group, which owns 62 radio stations nationwide & contributes heavily to ultra-conservative & Republican cause. Their motto is "We prefer to disguise our politics as money."

The selling of the War on Iraq was arguably the worst scandal in U.S. political history, worse than Ronald Reagan's Iran-Contra or Nixon's Watergate fiasco. The weapons of mass destruction were never found & the yellow-cakes bought from Niger never happened. Robert Novak did the unconscionable by exposing the name of Valerie Plame, a CIA agent, which appears to be an attempt at revenge for her husband, Joseph C. Wilson, who proved the yellow-cake story false. Dubya seems to show the same

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was thrown out after his convention speech and his attacks on working men and women. Sliding poll numbers reflect the public's new image of him as a bully. Sacramento to his dismay is not Hollywood. Who knew this was a *real job*, not just one long photo op?

People and promises matter. Reneging on \$2 billion in school funding makes for a major trust gap. Maria says she wants him to come home. That would make firefighters, police, nurses and teachers with pensions very happy. Maybe we can hope for flowers after all these showers. April Fools.

But we must keep fighting. We have an opening here. Keep reading and educating yourselves. Keep listening to progressive radio. Keep talking to your friends and neighbors. Keep the conversation going on the Internet. Keep sending money to Move.on and other groups who are getting our message out to the masses. You can fool 50.7 percent of the people some of the time, but as

Georgie and Arnie are finding out, you can't fool all the people all the time.

Bobbi Buescher

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symptoms that afflicted Nixon when the truth appeared. William Safire, Nixon's speechwriter, said in the N.Y. Times, "The fundamental rights of Americans through a free press to penetrate & criticize the working of our government is under attack as never before."

In February, James D. Guckert, AKA Jeff Gannon, was exposed as an administration plant in the White House press corps. He received preferential treatment & tossed soft-ball questions at Dubya. And there is more...Armstrong Williams was paid \$240,000 to promote the "no-child-left-behind" program; Maggie Gallagher got \$41,500 to promote Dubya's sex-abstinence program; Michael McManus received \$10,000 to puff up the "no sex before marriage" gospel. Stay tuned for the next expose!

It will take serious action & joining of many organizations to fight this press abuse...I certainly hope we can stem this hemorrhage. And incidentally, someone wrote that there is an epitaph on Richard Nixon's gravestone which reads...HERE LIES RICHARD NIXON...it will be a fitting phrase when it is Dubya's time to go.

Monroe Weinstock

Quoting Goldwater?

It's time to start quoting Barry Goldwater, of all people:

"I am a conservative Republican," Barry Goldwater wrote in a 1994 Washington Post essay, "but I believe in democracy and the separation of church and state. The conservative movement is founded on the simple tenet that people have the right to live life as they please as long as they don't hurt anyone else in the process."

More quotes like this at:
<http://liberalslikechrist.org/about/goldwater.html>