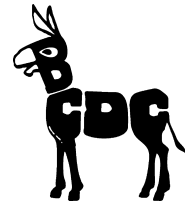


Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

July, 2005

Next Meeting

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

Although our speaker isn't confirmed as of press time, we will have a speaker in addition to important club business. We'll hear about the special election in the 53rd AD. We will also discuss the upcoming election for the State Assembly and how to keep the seat in Democratic Hands. Come and sign up to walk precincts for Victory in November.

Welcome New Members

Our recent door-to-door canvassing brought in nearly 300 new members. We thank all of you for your contributions and hope you'll become Democratic activists.

Those registered Democrats who contributed at least \$20 are now full members of BCDC. If you gave less, you'll receive club mailings through the end of August; we hope you'll come to the club meetings and join.

If you're not a registered Democrat and want to become one, you can do so on-line at <https://ovr.ss.ca.gov/votereg/OnlineVoterReg>. Then send an e-mail to Steve Zucker (szucker@dslextrreme.com) or call him at 310-546-7562 to tell him you're eligible for full membership. Otherwise, you'll be an honorary member for one year: you get all the privileges of membership except for voting on club business.

If you're a new member and want to volunteer, fill out the membership form in this newsletter or send an email to Steve.

Steve Zucker

Mike Gordon

Our wonderful Assemblyman Mike Gordon died at home in El Segundo on June 25 due to complications from a brain tumor. Mike was a pillar of democratic politics in California for the past 30 years.

Mike was elected to the El Segundo City Council in 1996 and served two terms as the city's mayor. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the school district, police, and fire departments, and spearheaded efforts to revitalize the city's downtown.

He was a central figure in the fight against the expansion of LA Airport, and worked with other leaders to save the LA Air Force Base – a source of more than 65,000 local jobs.

Mike was elected to the 53rd Assembly District in 2004. He was appointed by Speaker Fabian Núñez to chair the Committee on Veterans Affairs. In his first two months in office, he introduced 22 legislative measures reflecting the priorities of his district: education, health care, public safety, veterans, and consumer protection.

Mike resided in El Segundo with his wife and four children. His friendship, courage, and leadership will be greatly missed by everyone.

In lieu of flowers, Mike's family requests donations to your choice of the following charities: National Brain Tumor Foundation, 22 Battery Street, Suite 612, San Francisco, CA 94111-5520; American Heart Association, 816 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90017; American Diabetes Association, 6300 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Condolence cards may be sent to the District Office at 1700 East Walnut Avenue, Suite 601, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Dues Update

Reminder to current members: Your dues were due on July 1. Please send in the membership form with your check. Members who do not renew will receive a reminder, then be dropped from the mailing list after 90 days.

As of July 1, dues have been raised to \$25 per person, \$40 for two people at the same address. Members who have already renewed for the current year will not be affected by the increase this year.



George Nakano gave a moving tribute to Mike Gordon at the July 9 fund raising dinner. He talked about how clear was the choice to endorse Gordon, and said we must keep the seat Democratic in Mike's honor.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

2005— An Election Year

I want to thank everyone who chose me to be the new President. I particularly want to thank our outgoing President Bobbi Buescher, who did such a great job over the last three years.

I am taking over at a particularly important juncture, because 2005 is an Election Year. Traditionally “Election Years” (like the Olympics) happen only every four years. But last year, I voted only twice (primary and general), while this year I will have to vote four times—twice in the Redondo Beach elections, once in the special primary for the 53rd AD, and finally in the “Governator’s Mad Power Grab” in November.

We need to remember is that in the Beach Cities, every year is an Election Year.

While Presidential and Congressional elections happen in the even-numbered years, Redondo, Manhattan, and Hermosa Beach all have municipal elections in odd-numbered years—as do several other boards and councils in the South Bay. This year, however, the most important election we have is one that we never expected, and



prayed would never happen. With Mike Gordon’s tragic passing, there will be a special election in the 53rd Assembly District—with a “jungle” primary on September 13, and a run-off (if necessary) on November 8.

Mike was a great friend to all of us and whomever is elected to replace him will have giant shoes to fill. Several people are considering running for his seat, but no matter who it is, we must work to make sure that Mike’s replacement is a Democrat. Mike worked his entire life for the Democratic Party, and he would be pretty mad if we let a Republican take over his seat. We may have some disagreements as we choose our candidate, but as Democrats, “just as we fight hard when the stakes are high, we close ranks and come together when the contest is done.” Once our candidate is chosen, all of us must do everything we can to elect that person.

Winning the 53rd Assembly District is our club’s top priority this year. Hopefully, I will see you on the 26th to start planning how to win it for Mike.

PS—I hope to use this space over the next few months to talk about the ideas I have for the Club, and how we can build on our success for a strong Democratic Party in the Beach Cities. I hope you join the conversation.

Lee Fink

June Recap

Clean Money

Bobbi presided over her final meeting as president, opening with a minute of silence in honor of Mike Gordon.

Our speakers were two people from California Clean Money: Eric Tang and Igor Kagyan. They described the campaign as a non-partisan effort to provide public funds for state, county, and city elections—an alternative to “pay to play.”

They showed a video narrated by Bill Moyers—“The Road to Clean Elections,” explaining that Maine and Arizona have already enacted clean money laws. “Clean” candidates who qualify in those states receive enough public financing to run viable campaigns. If privately funded candidates outspend them, they receive extra public funding to match, up to a limit.

Candidates qualify by gathering a set number of individual \$5 contributions and agreeing not to accept any private



Italian Evening

Our “Escape to Italy” dinner party at the Manhattan Beach home of Jane Affonso was the second in a series of great fund-raising events brought to us by Ranoo Shipper. The Italian theme gave our gourmet chefs a chance to serve outstanding antipasta and pasta dishes to the sounds of opera filling the spacious back yard. Diane Strack’s bright decorations featured lighted trees and a flashing blue BAR sign, as well as a dart board adorned with the faces of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and

other tempting targets. Members had donated quality prizes for the evening’s raffle. Results will be published next month.



Clockwise, from top: Diane Strack in front of her Republican dart board; Ranoo Shipper serving Italian pasta selections; hostess Diane Affonso blowing out the candles on her birthday cake.

money.

As a result, more people of various backgrounds are able to run for office.

A petition was circulated urging the Governor and our legislators to support A.B. 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Election Act. For more information go to cacean.org.

New Officers Elected

The club then voted in our new officers: Lee Fink—President, Tony Hale—Vice-president, and Edna Murphy—Treasurer. Kathleen Paralusz, who was nominated for Secretary, is unable to serve this year, so Ani Haigasian was nominated from the floor and voted in unanimously. We thank our wonderful outgoing officers and welcome our new ones.

In other club business, Barbara Blum reported we have five new members. From the 53rd AD Committee, Lori and Jim Aldinger both spoke. To comply with McCain-Feingold, it may be necessary to de-link the Assembly District Committee from the charter clubs.

Jim Aldinger reported that he has been appointed to the Coastal Commission.

This report was compiled from notes courtesy of Anne Faas



Our new officers: Tony Hale, Vice-president; Ani Haigasian, Secretary; Edna Murphy, Treasurer; and Lee Fink, President. Photo courtesy of Jim McGreevy.

Monroe's Corner

It's always nice to be able to use a quotable phrase for an opinion piece. So I'll use Sammy Davis Jr.'s: Here comes the Judge!



And he or she is really coming now! The USA needs a quick replacement for retired Sandra Day O'Connor. And after seeing photos of Chief Justice Wm. Rehnquist, I think he might soon retire, or if not, the Good Lord will remove him completely. The 'moving finger writes' & leads to President Dubya to make a choice, not just for today, but for one or two generations. My gut feeling tells me that I will not like the choice made by this God-imbued son of the rich, conservative Texas oilman, who probably never got a hand dirty while working.

The media is filled with punditry & choices to select. The names most prominent are Alberto Gonzales who did condone prisoner torture; Michael McConnell who fiercely opposes abortion & is quite religious; J. Michael Luttig who favors restricting abortion; J. Harvie Wilkinson III who argued against affirmative action; John Roberts, Jr. who has made no major rulings; Edith Clement who has not been involved in any major decisions; Edith H. Jones who is widely admired

by the conservative Federalist (lawyer) Society; & Janice Rogers Brown who is a loose cannon still blasting FDR's New Deal. Not a one of these is what my Jewish antecedents would call a Mensch. A Mensch signifies a human being that is caring, thinking, kind, considerate, modest, thoughtful & intelligent.

Now let me focus on lower courts. We have the recent appointment of Priscilla Owens who had been willing to re-write law from the bench for the benefit of the powerful; Janice Rogers Brown who has disregarded precedent respecting civil rights; William Pryor who is a right wing zealot & would Balkanize the USA with States making decisions that are of national concern. There will be many lifetime lower court appointments made soon, and the nominees are not especially judicially balanced. This does leave open the possibility of a filibuster, which needs to be selective & carefully programmed. Names also to watch warily are Boyle, Kavanaugh, Myers, & Saad.

I'm usually not in a predicting mode, but I will anticipate that President Dubya will go for a Home-run & pick the toughest, most conservative, most retrogressive Bork-type judge he can find. Hang on for a nasty, bloody Court battle!

Monroe Weinstock

Candidate Forum

Come one, come all! The Torrance Democratic Club and the Lomita-Harbor City Democratic Club will hereby sponsor a Democratic candidate forum to be held Friday, July 22, 2005, at 7:30PM at the Torrance Municipal Airport, 3301 Airport Drive, Torrance. We will hear from Manhattan Beach Councilman Jim Aldinger and Torrance Councilman Ted Lieu. A question and answer period will follow their remarks.

Bush's War Continues

EXCERPTED FROM BOB HERBERT, JULY 11, NEW YORK TIMES, "IT JUST GETS WORSE"
 "Last week's terror bombings in London should be seen as a reminder not just that Mr. Bush's war was a hideous diversion of focus and resources from the essential battle against terror, but that it has actually increased the danger of terrorist attacks against the U.S. and its allies."

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 James McGreevy—310-320-1638
 Membership
 Barbara Blum—310-540-6346

Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box only if you do not wish to receive your newsletter by mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with Mailing Hospitality Write for Newsletter

Register Voters Programs Legislative Membership Other _____

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make check payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.