

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

At our April meeting, we will hear from candidates for LA County Superior Court Judge and LA County Democratic Central Committee. We will also hear about Proposition 81, the Library Bond Measure, and discuss the upcoming State Convention.

South Bay Democratic Candidates' Forum

Saturday, April 22, 2006
10 AM—1 PM
UFCW Local 770 Hall
25949 Belleporte Avenue
Harbor City

Confirmed speakers include:
State Treasurer Phil Angelides, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, Sen. Jackie Speier, Sen. Liz Figueroa, Assemblywoman Judy Chu

Sponsored by the Beach Cities, Torrance, Lawndale, Gardena, Lomita-Harbor City, Palos Verdes, Progressive, San Pedro, and West LA Democratic Clubs

Volunteers Needed

The membership committee still needs volunteers to call members about renewing. Callers would only be required to contact a few people and the pay-off—a strong membership in an election year—is well worth the effort. The club is also seeking a fund-raising chair.



Raise the Flag

For the Grand Opening of the
Democratic Action Center
The South Bay's
first permanent Democratic headquarters.
Meet and mingle with Democratic elected
officials and candidates.

Featured guests:
Keynote Speaker: Congressperson Jane Harman
Senator Debra Bowen
Assemblymembers:
Ted Lieu, Jenny Oropeza, Jerome Horton
Jerry Brown
George Nakano
Marcy Winograd
Eric Bauman, Chairman L.A.C.D.P.
Other invitees listed upon confirmation.
Ample Refreshments Available

**Saturday, April 22, 2006
2-6 PM**

D.A.C.
2221 Rosecrans Blvd, suite 229
El Segundo, CA. 90245 • (310) 536-0093

Don't miss our
silent auction of
political
collectables!

Democratic Action Center
Fundraising
Volunteer Center
Voter Outreach

Environmental Priorities Fair

May 20, 2006, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Pacific Unitarian Church
5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV

Come and learn how to help reduce the dangerous consequences of global warming. Exhibits and workshops will demonstrate ways to reduce energy consumption, save money, and avert the crisis of climate change. Local installers, contractors, and companies will demonstrate energy-efficient home

retrofits and appliances, rooftop solar panels, and energy-saving transportation, which can be obtained utilizing cost-cutting federal and state rebates.

The Pacific Unitarian Social Justice Committee, the South Coast Interfaith Council, and the South Bay Energy Savings Center are cosponsors of this important event. A \$5.00 donation is optional. For more information please contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384 or llight@verizon.net.

From the President

The Six Percent Solution



Tom Delay has cut and run, Duke Cunningham can't have his fun.

Scooter Libby's on the rocks
George Bush has messed up in Iraq.
The VP shot somebody's face
And Arnold's been a huge disgrace.
The House? The Senate? The Statehouse too?

In 2006, it all depends on YOU!

The 2006 election season kicked off last week with a special election in the 50th Congressional District, former home of Duke Cunningham, and a seat considered solidly Republican. Despite the seeming Republican advantage, Democrat Francine Busby led the race with 44% of the vote, outdistancing the combined total of her three closest Republican opponents. And although she led the race, she will have to face a run-off against former Congressman-turned-lobbyist-turned-congressional-candidate Brian Bilbray. To win, she will need to pick up another 6% of the vote in the June 6 election.

That is the Democrats' challenge

in 2006 across the country—how do we pick up that extra 6% in races from the California 50th to the Pennsylvania Senate? We need to pick up 6% of the Senate seats to gain a majority in that chamber. We need to pick up a little more than 6% of the House seats to make Nancy Pelosi the speaker.

Democrats are poised to have a good electoral year. In generic congressional preference polls, Democrats lead by 10-15 points nationally. Both Steve Westly and Phil Angelides have slight leads over Arnold in recent gubernatorial polls. The American people now agree with us that the Bush administration has been a failure. And the public agrees with Democratic visions for health care, education, taxes, social security, and the environment. And while in past years we have questioned how well our leaders in Washington are doing, Amy Sullivan's recent article in *The Washington Monthly* shows that our party's leadership is turning the tide, capitalizing on Republican mistakes, and pushing forward our ideas through the difficult filter of the DC media.

But the difference between a good year and a great year is up to us—can we put in the extra 6%—the extra time, the extra effort, and the extra money? The election season is upon us. Let's pick up that 6%!

Lee Fink

Club Business

Here are the recommendations from the executive board on endorsements:

Judicial races—Candidates screened by a committee made up of attorneys, and approved candidates will be invited to address the club.

Nonpartisan races—Ray Waters's local elections committee will field these candidates.

Partisan primaries—No endorsements by the club. After the primary, we will support the winner.

County Central Committee—We

will invite all candidates to speak, then vote to endorse up to seven of them.

Ballot initiatives—No recommendations were offered.

A motion to accept these recommendations was carried.

Hermosa Beach City Councilman Michael Keegan reported that the city will put up a signal at 16th and PCH following the death of a 15-year-old skater in a recent traffic accident.

Ira Steinberg reported from Jane Harman's office that Jane has co-authored a letter with John Conyers opposing Bush's unwarranted wiretaps.

March Recap

Candidates and Propositions

We heard from both candidates running for the Senate seat (28th District) being vacated by Debra Bowen.

First, Jenny Oropeza spoke, describing her years of activism beginning in college, when Bobby Kennedy was one of her heroes. She served on the Long Beach School Board and was the first Latina member of the Long Beach City Council. She has held a seat in the Assembly (55th District) for six years, where she was named chair of the Budget Committee and now leads the powerful Transportation Committee.

Her passions include working on wage equality for women, education, health care, and environmental issues. Her proposals have been signed into law on issues ranging from port security to radiation exposure to sexual assault prevention.

Asked how she felt about tort reform, Oropeza said she believes consumers should have the right to sue corporations that have been negligent. She supports Clean Money but freely admits she accepts money from large donors even when she does not cast her votes in their favor as a result.

Asked about the initiative process, she said it's out of control and ties the hands of lawmakers. She does support certain propositions such as

Prop 98, which provides a minimum level of funding for education. She is currently working on legislation that would put some controls over the



Clockwise from top: Jim Kennedy, George Nakano, David Green, and Jenny Oropeza

petition process.

George Nakano, who also served in the Assembly for six years, opened by talking about his own history. He spent his early years in internment camps, finally being released at the age of ten. His family settled in Norwalk, where his father was a tenant farmer.

George's first job was as a radio and TV repairman. Later, he worked at Hughes Aircraft while attending college in the evening. It was then that he decided to become a teacher. He taught high school math in Watts and was promoted to assistant principal.

Nakano was the first Japanese American elected to the Torrance City Council in 1984 and served four terms until he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1998.

In a prominent episode, Nakano was attacked in a full-page ad in the Daily Breeze for backing AB 22, legislation to protect gay and lesbian students from harassment and criminal acts. Other issues he has worked on include protecting the Ballona Wetlands and preventing pollution of the LA harbors.

Jim Kennedy then spoke on behalf of Prop 82, Rob Reiner's Preschool for All initiative aimed at providing a high-quality preschool education for every four-year old in California. 50% of all 4th graders fail to meet basic reading standards. But when children go to preschool, studies show that they enter school



better prepared to learn, more likely to read by the third grade, and more likely to go on to college. Every dollar California invests in



Monroe's Corner

Considering the miracles of modern medicine, research, & hospital care, we now control, cure, or eliminate many diseases. The real dilemma, however, is BIG PHARMA & the tendency for them to promote & advertise remedies that we do not need or can live comfortably without.

BIG PHARMA is like the 400 pound parrot who says, "Polly wants a cracker....NOW!" This gigantic oligopoly of Pharmaceutical companies control & regulate our government, our health & our lives. BIG PHARMA spends less on research & development than it generates in profit. BIG PHARMA spends much more on marketing & administration than it does on any research.

In a recent book written by the chairman of Pfizer, he indicated that many factors affect the pricing of drugs. They include the cost of doing business, competitive drugs, patent status, anticipated volume & most importantly the estimated income. None of this includes the health of the patient or the ability to pay for the medication, or even the question of living or dying.

A BOOMER COALITION recently urged the BABY BOOMERS to watch & protect against high cholesterol & then heart disease. This is a program developed by Pfizer to

quality preschool could return \$2.62 in savings from reduced remedial education, less crime, and a better-educated workforce.

The initiative would be funded by a 1.7% tax on family income over \$800,000 and individual income over \$400,000, essentially repealing tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals enacted by Republican Governors Ronald



promote & sell its best seller, LIPI-TOR. Many other drug companies promote various cures & remedies for things like irritated bowel syndrome, sexual dysfunction, & attention deficit disorder. In all, \$3 billion is spent on direct-to-consumer ads.

Recently too, there was a financial consideration in raising prices. MERCK produced a drug that cost \$77.50 for a 2-weeks' supply. They sold the manufacturing rights to OVATION PHARMACEUTICALS who raised the price of the 2-weeks' supply to \$548.50. The reason was that there was now a need to cover the cost of the new investment, and the consumer must pay the tab, if they want to live or die.

In her book, *The Truth About the Drug Companies*, by Marcia Angell, MD, she indicates that BIG PHARMA has the largest lobby in Washington, DC. BIG PHARMA spent \$11 billion in 2001 for "free samples" to doctors' offices, including lavish gifts for free sports events, tickets, meals, etc. She urges that 1) BIG PHARMA keep out of medical education; 2) BIG PHARMA expose all its financial records; 3) Drug pricing be controlled, uniform, regulated & fair; 4) Consumers must ask many more questions about the drugs they use; and 5) Consumers pay absolutely no attention to ads directed at us by BIG PHARMA.

And I wish you all a happy Easter as well as a sweet healthy Passover.

Monroe Weinstock

Reagan and Pete Wilson. In the initial phase, counties will offer preschool to children in areas with the lowest performing elementary schools. The program will become available to all children as the state completes teacher training, school construction, and other needs.

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

Beach Cities
 Democratic Club



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 "I strongly believe what we're doing is the right thing. If I didn't believe it—I'm going to re-
 peat what I said before—I'd pull the troops out, nor if I believed we could win, I would pull
 the troops out."—George W. Bush, Charlotte, N.C., April 6, 2006

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) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box if you would like to receive yours by e-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.