

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

June, 2006

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 7:30PM  
David K. Hayward Center  
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

### “The Big Buy”

Our June program will feature club elections followed by a screening of Robert Greenwald’s new film, “The Big Buy: Tom DeLay’s Stolen Congress.”

With Representative Tom DeLay stepping down from his seat in Congress, the timely film describes DeLay’s master plan to create a permanent Republican majority in the US Congress, in part by using illegal corporate contributions to reshape Texas’s political landscape. Don’t miss this exciting movie!

The slate presented by our nominating committee includes: Lee Fink for president, Ray Waters for vice-president, and Edna Murphy for Treasurer. The position for secretary is still open, as is the membership chair. Club members interested in serving should call Bobbi Buescher.

## Volunteer to Help

BCDC expects to be tabling at: Hollywood Riviera Festival, along with HealthCare for All and the California Clean Money Campaign Saturday & Sunday, June 24 & 25

Fiesta Hermosa—September 2, 3, 4

Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair—October 7 & 8



OPEN LETTER FROM  
JEFF DUCLOS

Dear Club Members:  
When I committed to running in the Hermosa Beach Special Election

for City Council, I’ll admit that I did so with a sinking feeling inside.

I could not abandon the capital earned as the highest vote getter not elected in November and the 1,800 voters who supported me. But the fund raising tank was on empty and I had no more savings to kick start it again. Whatever I raised would not enable me to spend at a level with the other candidates, especially Kit Bobko. After all, Hermosa Beach was forced into this election for the sole purpose of getting him elected.

To win, I had to rely on the help of others to get my message out. And you, the members of the Beach Cities Democratic Party Club did just that—stood up to help. It is why I am so incredibly proud of the campaign we ran. Together, we created an old-fashioned grassroots effort. We ran a small town campaign based on real, tangible things that impact residents and neighborhoods. We offered plans to move the community forward and a sincere commitment to carry them out.

But in the end, I could not overcome Fred Huebscher’s tactics and Michael Keegan’s \$120,000 in mailings and misinformation.

My decision to run for office, in

part, was based on a desire to participate in what I believed was a political awakening in our country. I wanted to be a part of a rising within the Democratic party of the fundamental principles that once so clearly defined it. In the wake of this primary election, I believe the great gift of our democracy—the right to choose—has been further corrupted and marginalized in our state and in our communities. Democrats, as well as Republicans, have contributed to the continued slide.

For me, it feels like a personal injury, like someone who has had something important stolen from them; someone who knows the thief, but has no recourse. And I’m not just referring to my election experience, but a greater sense of a loss of optimism and the commitment to fair play across the political spectrum.

Many of you may feel the same way.

What we see so offends our sense of morality and what is right, we want to turn away from it all. But once we get over these feelings, we need to do what all effective activists do. We need to act.

And, in my case, it will be to commit myself to working more with the Beach Cities Democratic Club and with you, the people I respect and whose values I share.

For working with you and getting to know you has been a better outcome that I could have ever imagined in this campaign.

Thank you one and all.

## Announcements

Dues are payable for the new 2006-07 year on July 1. According to the by-laws, members who pay in March are paid-up for the upcoming year.

The Annual LA County Democratic Party FDR dinner is to be held on June 25 at 5:30 at the Hollywood Palladium.

This year’s honorees for Democratic Woman and Man of year are **Denise Moehlman and Ray Waters**. Congratulations to both!

## From the President

### *The State of the Club*

A year ago, you chose me to be your club president, and it was a great honor from a group of people that I consider my friends and family. I took over at a difficult time—we had just lost our great leader Mike Gordon and were faced with the prospect of a divisive special election to fill his place in the state assembly. Through all of this, we still had work to do to help defeat a backwards slate of initiatives supported by Arnold in his misbegotten special election and elect good candidates in local elections in the South Bay. The first half of 2006 also presented challenges, with club members divided over high profile primaries for Governor, Congress, and the State Senate.

Fortunately, I am happy to report that the state of the club remains strong. Thanks to your efforts, all but one of our candidates last fall won office, and the only remaining candidate came within a whisper of being elected, despite having been massively outspent. And we continue



to have a large base of membership to whom we can get out our message, and the most well-attended meetings of any club in the South Bay. And even while we were divided in the Primaries, we helped organize a first-ever statewide candidates' forum in the South Bay and a number of our club members are actively involved with the opening of the Democratic Action Center, the first permanent Democratic office in the South Bay.

2006-07 will be another year of challenges. But this coming year presents a chance for unity again. Let us move forward together, putting aside past campaigns and remembering that we all share a set of common ideals and values that make us proud to be Democrats. Let us all work together to elect Phil Angelides as Governor, John Garamendi as Lt. Governor, Jenny Oropeza to the State Senate, re-elect Jane Harman and Ted Lieu, and a Democratic majority in the House and Senate. Let us "Paint the Town Blue" by starting a voter registration drive that will wipe out the Republican voter registration advantage in Redondo Beach (and then the other Beach Cities), and next spring, let us work together to elect good Democrats to local offices in Redondo and Manhattan.

*Lee Fink*

## News from the Democratic Action Center

Tony Hale announced that the new Democratic Action Center at 2221 Rosecrans is being stocked with computers, printers, and other donated equipment. Three hundred people showed up to celebrate opening day on April 22 including most of the candidates who appeared at the two Forums on that day. The celebration raised \$5,000.

Tony, who serves as the Center's fulltime staffer, said that once the Primary elections are over there will be

phone banking and precinct work.

Tony is also working with the Clean Money campaign which promotes public financing of elections. He said the new Greenwald movie "The Big Buy" is to be shown all over the South Bay starting on June 27.

**SAVE THE INTERNET.COM**  
Join the Fight for Internet Freedom

Call your congressperson to demand Net Neutrality. Stop Congress from making the Internet pay-per-view.

## May Recap

### Jim Brandt For Congress

Ray Waters presided this month.

Our speaker was Jim Brandt, who is running for Dana Rohrabacher's seat in the 46<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Brandt opened by blasting Bush for the job he has done with the economy. His tax cuts, instead of stimulating the



*Congressional Candidate Jim Brandt*

economy, have enriched a small minority of Americans while running up the deficit. Although Press Secretary Tony Snow was seen on Good Morning America talking up the health of our economy, Bush's administration raided the federal employees' pension fund in March to keep the government afloat. The level of corruption and greed in the White House was clear for all to see during the mismanagement of Hurricane Katrina.

Brandt's campaign is focusing on three core values: **Personal Independence**—the belief that every American should have access to the American Dream; **Service**—the belief that by helping those who cannot help themselves, we can all be successful; and leadership that will have the courage to **Go the Distance**.

He favors a measured troop withdrawal from Iraq so we can focus on the real terrorist threat: al Qaeda and the growing insurgency in Afghanistan. He will fight for smart use of Homeland Security funding for the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, which are in his district. He will work for a sensible approach to immigration to ensure all our borders are secure.

His other positions include:

#### **Corruption-free government—**

Federal elections should be paid for by the voters. Publicly funded campaigns will produce more sensible federal spending because special-interest and corporate lobbyists won't be able to buy budget earmarks.

**Energy**—He will fight to achieve independence from foreign oil through taxpayer investment in renewable technologies and innovation.

**Health care**—To regain our competitive advantage, we need universal coverage for catastrophic illness and injury claims.

Although greatly outspent by the incumbent, Brandt believes he has a good chance to beat Rohrabacher. Reports about the latter's friendship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff hit the headlines at the same time Bush's poll numbers were plummeting.

Jim Brandt's military and corporate background—he was CEO at Security Pacific, the fifth largest bank in country, ran a software company, and was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam—stands in stark contrast to that of his opponent, who has never held a real job.

He plans to open an office in Hermosa Beach in June and his campaign website is [Brandtforcongress.org](http://Brandtforcongress.org).

The club moved to donate \$200 to his campaign.

## Monroe's Corner

It has long been my personal belief that we all, each of us, need to isolate some private space of our own. Free people must have a mental shield to keep intruders out. As it may be obvious to some of you who have read my previous columns, the biggest intruder today is George Dubya, whom I rank as lower than the lowest!

In our world fraught with unknown dangers & enemies, we all realize that absolute freedom is not possible, & we require some limitations. However, the government of the USA has gone three steps beyond simple intrusion, spying & the invasion of personal privacy. And the major omni-present omnipotent monster is the NSA (National Security Agency).

Adding insult to damaging injury, the NSA has spawned a web of electronic surveillance that now puts George Orwell's Big Brother to shame! The administration can now do a biometric face scan; a brainwave scan; a complete personal data review; and even do a photo that will strip you naked!

This administration has now reclassified about 10,000 documents.



This has been done for political reasons, not for the need of enemy secrecy. Many documents are classified initially to attract the eye of higher officials in office. Daniel Schorr (former national commentator & now with NPR) has said that some officials could easily bend secrecy rules to protest and/or expose documents that are classified as "secret." Is this really any way to run a country?

And then we have the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) which was enacted by Congress to prevent officials (especially the President) from ignoring the need for legal judicial approval for wire taps, for PROBABLE CAUSE. This may be the law, but it was & is routinely ignored or disregarded by the CIA, the FBI & NSA. And as I write this, there is a report that VP Cheney has undercut the Senate Judiciary Committee in its attempt to expose the NSA domestic spying tactics.

I think we must pause, step back, take a hard look at this brave new world, accept the truth that the war on terror is a public relations ploy, pull in the reins of control by the President (not the King), and let us all suck in a breath of free fresh air!

*Monroe Weinstock*



### Help Fight Global Warming

Assembly Bill 32 (Nuñez/Pavley) puts California back in the lead in the fight against global warming by requiring Cal/EPA to limit greenhouse gas emissions and develop a mandatory reporting system for these emissions.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

and expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will:

- ♦ Help forestall the catastrophic effects of global warming
- ♦ Reduce the pollutants that cause smog, soot and toxic air pollution
- ♦ Lead to economic benefits for California by creating new jobs and protecting the state from fluctuations in the price of oil.

AB 32 passed out of the Assembly and is now in the Senate. Please urge your State Senator to support AB 32 in committee and on the floor. Go to [www.ecovote.org](http://www.ecovote.org) for a sample letter.

### It's Your Newsletter

*BCDC Newsletter* is of the club, for the club, and more of it should be by the club. Many of you have expressed a desire to see more event listings and balanced opinion pieces here.

Please feel free to send contributions to [moiraz@dslextrreme.com](mailto:moiraz@dslextrreme.com). Spice up the newsletter by sending in a report, an event notice, a photo.

While we're on the subject, send comments and feedback. What do you like in the newsletter, and what don't you read? All input is helpful.

*The Editor*

Barbara Blum—310-540-6346  
*Membership*  
 James McGreevy—310-320-1638  
*Web Manager*  
 Tammy Minion—310-406-8057  
*Mailing*  
 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562  
*Database*  
 Moira Zucker—310-546-7562  
*Newsletter*  
 Ami Hagazian—310-798-7903  
*Secretary*  
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
*Treasurer*  
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744  
*Vice-President*  
 Lee Fink—310-370-3020  
*President*  
 P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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) \_\_\_\_\_ (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.