

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2007

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

This month's meeting will be themed on education. We will have a speaker from the Teacher's Association to discuss local school district elections and renewal of the No Child Left Behind Act.

We will also start the process of nominating new club officers.



Peace Vigil

Several BCDC members showed up at the MoveOn-sponsored Peace Vigil in El Segundo on March 19. Moving tributes to the fallen soldiers were read aloud by participants.

Harman representative Jim Kennedy spoke briefly to say that Jane is critical of "Bush's war" and is supporting

Environmental Events

The Environmental Priorities Network is sponsoring two important events to inform South Bay residents about conserving energy while saving money.

Second Annual Energy Fair

May 5, 2007
Pacific Unitarian Church
5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV
Registration: 8:30AM
Program: 9:00AM
Optional \$5.00 donation.

For more information, contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384, llight@verizon.net or David Dutra at 310-530-0846, dutra_david@hotmail.com

Solar Homes Tour

Saturday, June 16
8:30 to 4:00

Six homes with electricity-generating solar panels will be on the second annual Solar Homes Tour. The homes include environmental features like solar hot water heating, double pane windows, low voltage lighting, off-peak timed appliances, and native and drought-tolerant plants. Each home will be open for two hours.

You can pick up a flier listing times and directions at the Energy Fair on May 5th or at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV, on June 16th, or contact Jane Affonso at 310-372-7202 or jgaffonso@gmail.com or David Dutra.

House Resolution 41, expressing disapproval of the President's policy. She is reviewing proposals to limit or end funding for additional military personnel in Iraq.

Special AD Meeting

Our next 53rd Assembly District Democratic Congress meeting will be an exciting diversion from a normal meeting and an event that no one will want to miss.

We have secured Mr. Asad Farhad as our guest speaker. Mr. Farhad is the former Deputy Minister of Finance for Afghanistan and currently is an advisor to the World Bank.

Date: Thursday, April 19, 7PM
Location: 2675 Skypark Dr. Suite 302, Torrance (located in Skypark Business Center, next door to Costco)

His topic will be how and why the current US foreign policy in Afghanistan is failing and offer corrective suggestions as to how to reverse the tide.

His perspective is from an insider's point of view, as he was born and raised there and his father was an adviser to King Zahir Shah. He was educated in Kabul and graduated from the University of Beirut in Lebanon. He attended graduate school in the US at New York State University.

He and his wife Nooria immigrated to the US over 20 years ago after the Russian invasion. He was in private business here until three years ago when he was offered the position as Deputy Minister of Finance in Karzai's cabinet.

He continues to reside and work in Kabul and is here for a month's visit with family and friends.

Promoting the successful rebuilding of his homeland is his passion.

This event will be held at the Nomad and Planet Chic Imports in Torrance. It is a spacious and beauti-

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From the President

The Gang Who Can't Shoot Straight Strikes Again



Last November, we knew there was a big mess in Washington that needed cleaning up. Duke Cunningham, Bob Ney, and Tom Delay were well-known for their lobbying scandals, but were only the tip of the iceberg of the culture of corruption that the Republican Majority had allowed to creep into Washington. Worse still, the Republican Majority had allowed the Bush Administration's utter incompetence to operate unchecked, creating colossal failures in American policy. Americans understood the results of the Bush Administration's mismanagement—losing the war in Iraq, allowing the Taliban to reconstitute in Afghanistan, failing to protect New Orleans and its people, and turning a blind eye to global climate change was only the tip of the figurative (and literal) iceberg. So six months ago, the American people put Congress under new management.

Apparently, Bush, Cheney, Gonzales, and Rove didn't get the memo.

Immediately after the November elections, Karl Rove and the lackeys that Bush had inserted in the DOJ cooked up a plan to purge 7 US Attorneys who were not "loyal Bushies." It took months before the mainstream media caught on to this. Despite a pretty clear case of lying to Congress, Gonzales has been able to hold on to his job as the nation's top law enforcement officer, and as with Rumsfeld, Bush has stubbornly backed a failed cabinet member.

Of course, the real scandal has not yet been uncovered. The US Attorneys who were terminated were "guilty" of prosecuting corrupt

Republicans (like Carol Lam in San Diego) or not bringing bogus voter fraud claims to skew a congressional election (like David Igelesias in New Mexico). But there are 93 US Attorneys—what have they done to impress Karl Rove?

Of course, the US Attorney purge is just the most well-known of the recent scandals. The Government Services Administration is the branch of government in charge of running the logistics, contracting, and behind the scenes services for all the other federal agencies. Given its mission, GSA is supposed to be independent and non-partisan. But shortly after the election, one of Karl Rove's deputies held a top level meeting at GSA headquarters identifying the Republican's top Democratic targets in 2008. GSA Administrator Lurita Doan asked how the GSA can help Republican candidates. In a hearing before Congress, Doan conveniently did not recall much of the event. Over at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bush lackey Julie MacDonald has been sending internal EPA documents to oil industry lobbyists and tinkered with agency reports to contradict scientific reports. MacDonald was also known to send documents to children who she met playing an on-line computer game.

And all of this is just what they have done since Democrats took over Congress. We still have not gotten into the illegal wiretaps the FBI has admitted to, the intelligence failures that led to the Iraq war, or 9/11, the administration's industry-written energy policy, or the heck of a job that FEMA did in New Orleans.

No, Dick Cheney has not shot anyone (else) in the face (yet). But the gang who can't shoot straight seems to be at it again. Fortunately, with a Democratic Congress, and a public who is fed up, they're starting to shoot themselves in the foot.

Lee Fink

March Recap

In keeping with our Green theme, we heard two speakers on the environment.

Jane Affonso spoke about the Cool Cities Initiative. Cool cities are those that have made a pledge to stop global warming by signing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement launched in 2005 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. When the Kyoto Protocol took effect in 2005, Nickels challenged mayors across the country to join Seattle in taking local action to reduce global warming. In June, the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was passed unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, pledging to reduce CO² pollution in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

As of now, 432 cities have signed on to the initiative, 75 of them in California. Local cities include Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Santa Monica.

For a full list of cities and more information on the agreement, see www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/.

Hermosa Beach was first in line to sign on with Cool Cities and will receive an award in May from the Environmental Priorities Network. The Manhattan Beach city council



Jane Affonso from Cool Cities Initiative

adopted the initiative in January. Rancho Palos Verdes has initiated a Green building code with fee reductions for energy-saving features. Only Redondo Beach lags behind, although council members Don Szerlip and Pat Aust are lobbying for the initiative.

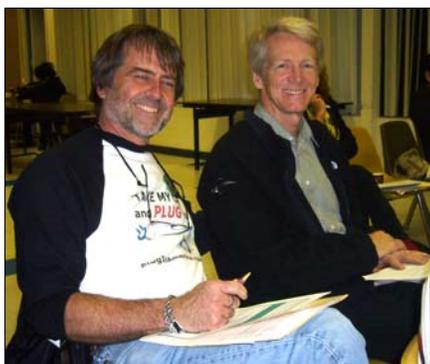
Lee said that a Green task force has formed in Redondo Beach to help promote the program whose members include Carl Clark, Dale Petrusis, Dean Francois, and Vanessa Poster.

Who Killed the Electric Car?

Next, Paul Scott spoke about Plug In America.

An advocacy group for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids (PHEVs), Plug In America applauded the recent announcement by General Motors to resume production of non-polluting vehicles with its next-generation electric vehicle, the Chevrolet Volt. Technically a serial PHEV, the Volt will have a range of 40 miles per charge and a total range of 640 miles when supplemented by the small on-board generator. Scott said driving an electric vehicle is “driving on sunshine”; if you use renewable energy and drive a car that plugs into the grid, you’re generating zero carbon emissions.

With no oil changes and no tune ups, the electric car is highly reliable. It has no engine, transmission, spark plugs, valves, fuel tank—fewer than one tenth as many parts as a gas car.



Dency Nelson with Paul Scott, who spoke about the movie “Who Killed the Electric Car?”



Scott hopes everyone will see “Who Killed the Electric Car?” The acclaimed documentary chronicles the short life of the GM-Electric Vehicle. All but a few of the popular cars were taken off the road and crushed, leading to a publicity firestorm. The plug-in-america.com website lists toll-free numbers for calling Honda and Toyota to “take the Plug-in Pledge and tell automakers you won’t buy another car until you can plug it in and drive on electric.”

It isn’t hard to guess why Big Oil fought the electric car, but why did car companies back away from producing something the public wanted? It turns out that 40% of automakers’ profit comes from parts and services. Electric cars don’t wear out or need new parts. Manufacturers fear that introducing EVs into their product line would take sales away from standard vehicles.

In Sacramento, Assembly Bill 493 (Ruskin) has been introduced to create the Clean Car Discount Program. The bill would require the State Air Resources Board to implement a clean vehicle incentive program that would give rebates on the purchase of new low-emissions vehicles. Because rebates would be funded by surcharges on polluting vehicles, the bill is revenue neutral.

As of today, seven car companies have announced plans to make plug in-hybrids. The Chevy Volt will be on sale by 2010.

officers. We’re seeking a new president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Please bring your nominations in April.

Many memberships have been renewed as a result of the phone calls made by our membership committee. Anyone willing to join the phone tree should please contact Lynn Thompson or Lee.

In other news:

It was reported that Party Chair Eric Bauman made phone calls in support of Kevin Sullivan and Dale Petrusis during their campaigns.

Jim Kennedy reported from Jane Harman’s office. Jane was to hold an event on climate change with Producer Lawrence Bender (“An Inconvenient Truth”) at the Toyota South Campus in Torrance on April 4, free to the public.

The event would include panels on national energy policy and what individuals can do about greenhouse gas emissions. Jane also held a forum on April 1 on veterans’ health care in West LA.

Jim Aldinger spoke about the new facilities being planned in Manhattan Beach, including a new recreation center, library, and community center. Town hall meetings were set for April 14 and 19 to discuss lot mergers and mansionization. One property owner on the Strand wants to merge three lots into one.



Harman representative Jim Kennedy explains Jane’s position on the Iraq war.

Club Business

At our March meeting, Lee announced our upcoming nominations for club

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James McGreevy—310-320-1638
Web Manager
 Tammy Minion—310-406-8057
Mailing
 Steve Zuckner—310-546-7562
Database
 Moira Zuckner—310-546-7562
Newsletter
 Lynn Thompson—310-897-0047
Membership
 Open
Secretary
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Treasurer
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744
Vice-President
 Lee Fink—310-370-3020
President

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Democratic Club
Beach Cities



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fully decorated showroom featuring Afghan and Middle Eastern style, which will add a special ambiance to the meeting. Many wonderful tribal items will be for sale as well, and refreshments will be served.

We want a huge turnout. There is plenty of space and it's a great chance to use this exciting event as a membership recruiting tool for your clubs.

We are serious about making the 53rd ADDC important, vital, informative and fun for every Democrat in and around the 53rd.

Thanks so much, hope to see you there.

Bobbi Buescher, Chair 53rd ADDC
 310-545-7890
 BobbiMB@aol.com

(Club business, continued from page 3)

Aldinger said that campaigning for federal candidates is not permitted at the new Democratic Action Center because the space was donated by a corporation. The issue is still under consideration.

Bobbi reported that the 53rd AD Super Club held its first meeting last Thursday and is looking for more members. The new organization is seeking to be an advocacy group for local clubs and precinct operations. Bobbi has been seeking input from clubs in South Bay. The Super Club is making plans for a Saturday night dinner at the April 27 – 29 Convention in San Diego. Club meetings are held on 3rd Thursdays.

Teresa Bird reported that Jenny Oropeza has moved into an office at

2512 Artesia, second floor (Debra Bowen's former office), phone 310-318-6994. The senator will hold a Saturday morning breakfast at the Convention. All are welcome; contact Teresa for details.

Lori Geittmann announced that the Senior caucus will be at 3:30 on Friday at the Convention and not at 5:30 as earlier announced.

Lee closed by asking the membership to help with speakers and programs; please bring your ideas forward.

Websites related to articles in this issue: Democratic Action Center—
www.democraticactioncenter.com; information about the Energy Fair— www.southbayenergyfair.com.