

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

May, 2008

## Next Meeting Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 2000 Artesia Boulevard Redondo Beach

Rescheduled from last month, we will hear Dilip Adarkar present a program about India and Pakistan, *Divergent Trajectories in South Asia*.

We'll also be able to show you a copy of our new precinct organization manual. We need to train as many precinct captains and workers as possible so we can get out the Democratic vote this fall.

## Fiesta Hermosa Help Needed

If you can work a two-hour shift in the BCDC booth at Fiesta Hermosa, May 24-26, please email Diane Strack (a.strk@verizon.net) and copy Edna Murphy (frizzy020@roadrunner.com).

We need even more help this year to register voters and sign up new club members.

## Renew Your Membership

Membership dues for the 2008-2009 year are payable on July 1. Dues are \$25 per person, \$40 for two at the same address. Bring your check to the next meeting!



**Earth Day**  
April 22, 2008  
Inspiring awareness  
of and appreciation  
for the Earth's  
environment.

## Rent Control Alert

No on 98/Yes on 99

VOTE NO on Prop 98. The California Property Owner & Farmland Protection Act is being promoted as merely an eminent domain proposition—the right of a government to take private property for public use.

But there is a hidden agenda in this initiative to abolish rent control and gut the laws that protect renters in California. It is being supported by the **Howard Jarvis Tax Association**, and the largest supporters are the mobile home park owners, apartment owners, and the California Farm Bureau.

VOTE YES on Prop 99. The Homeowner's Protection Act is a grass-roots effort with well over 1 million signatures to qualify a "clean" eminent domain proposition on the June 3rd ballot. It is supported by Neighborhood Friends, the League of California Cities, and many senior organizations.

If both measures pass, the one with the most votes wins: So vote NO on 98, YES on 99.

Listen to the radio ad that began airing statewide last week at <http://www.noprop98.org/go/blog/second-radio-spot/>

## Democratic Voters On the Rise

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PRESS RELEASE APRIL 22, 2008

"The Democratic voter registration train in California continues to accelerate, while the Republican train has jumped off the tracks," Senator Art Torres (Ret.), Chairman of the California Democratic Party, said regarding recent voter registration numbers.

According to the Secretary of State's latest report, between January 22 and April 4, 2008, California Democrats added 170,918 voters to the rolls and Republicans lost 8,759 registrants.

"This is a number not seen since the days of Watergate in the mid-1970s," said Torres.

There are now 6,920,324 Democrats registered to vote in California, 43.5% of the total number. 5,220,666 voters are registered Republicans, 32.8% of the total. Thus Democrats outnumber Republicans by 1,699,658 voters.

As of April 4, 2008, Democrats have 469,700 more voters than they had at the same time in 2004, while Republicans are 109,870 below their 2004 numbers. In November of 2004, Democrats outnumbered Republicans by 1,374,907.



**Oropeza Update**—At the April meeting, we heard a report from Jenny Oropeza Field Representative Primitivo Castro (*left*). He talked about the Senator's focus on Earth Day. Senate Bill 1722, the Green Line Expansion to LAX, creates a special governing board to extend the MTA Green Line to Los Angeles Airport. Expanding public transport will help reduce congestion and alleviate air pollution. Oropeza has also recently sponsored a Food Waste Prevention Bill—SB 1443—and SB 1641, allowing government offices to submit reports in electronic format.

Visit our Website at [lafn.org/politics/bcdc](http://lafn.org/politics/bcdc)

## From the President

We're again planning on having a presence at the Hermosa Memorial Day Fiesta, May 24-26. As



our meeting is not until the day after the Fair is over, we will not have a chance to sign up at the meeting. We will be calling to get your support. Please sign up for a time you can be there.

The Primary season is about over and we will have a nominee for President by the end of the first week in June, it seems. The delegates to the DNC will include BCDC members Teresa Bird and Kathleen Paralusz. Jim Kennedy, also a member, will be there as an alternate. It will be good to just have a battle with the Republicans. We are truly blessed to have terrific candidates, but it is hard when our favorite candidate is not the one to win in the end.

We're looking forward to hearing from Dilip Adarkar speak on "The Divergent Trajectories in South Asia." He is rescheduled after being unable to attend last month. Dilip has a unique knowledge of this area.

In case you haven't noticed, Democrats are winning elections all around the country, with victories in the last three special elections for Congressional seats. Democratic registrations are up all over the country and voters have turned out in record numbers in our primaries and caucuses. Victory in November is not automatic, but it certainly looks favorable.

We will have a precinct organization manual to show and discuss at the coming meeting. We hope to get out the vote and win big.

*Ray Waters*

## April Recap

### Judicial Endorsements

Even without our planned speaker, we had a full agenda that included hearing from judicial candidates, a city council candidate, and a representative from Jenny Oropeza's office. We also heard from our winning Obama and Clinton delegates and had a lively discussion of the upcoming local elections.

Ray Waters opened the meeting with a reminder that it was Earth Day and said the Nature Conservancy has pledged to plant one billion trees. 2008 may prove to be the best year yet for wilderness protection.

More good news came from Lee Fink, who announced that Redondo Beach has just turned Blue, with a 100+ majority of registered Democratic voters.

Two of our members, Teresa Bird and Kathleen Paralusz, recently won their races for delegate at the Democratic National Convention in August. The caucus winners include:

Benjamin Arnon - Obama  
Teresa Bird - Clinton  
Janice Hahn - Clinton  
Jeff Millman - Clinton  
Kathleen Paralusz - Obama  
Jim Kennedy - District Alternate  
pledged to Clinton

Speaking about her campaign, Teresa said she had been reluctant to run because of the other big names on the ballot: Jim Kennedy, Sergio Carrillo, Bobbi Buescher, and Janice Hahn. But when she was contacted by Ted Dipaola and then by Jeff Millman, who had seen her article on Senator Jenny Oropeza, she was persuaded to team up on the ticket with Millman. He worked for Clinton in Iowa and he was able to bring in the outsiders while Teresa garnered support from the insiders. She came in right behind



*Judicial candidates seeking our endorsement were (above) Lance Winters and Kathleen Blanchard; and (opposite page) Marc Chomel (left). Pictured at right is Torrance City Council candidate Cliff Newmark.*

Janice Hahn, with Bobbi Buescher following right behind her.

Kathleen Paralusz said that she, too, decided to run on a slate, pairing up with Obama field organizer Ben Arnon. Forty-two candidates were running for only two positions, but Paralusz and Arnon ran an energetic campaign. They phone banked, mailed and handed out flyers, and got out early to contact everyone they knew. Initially, the state Party tried to cut the lineup to ten candidates—eliminating Kathleen—but an outpouring of protest put all the candidates back in the race. Paralusz said it also helped that twenty of the candidates didn't show up at the caucus. BCDC congratulates both our winning delegates.

Next we heard from three judicial candidates.

Kathleen Blanchard ([www.blanchard4judge.com](http://www.blanchard4judge.com)) is running for Superior Court Seat 123. She said judges have more impact on day-to-day lives than many of our other elected officials. She has fourteen years of experience as a criminal prosecutor, five of them in the hard core gang unit, and boasts a 97% conviction rate. She has been endorsed by thirty superior court judges, LA County District Attorney Steve Cooley, Supervisor Mike Antonovich, and the *Los Angeles Times*.



Marc Alain Chomel ([www.chomelforjudge.com](http://www.chomelforjudge.com)), running for Superior Court Judge in Office 72, has been a prosecutor for 22 years. Beginning in 2001, he supervised Los Angeles Deputy district attorneys in a number of roles from juvenile prosecution in South Central Los Angeles to felony trials and drug court in Central Operations and Inglewood. He has handled many high profile murder and assault cases and believes in heavier sentences for violent offenders, but thinks minor drug offenses should be diverted so we can better utilize judicial resources. His endorsements include Steve Cooley, former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti, and several judges.

Lance Winters ([www.wintersforjudge.com](http://www.wintersforjudge.com)) is a candidate for Superior Court Judge Office 95. He has been a supervising deputy attorney general since 1998 in the Criminal Division of the California Department of Justice and has argued five cases before the California Supreme Court. He has both civil and criminal experience and has taught law at UCLA Law School Moot Court and USC as an adjunct professor. His long list of endorsements includes State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Congressmen Ted Lieu and Dan Lungren, Senator Alan Lowenthal, and Sheriff Leroy Baca. Winters is a member of the New Frontier Democratic Club.

Cliff Newmark then spoke about his campaign for Torrance City Council.

Newmark serves as Director of the American Red Cross, overseeing a \$10 million budget. His prior positions were CEO of a technology firm and managing director of O'Melveny & Myers.

As a student at Pomona College, Newmark reported for the *Los Angeles Times*, then received a Masters in Public Affairs at Princeton and a JD at UC Berkeley-Boalt Hall. He has been vice-president of Los Angeles County Young Democrats and he served as a delegate to Al Gore in 2000.

His endorsements include the LA County Committee, AFL-CIO, Torrance Firefighters and Police, State Controller John Chiang, and Congresswoman Jane Harman.

Various motions were made to support these candidates: we ended up voting to endorse Cliff Newmark and contribute \$200 to his campaign; and, separately, to endorse all three judicial candidates and contribute \$100 to each of them.

### Club Business

The nominating committee was announced and approved by the attending members. It consists of past presidents Lee Fink, Lori Geittmann, and Bobbi Buescher. Peggy Carter also volunteered to serve. Nominations for club officers will be presented at the May meeting.

We discussed the prospect of funding a scholarship for graduates of Mira Costa and Redondo High Schools, as the Torrance Democratic Club has such a program. Toni Alario volunteered to investigate setting this up as a 401(C)3.

The Redistricting proposal discussed at last month's meeting was voted on, and the vote was 7 to 8 in favor. Ray said the endorsement would be considered passed subject to verification in the bylaws of what constitutes a needed majority.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Monroe's Ruminations

We in the USA have lost confidence in the integrity of our economic institutions. We're beginning to realize that prosperity doesn't come from markets that are free of government restraints. Our current administration is loath to criticize Wall Street, but not Main Street. The Justice Dept. hesitates to prosecute corrupt corporations & willingly settles much illegality. The reduction of market liquidity (ability to raise bank money) has us facing a breakdown of the banking system. Alan Greenspan was never the articulate Guru he professed to be, in fact, he was wrong!

The Iraq War since 2001 has drained us dry. Oil prices are astronomically high & rising. Food shortages prevail worldwide. We've spent over \$500 billion so far, which is money better spent on healthcare for everyone, better & more schools & teachers, rebuilding our roads, bridges & cities. Our economy is at a standstill, actually at a dead-standstill, with jobs disappearing (not to India or China either). Banks are holding back on mortgage money & trust has eroded. In the 1930s the banking system showed that unregulated unsupervised financial markets can suffer catastrophic failure, and we have let it happen again with a vengeance. You could call this "Willful Amnesia."

The old Muckraker Journalist Ida Tarbell accused Standard Oil (Exxon, today) of building its empire on "fraud, deceit, special privilege, gross illegality, bribery, coercion, corruption, intimidation, espionage, or outright terror." If you append the name of George Dubya, you have today's administration. In 1927, the writer Upton Sinclair demonized the oil barons, but they still

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*Beach Cities  
 Democratic Club*



*(Club business, continued from page 3)*

Lori Geittmann and Carol Waters reported from the LA County Committee. The committee endorsed judicial and Torrance City Council candidates and passed various resolutions including: to study the health problems of elderly men and women in prison; to assess special education requirements for a high school diploma; to design and build environmentally-sound public buildings; to expand women's access to breast cancer screening; and to remove barriers to ex-offenders seeking employment.

Kathleen Blanchard was among the judicial candidates endorsed by the County Committee.

**More Judicial Endorsements**

Tony Hale writes that the following endorsements were made by the California Democratic Party. Some of them differ from the BCDC choices as noted:

- Office No. 4 Ralph W. Dau
- Office No. 69 Harvey A. Silberman
- Office No. 72 Hilleri Grossman Merritt\*
- Office No. 82 Cynthia Loo
- Office No. 84 Lori-Ann C. Jones
- Office No. 94 C. Edward Mack
- Office No. 95 Patricia D. Nieto\*
- Office No. 119 Jared D. Moses
- Office No. 123 Kathleen Blanchard
- Office No. 125 James N. Bianco
- Office No. 154 Rocky L. Crabb

\*BCDC endorsed Marc Chomel and Lance Winters, respectively, for these two offices.

*(Monroe, continued from page 3)*

walk among us, helping to elect presidents such as Ronald Reagan (an amiable dunce), Bush (41), and George Dubya (43).

Discussing economics brings to mind the Italian proverb...You cannot talk with one long arm and one short arm. Aside from the Iraq disaster with no end in sight, there is a clear possibility that we may invade Iran before Dubya departs his vaunted office. At home, we must revive the fortunes of the middle class; we must rebuild our crumbled infrastructure; we must upgrade out internet to the level of the Europeans & Japanese; we must invest in a functioning healthcare system for ALL Americans. We could also us a green-energy revolution, because ethanol ain't the solution to anything!

As a final thought, someone recently wrote that the Democratic Party now has a condition called ELECTILE DISFUNCTION (watch my spelling). Hopefully, not for long!

*Monroe Weinstock*