

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

July, 2008

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach



Every four years, the Democratic Party assembles a platform that outlines the party's position on a number of issues. For two weeks in July, people all across America will hold Platform Meetings in their own communities to discuss the issues and share their input. The outcome of these meetings will be reviewed by the Drafting Committee as it creates the final Platform.

At our July meeting, we will develop our input which will be provided to the Party.

Good Bye Lunch for Shirlee Browne

Marie Callendar's Restaurant
21211 Hawthorne Boulevard
(Restaurant Row off Torrance Blvd)
Torrance

Wednesday, July 16th
12 Noon

RSVP by July 13th to
Anne Faass, 310-316-1503
or Teresa Bird, 310-325-4354

Well, what are you waiting for? The time is now to be sure there is no clone of "W" in the White House. It is time to be ours.

We are working to get up and running by next month with our precinct operation and we need you. Wouldn't it be wonderful to say we have every precinct in the Beach Cities covered!

That is our goal.

Edna Murphy will be in charge of Manhattan Beach. Tony Hale will have Redondo and Ray Waters will handle Hermosa. Yours truly will coordinate with them for the club.

We will also plan to table to register voters and to sign up volunteers.

The other good news is that by the time we go to press, we should have a headquarters in Old Downtown Torrance (yummy close to the Torrance

Bakery). So if you can't handle your precinct, at least put time in at the headquarters.

This is our year for victory.

I am reminded that in 1960 the Harvard Crimson reported a change of address for Alum John Kennedy to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC, in a house previously occupied by Harvard alums Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, John and John Quincy Adams. Let us make sure Harvard Law alum Barack Obama gets the same notice.

To sign up call Edna at 545-6252, Tony at 406-8057, Ray at 374-4744 or me, at 316-1729 (all 310 numbers).

Lori Geitmann

Precinct Operations
Beach Cities Democratic Club

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, DAILY BREEZE

RE: FAITH BASED PROGRAMS BY BUSH

I was educated in religious schools and one of the proudest things I learned was the separation of church and state.

This nation began because of people who were persecuted because of their choice of religion. Now we have a proposal by Bush to give taxpayers' funds to religious organizations and public organizations that help people. This nation's founders knew what discrimination of its citizens because of religion would bring and the Constitution has long stood for the separation of church.

Do we want forced religious tenets be imposed on our citizens so that they can eat, be clothed, counseled and sheltered? Believe me, those who have certain religious beliefs will impose their beliefs on the most beleaguered. The religious organizations are now in

place to help people do wonderful works in the name of God, assisted by good people who want to contribute out of their own pocket.

Just look at the rest of the world, where religion has caused hatred, wars and destruction of all its citizens. Do we want the US to become that sort of country? Christ himself said, be aware there will be all kind of evils done in my name. Remember the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, the Balkans, the Holocaust and so on and so on....

I fear this is only the beginning of the Bush Administration policies. You just cannot take the choice to worship or any other personal freedoms and have government dictate with dictum, monies or any other forces.

Sincerely, Teresa Bird

June Recap

With Ray out of town, Lori Geittmann presided over our June meeting in a program featuring representatives from Ted Lieu and Jane Harman and a report from Campaign Boot Camp.

Stephanie Molen gave an update on Ted Lieu's Green Buildings Initiative, which will require all commercial buildings built in California to be zero net emissions by 2030. Lieu is also sponsoring legislation on solar panels, health care and education, and mortgage lending reform. All of his current bills have made it through the Assembly and moved to the Senate. Lieu is now chairing the Rules Committee so has had to cede his chairmanship of Banking and Finance, but he remains active in both. He continues to support SB 840, the single payer health care bill, but it will not get past the Governor this term.

Paul Arney from Jane Harman's office spoke next and said Jane voted no on the war appropriation but yes on domestic spending. Asked why Jane supported the FISA bill, he said she thought it was the best we were going to get and is an improvement on our existing law. The biggest objection people have is to the immunity issue for telecom companies, and Tony Hale asked Arney to take this question back to Jane.

Toni Alario then reported on her day at Campaign Boot Camp on June 7. The event was targeted toward people with little or no experience in precinct operations. Topics included how to behave when walking a neighborhood, share information, and handle difficult people. She said people need to know you're committed and not a paid operator and they want to have their issues heard. Personal contact is the most important thing, along with having useful information handy.

Bobbi Buescher talked about the recent 53rd AD meeting, where they heard from workers from the Obama



Stephanie Molen

campaign. Bobbi said anybody can go online and contribute, but we also need help with local elections and voter education. Mary Anne Tyler spoke about the County Committee

meeting on June 10, the last meeting of the fiscal year. The Committee will be distributing a brochure "Why Be a Democrat?" Their Legislative Action Report lists their priorities as AB 1860, Unsafe Products Recall or Warning; SB 1020, Environment/Recycling; AB 2747, End of Life care; AB 2842, Healthcare/Medicare Fraud, and several others. They oppose AB 2812, Immigration State of Emergency, and AJR 44, Immigration Repeal of 14th Amendment.

Election of Officers

Last month our slate was announced: Ray Waters for president, Peggy Carter for Secretary, and Edna Murphy for Treasurer. Our bylaws indicate that we must postpone filling the vice-president office until next month. The slate of three officers was approved by acclamation.

Tony Hale said the Democratic Action Center has located a space in old downtown Torrance near Ted Lieu's office. The rent is \$700 per month for a 700 square foot office. The space will give Democrats a strong presence in the South Bay as well as a place for meetings and campaign work. The DAC phone number is still active.

To fund the office, BCDC has pledged \$500 and the group is seeking pledges and talking to Harman's office about financial assistance.

Lee Fink, who also attended the County Committee, recapped Gary Shay's report on the Michigan and

Florida delegations. Shay is the Parliamentarian on the Rules and Bylaws Committee, and he sat next to Harold Ickes during the weekend session. The principles held to be most important

were counting the votes and following the rules, but as most people know by now, the number of competing principles made it challenging to come up with a right answer. The committee met over two days and came to their final resolution: stick to the 50% penalty for states that jump ahead of the primary calendar.

The discussion turned back to local precinct operations. Edna Murphy has volunteered to serve as chair for Manhattan Beach, Tony Hale will take Redondo, and Ray Waters will handle Hermosa. Work won't actually begin until August, but we have to start planning now. Precinct volunteers need not be club members.

Tony reported that the next Palos Verdes Club meeting will feature Robert Scheer, who will be signing his book *The Pornography of Power*. Date is July 20, 2:30PM, at the Knob Hill Community Center.

Mary Ann Tyler said that Debbie Cook, the Huntington Beach mayor who is running against Dana Rohrabacher, is having a fund raiser following the one for Jenny Oropeza on July 12, at \$75 per person, \$50 for club members. A motion was passed for BCDC to cosponsor the event, meaning we will disseminate invitations and provide volunteers.

Tony reported from the Executive Board meeting in San Francisco: nine-

(Continued on page 3)



Paul Arney

From the Campaign Trail

By Lee Fink

The first Presidential election I remember was 1984. I remember the cover of *Time* magazine highlighting the back and forth of the primary between Mondale and Hart, and I remember my family intently watching and cheering on Geraldine Ferraro in the Vice Presidential debates. I was convinced that Mondale would win, but at 8 years old, I was not as good a prognosticator as I am today. And while I did not work on that campaign, I have done something for every Presidential election (and most other elections that I have been around) ever since. From hanging posters, calling voters, walking precincts, organizing volunteers, and

even some legal work on some of the Florida election cases, I have always gotten involved in presidential elections. But this time, I decided to do even more.

The 2008 is, as you know, a critical election. The country cannot stand for another 4 years of McCain/Bush policies which have driven us to wars we should not fight. Their policies have run up high budget deficits, high unemployment rates, and high gas prices, while causing a low value for the dollar, slow economic growth, and a more dangerous world. But fortunately, Barack Obama stands for Change from these failed policies. He can unite Americans for universal healthcare, economic revitalization, and a real energy policy for the 21st Century that is

good for the environment, the economy, and our national security.

So, last month I gave up my position as a lawyer at one of the oldest and largest law firms in Los Angeles, and joined the Obama for America campaign. I've been dispatched to work in Denver, Colorado, the capital of the Mountain West, one of the critical swing states in this election, and the location of our 2008 Democratic National Convention.

I will try to give you insights as to what is going on in this swing state—and I look forward to seeing those of you who come out for the Convention next month. And I'll see you in November, when we really have something to celebrate!

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



In 1943, as a World War II GI, I received a blood transfusion directly from a good looking brawny Irish GI. It saved my life, so now I have the right to get "my Irish up!" And the moving finger points at an Irish guy named John McCain.

John McCain offers us a fist full of assets (difficult to discern) and so many negatives to sink his chances to be President of the USA. No way is it possible to go along with his attitude towards the Iraq war, which he indicates could go on with no end in sight. I'm not comfortable with his short fuse temper: I dislike his crony from Connecticut turncoat Joe Lieberman.

My major contention is that we face a deadly disastrous economic future, generated by the current dim-witted dodo President George Dubya. The economy needs to grapple with unemployment; loss of industry to other countries; extended tax relief for

the wealthy; the real estate mortgage debacle. There are many reasons for our current economic quagmire, and the morass was helped in large part by the former Senator from Texas, Phil Gramm. This same Gramm is McCain's financial GURU, a close personal friend & associate. In 1996 McCain chaired Gramm's flopped presidential campaign. It cost \$21 million and earned Gramm 10 delegates in the GOP primaries.

But my major beef is that Gramm is in line to be McCain's Treasury Secretary. This is the same man who literally screwed up the USA global financial system while he chaired the Senate Banking Committee. He routinely turned down the SEC needs for more funds to audit accounting firms more carefully. To add to the insult, he pushed through a historic banking deregulation bill that set off a huge wave of mergers between commercial banks, investment banks, securities firms, & insurance companies. As a consequence firms like Enron ran hog-wild. Interestingly also, Phil Gramm's wife Wendy effectively helped Enron cover up their energy futures

manipulations.

In a nutshell that leaves us with Phil Gramm as a reckless deregulator. McCain relies on him for financial policy advice. There is only one way to go with both Phil & John.....KEEP THEM OUT OF THE WHITE

(Recap, continued from page 2)

teen more super delegates were elected, with Gary Shay the top vote getter, followed closely by Bob Mulholland and Christine Pelosi. They voted on the propositions and spoke in support of a high speed train bond measure, a children's hospital bond measure, initiatives on humane treatment of farm animals, renewable energy, and rehabilitation instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders. They oppose the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and the redistricting plan previously under discussion by our membership.

EDITOR'S NOTE: President Ray Waters was on vacation this month. His regular column will return in the next issue.

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 Treasurer
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
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 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
 Web Manager
 James McGreevy—310-320-1638

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 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

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

I volunteer to:

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 Hospitality
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Register voters
 Programs
 Legislative
 Membership
 Other

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

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