

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

November, 2008

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

We have two speakers this month. We will hear from our own Lee Fink, who will tell about his experiences working for the Obama campaign in Colorado.



We will also hear from Meredith Good, who was hired by the Virginia Democratic Party and handled college student GOTV. Meredith was graduated in June from USC with a degree in communications. Before going to work in Virginia, She worked in Hillary Clinton's campaign.

This means we will have campaign people from two states that were turned from red to blue. It promises to give us good insight on how we went from a red country to a blue one.

YES WE DID! Celebrate the Holidays and our Victory

This year's holiday party will be at the beautiful Hermosa Beach home of Ray and Carol Waters. Time is 5PM, Sunday December 14. Don't miss this chance to relish our hard-won victory with fellow Democrats and friends. Invitations to come soon.

Conservation Voters Event

Please join me and the rest of the board of Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters for our annual Just Desserts Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7 to celebrate our victories for environmental candidates.

Event: Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters Holiday Party
Date: Sunday, December 7
Time: 2:00PM to 5:00PM
Where: Hancock Park

LALCV would like to take this opportunity to remember the life of Dorothy Green and her contributions to many environmental organizations in Los Angeles County and beyond.

Tickets are reasonable at \$25, yet the combined proceeds of all support goes towards empowering one of the most effective organizations that help elect environmental candidates in Los Angeles County. Please plan on joining us by ordering tickets online at <http://www.lalc.org>.

Jim Kennedy

Club Endorses Cynthia Loo

At the October meeting we heard a brief presentation by Cynthia Loo, candidate for LA County Superior Court Judge.

Loo has been a Superior Court Referee for the past eight years,

serving the same functions as a judge. She has presided over hundreds of juvenile criminal trials and believes that juveniles should be rehabilitated and not just incarcerated for minor offenses. She said, "Being a good judge is more than just locking up criminals. A judge is a public servant and must treat all who come before him or her with respect, patience and fairness."

Loo's endorsements include Jackie Goldberg, John Chiang, and Mark Ridley-Thomas.



Dear 53rd Democrats:

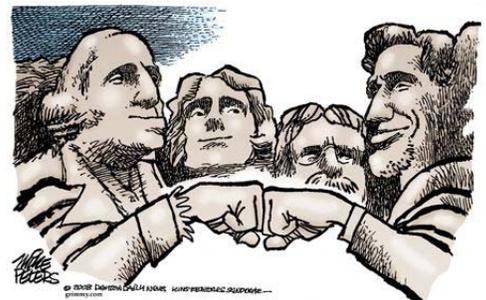
Our dreams came true on November 4. President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden...WOW!!!

Thank you and congratulations to all of us for a fabulous job well done. All of our hard work finally paid off. It sure feels great to be the BIG winners. That **BIG BLUE WAVE TURNED INTO A TSUNAMI**.

We will meet for our regular meeting next Thursday, November 20, 6:30 PM Dinner, 7 PM Meeting. Hennessey's Tavern, 313 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach.

On the agenda, we will discuss the election, a Christmas party, our 53rd AD Elections coming up in January, and Local City Elections in March 09.

Bobbi Buescher



Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President Ray Waters

Things have taken a turn and CHANGE is the watchword. We all



have much to be thankful for even though we have a temporary setback for the rights of the LGBT community. It is tempting to relax a little and celebrate. We look forward to a Holiday Party on December 14, beginning about 5 PM. There is more information in this newsletter.

In the meantime we will have the last club meeting of the year at the usual spot. We look forward to a report on campaign activities from Lee Fink who gave up his job and followed his heart in supporting the Obama campaign. Hopefully he has some war stories to relate.

Now we must continue our efforts to support the new Administration in solving the multitude of problems before us. The power of the grass roots organization has been shown in the national election. Don't relax too long. There will always be much to do.

In January there will be new delegates to the California Democratic Party elected for our Assembly District. It is hoped that there will be some information at the meeting. If you want to be a delegate, watch for more information and check the CDP website. The California Party Convention is in Sacramento, April 24-26.

The efforts to overturn Proposition 8 which singles out the Gay community and overturns their right to marry the person they love is an abomination and we will fight it. If we do not win in the courts, there will be another measure to overturn this law. I believe many of those who voted for it did not really understand the issue. The campaign against it was not very effective until too late. I fear this was a case of overconfidence.

Yes We Can! Yes We Did!

October Recap

The focus this month was on the pros and cons of Proposition DD, the Redondo Beach land use initiative backed by the political action committee Building a Better Redondo—www.buildingabetterredondo.org. The measure would give residents the right to vote on certain rezoning decisions.

Jim Light, the group's chairman, spoke in favor, saying the measure would slow down the proliferation of condos by requiring a vote on conversions from public or business properties to private use. The measure would help abate traffic and gridlock, promote local business, reduce blight, and protect schools and waterfront properties.

Sean Guthrie, a King Harbor leaseholder, spoke against DD. He has been involved with land use issues for 20 years and says DD will hurt the local economy, impact revenue, and increase bureaucracy. The measure is opposed by police and firefighters, teachers, and the Chamber of Commerce, who fear it will stifle reinvestment in the city. The Galleria shopping center and the harbor pier area are already underperforming. Guthrie said that slow-

growth proponents should use the referendum process to protect sensitive properties.

Bill Brand spoke up in favor of the measure, saying that referendums only last for one year. When Heart of the City was defeated, the city waited out the twelve month period and then reinstated a controversial Catalina re-development plan. Brand is president of the South Bay Parkland Conservancy.

The club chose not to take a position on the measure.

Next, Vice-president Toni Alario spoke about Measure EE, a related slow-growth initiative that takes effect when a low-density neighborhood is upzoned. It prevents the rezoning of parks and open spaces and limits building height to the current 45 feet. Billed as a simplified version of DD, the measure was viewed as suspect by some, and the club did not endorse.

Amy Howorth next spoke on Measure BB, the \$67 million bond improvement for Mira Costa High School. Howorth, who is president of the Manhattan Beach School Board, said there is a nationwide shortage of



Attendees and speakers had a lively discussion on Proposition DD. Left, Ray Waters, center, Sean Guthrie, right, Jim Light.

students going on to study science in college, and Mira Costa's many high-achieving students are hampered by conditions in the 58-year-old classrooms and obsolete labs. Bunsen burners, eyewash stations, and hot water channels don't work; and overcrowding keeps students from spending the required 25% of the school year in laboratory. Measure BB would also replace eight single-story classrooms with two 2-story buildings, giving the campus needed open space.

Instead of a tax increase, BB would extend the \$37.50 per \$100,000 property assessment of existing measures for twelve more years. There is a realistic budget for the Mira Costa renovation that includes 20% overage.

The club moved to endorse BB.

Lillian Light announced a November 14 program on the shrinking water resources facing Southern California, sponsored by the Environmental Priorities Network of which she is president.

The forum, titled Tackling the

Water Crisis, was to be held at the Pacific Unitarian Church. Light said that water usage in this region has increased sixfold in the past 100 years, and average water availability will fall by half per person within the next fifteen years.

Larry Fox announced an online campaign management resource that is available from the Voter Activation Network. He volunteered to host a training session for people who would commit to using it. Founded in 2001, the Network provides online information systems to Democrats and their allies and has revolutionized the way campaigns and organizations access and manage data about voters, members, and constituents.



Environmentalist Lillian Light

From the Editor

It's time to remind you that the club does not hold a regular meeting in December and we won't publish the newsletter again until January, **when President Barack Obama takes office**. Thank you to my wonderful contributors Ray Waters, Monroe Weinstock, our Webmaster Jim McGreevy, our database and mailing person Steve Zucker; and to Lee Fink, Lori Geittmann, Teresa Bird, and Bobbi Buescher, who contributed great columns and articles.

Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock



Obviously, it is with great pride, pleasure & satisfaction that the USA has elected our first man of color, BARACK OBAMA, to be President #44. He is notably intelligent, highly principled, and gives the entire world NEW HOPE. In my opinion, there are a few reasons for his & our victory. (a) He was by far the best choice. (b) The USA is in the midst of a disastrous financial economy. (c) And lastly, our current President is a man of dubious intelligence; a man who lacks curiosity; a man with no imagination or *Welschmerz*.

Someone recently wrote that this is the *end of an error!!!* We made it thru almost eight years of George Dubya.

And now I feel like the guy who had chewing gum stuck to the bottom of his shoe, still trying to get it off!

It has been written that Dubya is planning his Presidential library. It must include the following: A Weapons Of Mass Destruction Room that no one has yet found; A Hurricane Katrina Room still under construction; A Texas National Guard Room where you need not show up; A Walter Reed Hospital Room where you cannot enter; A Guantanamo Bay Room where you cannot get out; A National Debt Room which is so huge that it has no ceiling; The Tax Cut Room restricted to the wealthy; An Economy Room which is in the toilet; An Iraq War Room which requires repeated tours; A Dick Cheney Room which is in an undisclosed location and includes a shotgun gallery; An Environmental Conservation Room that is completely empty; and finally, a Supreme Court

Room where you can buy an election. Added to this, Dubya's private office will contain an electron microscope to help locate his accomplishments.

The story of the Bush #43 administration reads like a chronicle of corruption, arrogance, incompetence & bloodshed. Mercifully, we don't have far to go! And it is increasingly clear why McCain is distancing himself from Bush. A Boston professor has said, "The age of Triumphalism has ended. The Age of Salvaging What's Left is upon us."

My parting comment is to quote the late Ronald Reagan, who wrote, "A moment I've been dreading, George (Bush #41) brought his n'er-do-well son around this morning & asked me to find the kid a job...the one who hangs around here all the time looking shiftless...already almost 40 and has never had a real job..."

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*Beach Cities
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*Beach Cities Democratic Club
 Membership Form*



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Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

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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:

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