

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

February, 2009

Next Meeting

New Time and Location!

**Knob Hill Community Center, Room 8
320 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach
Thursday, February 26
7:30 PM**

Room 8 is in one of the classrooms behind the Community Room next to the parking lot.

We will hear more about our upcoming local elections and the Citizens Trade Campaign letter opposing NAFTA and CAFTA.

Ted Lieu

“State of the State Address”

Join Assemblymember Ted Lieu at his State of the State address.

Date: Friday, March 13th
Time: 7:30 AM—9:30 AM
Location: The Ayers Hotel
14400 Hindry Avenue
Hawthorne, CA

Contact: Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
Tickets for the event are \$25 and include breakfast.

Democratic Headquarters

**1673 Cravens Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 533-1813
democraticactioncenter.org**

Convention Volunteers Needed

Kathy Bowler, Executive Director of the California Democratic Party, writes:

We need your help again at our 2009 State Convention April 24- 26 in Sacramento.

We'll need more than 800 volunteers to facilitate a productive and enjoyable Convention for the approximately 3,500 delegates, guests and press in attendance. Volunteers are needed in several areas. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any special needs and/or physical limitations. Also tell us if you have any special skills that might be useful such as photography or videography. We will do our best to position you within your ability and interest.

This year, our volunteers will help make the 2009 Convention a successful tribute to the 13 years of leadership and service of Senator Art Torres, outgoing Chairman of the California Democratic Party. Many statewide constitutional officers and legislative leaders will attend to make this an exciting and memorable event. There will be opportunities for volunteers to attend General Session and to hear some of our great speakers after their shift!

If you're interested in volunteering, please complete the volunteer form by March 20, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Guerrero, Volunteer Director at (916) 442-5707 or email volunteer09@cadem.org.

Please note: In order to volunteer at the State Convention you **must sign up in advance**. There will be a mandatory meeting for all volunteers on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at the Convention Center in Sacramento.

Teaching Green

Leading off our January meeting was Kathleen Jacecko, founder of Teaching Green. The organization holds workshops on environmental topics including sustainability, reducing toxins, water conservation, and upgrading buildings to make them eco-friendly. She said the American lifestyle is not sustainable as is: the “ecological footprint” of every American—the amount of land and water required to supply the resources we use or waste—is 24 acres, and if everyone on the planet lived the way we do, there would need to be five more planets to sustain life.

Every ecosystem on earth is in decline and the rate of decline is increasing.

Teaching Green will hold a series of monthly workshops at the Pacific Unitarian Church from February through June. Their website is teachinggreen.org,



Kathleen Jacecko

and Ms. Jacecko can be reached at kjacecko@teachinggreen.org.

From the President Ray Waters

We will meet on a new day and place this month. Join us in Room 8 at the Knob Hill Community Center 320 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach, on Thursday, February 26. We meet at 7:30 PM. Room 8 is behind the Community Room next to the parking lot.



President Obama has come into office facing a dilemma unlike any faced by a President since Franklin Roosevelt. Lest we forget, in 1933 when the Democrats took control of office, they did not have to placate Republicans and conservative Democrats. The country was willing to try most anything to save the country

from the deep Depression that had created 25% unemployment. Currently our situation is not as fearful, and not everyone is willing to try wide-ranging reform.

Republicans in federal and state government are in denial and still persist in their belief that government is basically bad and free markets and free trade should be allowed to prevail. They believe with such fervor that I have come to call them economic fundamentalists. They have an absolute faith that their economic model is correct. Here in California, they sign a pledge to never agree to an increase in taxes. Nationally they only want to reduce taxes. This reflects their belief in the role of government. Never mind that they just ran up the national debt.

As I write, I am reminded of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin. His ideas regarding evolution have been

accepted to explain the diversity of our animal kingdoms. Many also have noted that our social systems also evolve. Best practices are those that work to best meet the needs of our systems.

Cooperation is now recognized as a survival mechanism. Systems keep changing. The process is not always pretty and is full of conflict. We hopefully have learned the conflicts that arise are settled peacefully when we figure out how we can cooperate with others to meet our needs. Darwin would have plenty to say about the way our systems have changed since he wrote *The Origin of Species*.

Pragmatic solutions to our governmental problems will prevail over time. President Obama is searching for those pragmatic solutions. May we find them also in Sacramento.

Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock

Top of the list of issues is unquestionably the Economy & the need for



the Congress to pass a necessary stimulus budget to help keep us alive & eating. At the moment, it looks like that old chestnut...a budget that is a 'camel is a horse that was designed by a committee!'

After the economy we also have the 60 plus years of the Middle East Jewish/Arab crisis, the African disaster (famine, AIDS, genocide, etc.), and the nuclear threats from North Korea & Iran.

This dissertation will deal with matters closer to home, Washington, DC. It is now time to start calling spades what they are...shovels. For eight years we suffered the Dubya/Cheney administration. We have not only lost many of our liberties, but we have lost face among nations. Not to forget our

loss of over 4,000 young American lives in a pointless war in Iraq. In addition we are now on the lip edge of a Depression. Barack Hussein Obama has bolstered our faith, renewed our hope and lit a candle of promise for all of us.

To date we have a stimulus budget crisis facing partisan sniping & petty malice. My concern is now with the nominees chosen to assist Obama in his climb to the Promised Land. First we had Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico who stepped aside from the Commerce Dept. before the grand jury train wreck hit him. It prompts me to question the vetting process & who looks for the slime in the dirt.

But to go further, there is Tim Geithner who conveniently forgot to pay taxes, and will now head the Treasury Dept. Another recent withdrawal was Nancy Killifer who also forgot to pay taxes for a couple of years. A recent nominee to the Justice Dept. for Legal Policy, is Mark Gitenstein who was a registered lobbyist for

the Chamber of Commerce.

And the 'piece de resistance' is the vaunted nominee to the Health & Human Services Dept, Tom Daschle, the former Senate leader. Under heavy public pressure he declined nomination. He had earned \$5 million in the past two years as a consultant to a lobbying organization, lectured to businesses that did business with the government, and to boot, had unreported income along with irregularities with his charitable contributions.

So now, we need to approach Obama as though he is a political mortal...and let us cut the cards before he deals any more! Pay attention!!!!

P.S. After listening to President Obama's first public press interview, I am thoroughly & completely convinced that he not only knows what the job is all about, but he has a grip on the problems to be solved & how to get the job done effectively. He is without doubt the MASTER MOBILIZER.

January Recap

Candidates, Green Cities

Ray opened the meeting with a litany of the reasons for celebrating President Obama's first few weeks in office: He will close Guantánamo, leave Iraq, outlaw torture, allow stem cell research, and reopen participation in treaties, to name just a few pledges.

Our program had changed: Instead of Paul Arney from Jane Harman's office, we heard from several speakers on issues ranging from the environment to local elections.

Our first speaker was Kathleen Jacecko from Teaching Green (see front page). Next we heard from Louise Fleming on solar energy and Redondo Beach's joining the Cool Cities movement. A Cool City is one that has made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors' [Climate Protection Agreement](#).

Begun in 2005, the Cool Cities campaign helps city residents and local leaders join together and encourage their cities to implement smart energy solutions.

Fleming has been talking to Councilman Steve Diels on solar and renewable energy projects in Redondo Beach. She is affiliated with California's Green Workforce Coalition, a partnership that provides local businesses with information about sustainability, climate change legislation, and green jobs.

Toni Alario presented an open letter written by the Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC) on rebalancing NAFTA and



Louise Fleming



Tory Erickson

CAFTA. It refers to Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Mike Michaud's Trade Reform act, SB 3083 and HR 6180, respectively. The bills would put pressure on China to devalue its currency and halt the Doha talks by the World Trade Organization that they claim weaken domestic trade laws.

After some discussion about whether to endorse this open letter, the club asked Ray to form a committee on the issue to report back at the next meeting with a recommendation.

Toni also passed out a list of candidates who have taken out filing papers for state office. It was noted that in some cases, a Democrat may appear to be challenging a popular incumbent Democrat: Sheila Kuehl has filed for Secretary of State Debra Bowen's office. Candidates may file in order to keep their political action committees going and later change or revoke their filings.



Bill Brand

Tony Hale spoke on behalf of Tory Erickson, who is running for Redondo Beach city attorney. Erickson's Republican opponent Mike

Webb has out-raised all other candidates in the South Bay and has conducted misleading push polling against Erickson.

Erickson has twelve years of federal and state trial court experience and has been an active community volunteer. He has served on the board of the Jenesse Center, a large domestic violence intervention program; as a resource specialist with the LA Unified School District; and as a youth basketball coach with the Torrance YMCA. The club voted to endorse Erickson and contribute \$200 to his race.

Next, we heard from Diane Cagle, running for Redondo Beach City

Council in District 2. She is a lifelong Democrat and the daughter of a union organizer. She is employed as a speech pathologist with the Torrance Unified School District and has served on the board of the Redondo Beach Art Group. Her husband, Chris Cagle, is a councilman in District 2.

Also running for the seat is Bill Brand, who spoke next. He became involved in Redondo Beach issues when the City Council approved the "Heart of the City" plan in 2002 which called for 3,000 condos on the AES power plant site. He opposed this development plan and helped gather signatures for the two referendums it took to stop it. He has been endorsed by Assemblyman Ted Lieu and by Jim Light, president of South Bay Parkland Conservancy.

The club voted by secret ballot to determine which of the two candidates



Diane Cagle

to endorse, but lacking a 60% majority, we did not endorse either candidate.

Larry Fox next spoke on the VAN (Voter Activation Network) software system for grassroots organizing. He would like to see committed volunteers who are willing to walk precincts and make phone calls, and would be willing to deploy the system if there are enough committed members.

Finally, the club is still looking for a new place to meet since the Hayward Center will not be available after January. We may also change our regular meeting night from fourth Tuesdays to fourth Thursdays.

New meeting time and place!

James McGreevy—310-320-1638
Web Manager
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Database and mailing
Moiraz@alumni.rccd.edu
Mora Zucker—310-546-7562
Newsletter
(open)
Membership
Peggy Carter—310-372-5442
Secretary
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Treasurer
Toni Alario—310-728-5890
Vice-President
Ray Waters—310-374-4744
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 _____

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:

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