

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

March, 2009

Next Meeting

New Time and Location!

We will be having our meetings on a new day and in a new place. We will be meeting at:

Manhattan Beach Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, March 25

Our new meeting day is the fourth Wednesday of each month. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Bakery.



Still Seeking Convention Volunteers

California Democratic Party
State Convention
April 24-26, 2009 in Sacramento
800 volunteers needed

Come volunteer as we celebrate the election of President Barack Obama and honor the 12 years of dedication, service and leadership of Senator Art Torres, Chairman of the California Democratic Party.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the volunteer form at www.cadem.org/volunteer09 by March 20th, 2009, for best availability.

If you have any questions, please call 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 also be a mandatory meeting for all volunteers on Thursday, April 23rd, 7 PM at the Convention Center in Sacramento.

Work the Vote Needs Help

Fellow Democracy Lovers,

Too many voters had problems casting a ballot in Los Angeles on 11/04/08. You can be an important part of reviewing what went wrong.

We need 100 volunteers to help continue our analysis of the precinct ballot statements. You can offer to read or input data. It's easy. It's an experience you'll never forget. Especially if you value your vote!

Come and join us for food, fun, and an incredible American experience. What a patriotic way to spend an hour or two!

Please contact us to sign up as soon as possible.

Onward, to a REAL democracy.

Work the Vote Los Angeles

Sunday March 22nd
St. Bede's Community Room, 3590
Grand View Blvd. LA 90066

We need 10 teams in each session. Any questions please email Admin@workthevotela.org or call Sheri Myers (310) 801-1819



SoCal Grassroots Celebration and Luncheon Honoring Debra Bowen

Saturday, March 21
2:00 PM

Camden House
430 North Camden, Beverly Hills 90210
2:00 Cocktails
2:30 Buffet Luncheon

Luncheon \$50.00

Signature Page and Luncheon: \$75.00

Hosted by SoCal Grassroots. Please reserve your tickets now at www.actblue.com/page/march2luncheon.

For questions, call Thom Shaughnessy at 818-848-8639.

Democratic Headquarters

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

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President Ray Waters



Having just inaugurated President Obama it might be tempting to sit back and watch the results in Washington, but we have much to do here in California. We were all disgusted at the nonsense that masqueraded as legislation that just ended in Sacramento. Now we are forced to consider what we should do about the May 19 Special Election for Propositions.

There are six Propositions that were the price the Democratic Party had to pay to get one more vote in the Senate, thereby avoiding bankruptcy of California's State Government. At this

point the people will have a chance to repudiate this action. The way to really restore majority rule to our legislature is to repeal the 2/3 majority requirement that allows one-third of the legislature to block any tax or spending proposal from passage. Courage California has proposed such a measure as have some of our legislative leaders. There should be petitions to circulate in the coming weeks.

Next month several of our members will head to Sacramento for the annual Democratic Convention. The California Democratic Party meets in general session once a year. This year we will elect a new set of officers. The new chair of the party is expected to be former State Senator John Burton, a long time activist and legislator from the Bay Area. It is hoped that he will

provide leadership that incorporates more of the grass root supporters of progressive policies. He has pledged to work to get a repeal of the 2/3 rule on the ballot and he has been active in support of labor.

This morning I listened to Assemblyman Ted Lieu discuss the budgeting problems of the state. He believes that the proposition that requires the legislature to save tax revenues in prosperous years in order to sustain funding in the other years is sensible. His efforts to reduce the number of foreclosures are highly commendable. I hope we can get a representative of his office to meet with us at our monthly meeting and further explain his plan. We look forward to supporting him as a candidate for Attorney General in 2010.

Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock



I write this shortly after listening to President Obama speak to a joint meeting of Congress & the House. He was interviewed by Jim Lehrer of KCET the next day. And it is increasingly obvious that Obama is a man of remarkable intelligence, capabilities, & capacity. He also is careful, thoughtful, concerned, pragmatic, and best of all, articulate!

After his presentation to the joint session, he was followed on the T.V. by Bobby Jindal, Republican Governor of Louisiana. Jindal literally invited us to go back to the 18th century & to his state that no longer has slavery, but condones voluntary servitude! Choosing Jindal to respond to Obama was waving a white flag of surrender in front of the Democrats. If Sarah Palin & Bobby Jindal are the best the GOP can offer for national leadership, then

there is still hope for the return of Newt Gingrich!

Jindal was in fact a Rhodes scholar, but does not come from an impoverished immigrant Indian family. His father was a civil engineer & his mother was a doctoral candidate in nuclear (George Dubya's favorite word) physics. His hard work experience was in the confines of Goldman Sachs on Wall Street, alongside Henry Paulson.

Jindal represents a state that is 3rd from last for the worst U.S. poverty; his state is 4th from last in per-capita income; his state is 3rd from last in infant mortality. Jindal has authorized the use of chemical castration for convicted sex offenders; has approved off-shore drilling; has a 100% pro-life voting record; favors teaching 'intelligent design' as opposed to evolution; & minimizes the tens of millions sent to his state after Katrina indicating they could handle it themselves! To boot, he is Rush Limbaugh's selection to carry on the banner of Ronald Reagan!

Jindal is being groomed for a GOP national office, perhaps running in the next presidential race. He bears watching!!! I should quote Randy Newman's lyrics that read..."good ol' boys from LSU, went in dumb, came out dumb, too," and so did the GOP.

Postscript

There have been a number of suggestions for naming a few new ice cream flavors by Ben & Jerry.

My choice for the best 10 are:

GRAPE DEPRESSION
IRAQI ROAD
IMPEACH COBBLER
HECK OF A JOB, BROWNIE
ROCKYROAD TO FASCISM
DEATH BY CHOCOLATE...&
TORTURE
CREDIT CRUNCH
BLOODY SUNDAE
CAMEL PREEMPTIVE STRIPE

February Recap

*Foreclosure Prevention,
Economic Rescue*



The first of our speakers was Irving Pacheco from Ted Lieu's office. He reported that Ted is backing the bill to regulate debt settlement companies. The bill on foreclosure prevention, also supported by Ted, was signed into law by the Governor after being vetoed last year. In other news, Ted is running for Attorney General of California since he has been term limited out of the Assembly.

The club then discussed State Constitutional reform. Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi calls the 2/3 budget vote requirement rule "an affront to democracy" and says we should eliminate the upper and lower houses of the legislature in favor of a 120-seat unicameral body with smaller districts.

We also discussed President Obama's stimulus package and the fact that it will contain an extension of unemployment insurance and some breaks on COBRA health coverage.

Next, we heard from Betsy Butler about her run for the Assembly being vacated by Ted Lieu. Her major areas of interest are environmental sustainability for the state, a green economy, improved tax structures, and an increased focus on education.

Manhattan Beach City Councilman Mitch Ward spoke about his support for Ted Lieu. He is involved in a fund raiser that will take place on March 21. For more information, go to his website, mitchward@mitchward.net.

Tony Hale reported on the Erickson/Webb race which has become a series of attacks and counterattacks. Some Rovian-style tactics are being used, as Webb falsely accuses Erickson of having represented a client involved



Assemblyman Ted Lieu

in a child pornography case. More information is available through the Democratic Action Center website, or reach Tony directly at Tony@DemocraticActionCenter.org.

We learned that Fiesta Hermosa will be going green this year, with earth-friendly fuel in the shuttle buses and recycling containers placed alongside trash. Even the restaurants will recycle their cooking oil.

It was announced that the JFK Profiles in Courage Awards will be given on March 19 at the Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium. We also got a reminder of the Green Workshops being held at the Pacific Unitarian Church located at 5621 Montemalaga Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes.

Upcoming workshops are:

Sunday, April 19
Home & Garden, Part I (Green Building and Energy Conservation)

Sunday, May 10
Home & Garden, Part II (Water Quality and Conservation)

Sunday, June 14
Solid Waste, Household Toxics and Household Hazardous Waste

To sign up, call 310-372-7484 or email kjacecko@teachinggreen.org.

Notes for this report courtesy of Peggy Carter

Dear Friends,

I am in Washington, DC, lobbying the federal government to increase mortgage assistance to California. An article appeared in the Los Angeles Times over the weekend (March 7) that discusses the issues.

If you are interested in what I am working on in Sacramento, please visit democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a53/.

I also have a basic Attorney General website at www.tedlieu.com, which we will upgrade in the next few weeks. You can also find me on facebook and myspace, and I twitter as well.

Ted W. Lieu

Progressive Videos

At the February meeting, Ray spoke about two organizations active in progressive causes. Annie Leonard of the Tides Foundation has produced a video called "The Story of Stuff," which talks about over-consumption and sustainability, and what role consumer habits, corporations and the media play in molding our buying patterns. It can be viewed at blip.tv/file/635316.

Ray also reported on the organization called Courage Campaign. Their website, Couragecampaign.org, lists progressive initiatives and success stories on issues such as fair taxation, marriage equality, labor, and education.

They recently released a hilarious new ad highlighting the priorities of the California Republican Party, aka the "Yacht Party." View the ad and consider making a contribution:

www.actblue.com/page/YachtParty



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
 President
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744
Vice-President
 Tomi Alario—310-728-5890
Treasurer
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
 Peggy Carter—310-372-5442
Membership
 (open)
Newsletter
 Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
 Moiraz@alumni.rccd.edu
Database and mailing
 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:

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