

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2009

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, April 22
7:30 PM

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

We will hear from representatives of the Vote Yes on the Propositions May 19 campaign.

The measures currently approved for the ballot include:

- Proposition 1A, State Budget. Changes California Budget Process, limits State Spending, increases "Rainy Day" Budget Stabilization Fund
- Proposition 1B, Education Funding payment plan
- Proposition 1C, Lottery Modernization Act.
- Proposition 1D, Protects Children's Services Funding, helps balance state budget.
- Proposition 1E, Mental Health Services Funding, Temporary Reallocation, helps balance state budget.
- Proposition 1F, Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents pay increases during budget deficit years.



Our New Venue
It's hard to complain about losing our previous location now that our meetings are being held at Manhattan Bread and Bagel. The room is big enough to accommodate us, and best of all, we get to enjoy some of the best baked goods in the South Bay courtesy of bakery owner Michael Keegan.

Solar Home Tours

On May 16th, the Environmental Priorities Network will hold its fourth annual tour featuring seven local homes that have electricity-generating solar panels. The homes, in Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, and Redondo Beach, will be open to visitors for two hours each, starting at 9:30 –11:30 AM and finishing up with the last home at 3:30 – 5:30 PM.

The homes have many environmentally friendly features like solar hot water heating, double-pane windows, low voltage lighting, off-peak timed appliances, and drought-tolerant planting.

We can use the sun to produce our electricity, and with the federal government offering a 30% tax rebate to anyone who installs solar panels, this is the best time to do so.

You can pick up a flyer at the EPN booth on Earth Day in Pollywog Park, or you may request a copy by contacting Lillian Light, 310-545-1384, llight@verizon.net, or Virginia Hilker, 310-378-2036, vthnews@verizon.net.

From the White House

Ray,
I have been meaning to write back to you. I'm doing well. I am actually writing to you having just left the White House, where I've been working for the last week and a half.

It is a short-term position, and I am not certain yet what I'll be doing in a couple of months—possibly still in DC, and possibly coming home. But it's a thrill to be here. I am actually in the office of presidential personnel, where we're working on political appointees within the administration.

Lee Fink

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Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

March Recap

Harman, Lieu, New Candidates, Clean Money

For the second month in a row, BCDC met in a new location, this time at Manhattan Bread & Bagel, a local bakery owned by Hermosa Beach City Councilman Michael Keegan. In addition to the space, club members were treated to a tempting array of baked goods and desserts.

Keegan spoke for a few moments and said he had recently traveled to Washington DC to meet with Energy Secretary Steven Chu about green building code compliance. California and Florida were first in the nation to adopt the new codes, which call for a 20% improvement in water use efficiency, 50% increase in water conservation, and 15% reduction in energy consumption in all new construction. Within California, the City of Hermosa Beach has made the most progress on environmental building.

Next, we heard from Jane Harman Representative Paul Arney. He said that Harman has recently urged action on high-speed rail: "Done right, a fast and efficient rail system will take cars off the road, curb pollution, and help wean us off all sources of oil." Harman has also recently sponsored a bill regarding sexual assault and rape in the military, claiming that military women are more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire in Iraq.

Arney then read the figures for the \$578 million portion of the stimulus package that has been allocated to the 36th Congressional District, as follows:

El Segundo \$536,000
 Hermosa Beach \$274,000
 Lennox \$3,246,000
 LA Unified \$566,729,000
 Manhattan Beach \$846,000
 Redondo Beach \$1,648,000
 Torrance \$5,439



Our March Speakers (Clockwise from upper left): Nick Karno, Paul Arney, Julie Rajan, and new member Rochelle Schneider

Arney also said that California is to receive \$6 billion out of the \$53.6 billion state stabilization fund as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA. For more information, visit Recovery.gov.

Ray introduced Rochelle Schneider, vice-president of the 53rd AD Democratic Congress. She is an attorney in Manhattan Beach and said she looks forward to attending more meetings in the district.

Next we heard from Julie Rajan, executive director of the California Clean Money Campaign. Rajan said that to get money out of politics, we have to remove the need for good candidates to raise huge sums of money to get elected.

There have been numerous attempts to have public funding of political campaigns. Governor Schwarzenegger has recently signed into law AB 583, which would establish a pilot project for voluntary full public financing for Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018 if it is passed by a vote on the June 2010 ballot. It is modeled after systems that have been working in Arizona and Maine for eight years and recently adopted by Connecticut and other localities.

Called the California Fair Elections Act, the initiative would require candidates to receive 7,500 five dollar qualifying contributions and signatures from registered California voters to show that they have a broad base of support. In turn, they would receive

Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock



History has been described as the story of civilization walking downhill, with the Barbarians marching uphill. And to paraphrase T.S. Eliot: The world will not collapse with a bang but die with a whimper!

What usually happens is that political truth rises to the top & is exposed. And so it is with the late unlamented administration of Bush/Cheney. The latest batch of memos that we now see, written mostly by John C. Yoo of the Office of Legal Counsel, gave legal guidance to the White House & the Defense Department to validate the theme that “no laws can limit the president’s power in fighting terrorism.” This batch of secret memos gave the president the power to set the rules during the war on terrorism, which unfortunately is an **ENDLESS, UNRESOLVED, NON-STAINABLE, INEFFECTIVE CRUSADE AGAINST ISLAM**. The president was allowed the extraordinarily

broad interpretation of powers; to seize suspects in the USA as though they were in a foreign army; to override any issues in any branch of government; to search houses & suspected terrorist **WITHOUT** court approval; to permit coercive interrogation techniques that many consider **TORTURE**. They gave the president a blank check to disregard the Constitution, in effect creating a combination of WWII Hitler, Mussolini, Hirohito, & Joe Stalin.

Bush/Cheney, after 9/11, had a panic attack—and the USA suffered for it without Pepto-Bismol. One writer indicated the logic was much like the Talmudic argument (pilpul) that one can torture logic out of context to get to a predetermined conclusion. The USA was forced to the tip edge of “executive tyranny.”

We now face the need to trace this major systemic damage; it could probably take a generation (20 years).

Five days before the Bush/Cheney administration came to an end, this same Office of Legal Counsel explained how the office had gone wrong. What is a crying shame is that there is no way to resurrect the dead troops & civilians.

enough baseline public funds to run competitive primary campaigns (\$1,000,000). If they win their primary race, they receive enough public funds to run competitive general election campaigns (\$1,300,000). For more information, visit caclean.org.

The club voted to table endorsement of this initiative until our next meeting.

Irving Pacheco spoke on Ted Lieu’s recent legislation on foreclosure prevention and debt settlement. In his race for Attorney General, Lieu has received numerous endorsements and leads all the other candidates in fund raising.

Our next speaker was Nick Karno,

who is running to fill the Assembly seat that is to be vacated by Ted Lieu. Karno has worked in the public sector all his life, first as a teacher in Venice and Mar Vista, and later working for Congressman Howard Berman, with an in-between stint working for a political writer at the *LA Weekly*. He attended the American University School of Law in Washington, DC, and has been a prosecutor with the City Attorney’s office since 2002.

Karno said he saw Al Gore’s movie *An Inconvenient Truth* and contacted the former vice-president, who then met with him and provided training on how to present the issues in schools and town hall meetings. Karno is also a member of the Neighborhood Council

Quotable Quotes

“I want to make sure everybody who has a job wants a job” — *George Bush, during his first Presidential campaign*

“This is a great day for France!” — *Richard Nixon, while attending Charles De Gaulle’s funeral*

“Now, like, I’m President. It would be pretty hard for some drug guy to come into the White House and start offering it up, you know? ... I bet if they did, I hope I would say, ‘Hey, get lost. We don’t want any of that.’” — *George Bush, talking about drug abuse to a group of students*

“For seven and a half years I’ve worked alongside President Reagan. We’ve had triumphs. Made some mistakes. We’ve had some sex ... uh... setbacks.” — *George Bush*

“What a waste it is to lose one’s mind-or not to have a mind. How true that is.” — *Dan Quayle addressing the United Negro College Fund*

“I hope I stand for anti-bigotry, anti-Semitism, anti-racism. This is what drives me.” — *George Bush*

“Now we are trying to get unemployment to go up and I think we’re going to succeed.” — *Ronald Reagan*

Submitted by Monroe Weinstock

in Venice.

Ray mentioned the May 19 election, and said we will be hearing a speaker on the propositions.

Ray announced that several club members will be attending the April 24 – 26 Democratic State Convention. He also said that the club will have a presence at the April 18 Earth Day celebrations in Pollywog Park. We are also starting to plan for the Memorial Day and Labor Day fair booths.

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*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