

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

June, 2009

## Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, June 24  
7:30 PM

Come and help us select our new officers for the upcoming year starting on July 1.

We'll hear a legislative update from Ted Lieu's Representative Irving Pacheco. Major issues will include the California budget snarl. We are also hoping to have recommendations on upcoming local elections.

## Local Democrats Honored

BCDC is proud to announce that two of our members, Edna Murphy and Dency Nelson, have been named Democratic Woman and Man of the Year in our district.

They will be honored at the annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner:

Sunday, August 9  
6:00 PM  
LAX Radisson Hotel

As is our custom, the club will subsidize half the cost of attendance for members. Watch for more details next month.



Oropeza Representative Primitivo Castro spoke at our May meeting about the Senator's support for single-payer health care. Pictured to his right are Harman Representatives Jessica Duboff and Rebecca Kim, the newest member of the Harman team.

## Get Involved Now

### Forum on Single-Payer Healthcare

SATURDAY, JUNE 27  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Venice Center for Peace with Justice  
and the Arts  
2210 Lincoln Boulevard, Venice

Learn why Single Payer is a viable solution to fix our broken health care system and how a Public Option plan in 2009 can be the bridge this country needs to achieve a Single Payer plan in the near future. Be educated on this crucial issue, so you can educate others!

For more information visit the DAC website at [democraticactioncenter.org](http://democraticactioncenter.org).

## DUES ARE PAYABLE

Club membership dues are due on June 1, \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address. Please bring your check to the meeting or mail it to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

## BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

This month, my focus in this column will be California Assembly Bill 920 (Huffman), which has just made its way to the Senate floor. AB 920 has as one of its co-authors our own Assemblyman Ted Lieu.

Before going into detail about AB 920, let me take a couple of steps back to explain its importance. I can't imagine that there is anyone reading this column who doesn't understand the benefits of greening our electric grid and moving us away from the burning of fossil fuels and dangerous nuclear power generation. The opportunity for each of us to turn our rooftops into clean, green power generators has been available for over a decade now through the California Solar Initiative and what are known as grid-tied, net-metered, photovoltaic solar panels. Many of us have taken advantage of this initiative, including BCDC President Ray Waters and yours truly. With the installation of a photovoltaic solar-energy system at our

homes, we have been able to generate enough electricity to substantially reduce our monthly electric bills while obtaining that power from a non-polluting and sustainable source, the Sun. State and federal governments have offered financial incentives to reduce the cost of installation, but one important incentive was missing until now.

Many of us have large enough systems and are so frugal in our electricity consumption that our systems produce more electricity than we consume. That extra electricity goes back out onto the grid to be sold to other customers without the owner of that rooftop generator being financially compensated. We can take pride in offering clean electricity for others to use, but up until now the law only demands that the utility companies compensate us down to "net zero." This is where AB 920 comes in.

AB 920 will demand compensation for all electricity generated by rooftop or backyard solar or wind systems. It will move us rapidly toward a truly green grid powered with local, "homegrown"

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the President

Ray Waters



At the next meeting we will discuss ways we can help resolve the crises in California. Irving Pacheco of Ted Lieu's office will fill us in on the Democratic response to the Governor's attempts to balance the budget by cutting spending on education, health care, and other social services.

On June 6, there were meetings all around the country to kick off an Organizing for America campaign to achieve three core principles for healthcare reform.

- ◆ First, to reduce the rising healthcare costs for families, business, and government.
- ◆ Second, to allow all patients choice in their own coverage and their own doctor.
- ◆ Third, to ensure that quality, affordable healthcare is available to all Americans.

There will be a report on the progress of those meetings and reports of Democratic Club meetings and events in our area. Of immediate importance to our Club is the election of new officers. Edna Murphy is willing to continue as our Treasurer. We will need to elect a new President, Vice President and Secretary.

It has been two years since I became the President of Beach Cities Democratic

Club. Since then, we enjoyed great success in helping with the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. The time has come for me to relinquish my office as your club president. Unfortunately no one has come forward to offer to run beginning next month, and I will not continue to serve.

Please attend our next meeting with your ideas for resolving this dilemma. I cannot say that the position is not time consuming. Being President is fascinating and rewarding, but I need to do other things. I will be happy to help the next BCDC President with advice and help in planning when I am able. For the next year I look forward to having three grandchildren and their mother in town and they will take much of my attention.

## Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



We need and deserve a Supreme Court that serves us all. It must be eminently fair, honest & particularly UN-POLITICAL. The previous Rehnquist Court narrowed the scope of many of our economic security safeguards & generally favored conservative positions.

So far, the Roberts Court has gutted the 1964 Civil Rights Act that guaranteed equal pay & opportunity for all. The Roberts Court has consistently sided with the executive over the legislative branch of government. The Roberts Court seemingly reflects the interests of the Republican Party, with John Roberts mindset developed after working in the White House for that second rate movie star—Ronald Reagan. The Roberts Court has overturned a 96-year-old precedent in anti-trust law, making it more difficult to prove corporate collusion. The Roberts Court has also upheld the Federal Partial

Birth Abortion Ban Act, which had been rejected by the Court seven years earlier.

There are no doubt many more negatives regarding the Roberts Court. In my most direct & honest opinion, President Obama has taken a strong positive progressive step into the future by nominating Judge Sonia Sotomayor to join the Supreme Court to replace retired Judge Souter. Her humble, obscure beginnings, her educational background at Yale & Princeton, and her judicial experience & knowledge make her a very, very positive force for the court to really give all of us JUSTICE BALANCED BY REALITY. Judge Sotomayor fits the image of a Judge that would not allow "the majestic equality of the law to forbid rich & poor alike, to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal their bread" (quoted from Anatole France).

Right now, I am extremely pleased with President Obama's FIRST selection to the Supreme Court, and I see more to be said soon again on this subject. BRAVO!!!!!!



*(Green, continued from page 1)*

electricity from all of our rooftops and backyards, and at no extra cost to the state or taxpayers. It will encourage further energy conservation because we will receive financial compensation for providing surplus, clean, sustainable electricity to our neighbors. A win win!

I encourage you to contact State Senator Jenny Oropeza and urge her support, and Assemblyman Ted Lieu to thank him for his co-authorship of this brilliant amendment to the Public Utilities Code. And if you are interested in a comprehensive guide to the incentives and procedures for becoming a solar generator yourself, log onto [www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov).

You can also attend a free Homeowners' Solar Information Session at the SCE South Bay Service Center, 505 Maple Avenue, Torrance, Thursday, June 25 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. For more information and to register, visit [www.sce.com/csi](http://www.sce.com/csi) or call 866-970-9221.

For further information about all things "green" in the South Bay, I invite you to sign up for my email list. Just drop me a line at [DLN52@verizon.net](mailto:DLN52@verizon.net).

## May Recap

Presiding in Ray's absence, Bobbi Buescher opened the meeting by thanking Michael Keegan for making Manhattan Bread & Bagel available for club meetings and providing those fabulous refreshments.

Our speaker was Kate Anderson, who is running for the Assembly seat that will be vacated by Ted Lieu in 2010. Anderson described herself as an eternal optimist in spite of the train wreck that is California politics, especially the current budget debacle.

Anderson began her public service career as an intern for Congressman Henry Waxman, but soon realized that a law degree would help her impact the issues she cared about. She attended the University of Chicago Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review. She clerked for Chief Judge Harry Edwards in the DC Circuit and later returned to Capitol Hill to serve as Counsel on the Government Reform and Oversight Committee for Congressman Waxman.

Her achievements included an investigation into abuses in nursing homes and a major study on the irregularities of the 2000 election. Concerned about disparities in the vote count, she observed that votes were undercounted, and more ballots thrown out, in poor and minority areas.

After her move to Los Angeles to work for the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olsen, LLP, she became active in child care issues. In partnership with two other professional companies, she formed an employer-sponsored child care center scheduled to open in summer of 2009.

Anderson lives in Mar Vista and is a member of the Mar Vista Community Council and the Hilltop Neighbors Association. If elected, her top priorities will be to rescind the 2/3 majority in the State Legislature and reform the tax and initiative systems in California.

We were introduced to Rebecca Kim, a new field representative for Jane

Harman, by Harman representative Jessica Duboff. Kim will be our primary contact from now on. Duboff announced a project coming up on the weekend, Soldiers' Angels, in which donated supplies will be collected for injured troops receiving care in Germany.

She reported that Harman originally cosponsored the Credit Card Act of 2009, HR 627, establishing fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit. Provisions include keeping rate increases under control and requiring parental permission, or proof of ability to maintain credit, for people under 21 to obtain a credit card.

The bill became controversial when a provision to allow loaded guns in National parks was attached. Jane then voted to oppose, but the bill has been passed into law.

As a member of the Energy & Commerce Committee, Jane authored two provisions in the American Energy Security and Independence Act, HR 2454, to enhance the efficiency of outdoor lighting and encourage the sale of "best-in-class" energy-efficient appliances.

Jenny Oropeza representative Primitivo Castro spoke about the senator's support of Sheila Kuehl's single payer health plan for California and her support for eliminating the 2/3 majority requirement. She is also sponsoring SB 4, a proposed ban on smoking at State beaches and parks.

Oropeza's Senate Bill 35, "Feed the Hungry," is an effort to decrease the amount of consumable food that is discarded after catered events. The bill calls for matching up leftover food with appropriate non-profit organizations.

The Senator is also working on an amendment to SB 425 to expand the power to issue alcohol licenses beyond the local police chief to city councils and city managers.

Tony Hale reported that the Fiesta Hermosa booth brought in about 25 new Democratic voters. Attendees stopped by to give thumbs-up and have their pictures taken beside the Obama cutout.



Assembly candidate Kate Anderson spoke about her campaign for Ted Lieu's seat, which will be vacated in 2010.

Bobbi reported that the State Convention was a big success. John Burton is the new chairman of the California Democratic Party and Eric Bauman, vice chair. Eric Bradley did not win the Controller race. The next Convention will be in Los Angeles.

It was announced that the 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Committee meets regularly at Hennessey's on third Thursdays.

Tony announced that the DAC has expenses covered for another year and he needs more volunteers to help at the office. The DAC website has been updated and contains a calendar of events.

Dency Nelson announced an upcoming garden party for Ted Lieu and a Grey Water seminar at the Hermosa Beach Council chambers followed by an ocean-friendly gardening seminar with Ed Begley, Jr. Event updates can be found at [environmentalprioritiesnetwork.wordpress.com](http://environmentalprioritiesnetwork.wordpress.com).

Michael Keegan spoke about his concerns on AB 155. Under this provision, a municipality would have to obtain approval from the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission before filing for bankruptcy.

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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