

## Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, October 28  
7:30 PM

Tony Hale will preside over this month's meeting.

We'll hear an update on the upcoming **November Election** from candidates for Hermosa's City Council and School Board races and Measure UU on the Redondo Beach ballot.

**Saving California:** Hear about the exciting new proposition online for 2010. Written by messaging guru George Lakoff, this proposition promises to overturn the 2/3 rule and restore democracy to the California budget process.

**Health Care Reform:** Progressive Health Care Reform is still on the table. Hear where the Health Care Reform legislation is now and how you can still make your voice heard on the issue.

## Support Prop UU

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party endorsed Proposition UU, a Redondo Beach measure on the November 3 ballot. The proposition would tax the AES power plant in Redondo Beach for its use of natural gas. The power plant, unlike other natural gas users in Redondo Beach, has been exempt from the utility tax.

The tax could bring in anywhere from \$700,000 or more to the city which has been hard hit by income loss. The city lost Home Expo and Mervyn's at the  
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## Why Obama deserves the Nobel Peace Prize

Amid the media's bewilderment over President Obama's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize, critics of the President on both sides of the political spectrum have raised objections to the award's merit.

What mainstream media and much of the collective consciousness of America lacks is that gift to see ourselves as others see us. We fail to realize how this one decision, the choice of Barack Hussein Obama, has changed America and how we are perceived by the rest of the world.

Progressive Democrats like myself find it hard to accept the glacial rate of change. We know what we want: a single payer health care system, a quick end to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, and an end to the influence of corporate dominated government that has: sent our jobs overseas, endangered our environment, robbed our treasury, and denied opportunities to generations of Americans. For many progressives, these goals seem as far away as ever, and therefore they are not ready to give this kind of high praise to the President.

Of course Right Wing critics feel we have gone too far already. They refuse to accept Obama as their President, and this is why they hold onto the birth certificate hoax. So called mainstream conservatives continue to remain under the spell of FOX NEWS, and will follow the ever moving bouncing ball of criticism put forward by FOX and like minded pundits. They will see the Nobel Prize as a partisan act and reject the organization altogether.

For many Americans without strong opinions on politics, the media's bewilderment over the Nobel Prize will most closely reflect their attitudes. Many Americans would be hard pressed to name any of the past Nobel awardees, or explain the importance of their achievements. Mainstream media with its focus on the bottom line, tries not to offend anyone. Thus, Mainstream Media leaves the apathetic right where they found them, unchanged by the information around them.

Why did the Nobel committee award Obama their prize? Because they recognize the election of Barack Obama is a significant and positive change for America.

Unlike far too many Americans, the Nobel committee sees American's true place on the world stage. They have seen signs of our greatness, the Marshal Plan, the Peace Corps, and our commitment (under President Carter) to human rights and freedom of information. Where many Americans see a world filled with critics and enemies, the Nobel committee sees people in every corner of the world hoping that America will succeed in achieving the full promise of our Constitution: a Government for and by the people.

The Nobel committee along with much of the world recognizes President Obama as a hopeful sign. We must remember that Obama was our choice, and therefore, the America people who voted for Obama, also share in that hope and the honor of this prize. We are now all charged with a responsibility to live up to this honor. We must remain politically active and guide the Obama Administration; keeping the focus on the real needs of the people and a better world.

*Tony Hale, Vice President  
Beach Cities Democratic Club*

## BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Tuesday, October 23, 2009, will go down as a "Green Letter Day" for Hermosa Beach and all of the South Bay.

That morning I was privileged to be in the living room of my friends and Hermosa Beach "green" neighbors Robert and Monica Fortunato as they hosted Congresswoman Jane Harman and a group of Hermosa Beach city officials, including current Mayor Kit Bobko and Hermosa Beach City Council members Michael Keegan and Michael DiVirgilio.

The purpose of the gathering was to preview for the Congresswoman the "net-zero energy" remodel that the Fortunatos have been planning for their home for over two years. Also present at this meeting were representatives from the West Basin Water District and Southern California Edison, just two of the many agencies



and companies who are partnering with the Fortunatos to make their home a showcase of how all of us can live comfortably yet completely sustainably in wonderful homes that have zero or near-zero impact on the environment.

This meeting at the Fortunato home culminated a whirlwind weekend tour of her district by the Congresswoman that included visits to the Windstream Company of Manhattan Beach, a producer of small wind turbines, and to British Telecommunications in El Segundo, where that company has installed one of the largest solar panel systems in Southern California. This is a 2,862-module, 607-kw solar photovoltaic system that will produce between 15 and 20 percent of BT's current energy needs.

At the Fortunato home, Congresswoman Harman challenged Scott Gobble of SCE to bring the next wave of "smart meter" installations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Hermosa Beach in particular, as it would be an ideal test location for the utility's long process of converting the electrical grid into a "smart, green grid" that can more efficiently distribute

electrical power and encourage conservation while also providing cost savings to their customers. All of this and more confirms what those of us on the green forefront have known for a long time, that the possibility of a "green economy" is very real, and that once again the South Bay is taking the lead in transforming our lifestyles and industries in ways that will make for a better planet while also boosting the economy.

What all of us in the South Bay can do right now to affirm this commitment to the planet is to participate in the "Amazing Waving Human Tide Line" at 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 24, at the Manhattan Beach Pier. This will be the premiere event for Los Angeles County and one of thousands that will be happening all over the world that day to send a message to the international leaders and experts who will be meeting in Copenhagen in December to forge new policies and agreements for mitigating the real crisis of global climate change. Be a part of it! Walk, bike or carpool to the Manhattan Beach Pier on the 24<sup>th</sup>! For more information visit [www.350.org/SouthBay350](http://www.350.org/SouthBay350)

## Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

We citizens of the USA have the best of all possible worlds. We can VOTE, we can criticize, we can protest, we can actively gather and we can THINK.

For the past nine months we have had a president that is noteworthy for his speeches & actions. For nine months the Obama mystique has prevailed--and we still like his style! As of today, Obama has been cool, smooth, considerate & open to compromise. But, like the marathon runner at 20 miles, he has "hit the wall!"

Compromise, modification, adjustment, alterations...mean ZIP. Obama has extended the hand of moderation & cooperation and met with obstinate abuse, negativity & disdain. The "Republican party of NO" has mounted a negative program to confuse, denigrate, demean & ridicule any



& ALL Obama programs. The 20 percenters seem to think they can stymie & disrupt any progress needed by 80% of the congress to get this country going forward. Obama needs a small toe-hold to show what can be done. The public is anxious for healthcare reform along with a Public Insurance option. We need to get our guys home from Iraq & Afghanistan; close & evacuate Gitmo; pass stronger auto "emissions" controls and set new mileage standards; face up to our Global responsibilities regarding Greenhouse Gases; control & revise our banking & finance systems so that we do not support organizations "too big to fail."

And then there is Jimmy Carter's commentary about actions that are "racially motivated." To me, there is no doubt this is a fact of life!!! It is absolutely time NOW for Obama to stand tall and dignified. Tell the world, especially the USA that the picture he painted during his campaign is alive, well & possible. The USA still means hope & freedom & progress & peace &

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Above, Rebecca Kim from Jane Harman's office, and Ray Waters

## September Recap

Dency Nelson presided over the meeting this month.

We heard an update from Harman Representative Rebecca Kim on health care reform. Harman's three main concerns are accessibility, a public option, and curbing drug costs. She also supports extension of Unemployment benefits and the Respect for Marriage Act (H. R. 3567), which would protect the status of same-sex couples who marry in states that permit gay marriage.

Next we heard from three candidates for Ted Lieu's 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Assembly seat.

**Jim Aldinger** was a member of the Manhattan Beach City Council for eight years, during which time he was president of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and served on the Transportation Committee and the League of California Cities. He does not support a state constitutional convention such as that being promoted by California Forward, which seeks to eliminate the 2/3 majority needed in the Legislature to pass a budget. Aldinger does think redistricting would bring useful change to the state government.

**Nick Karno** said he is running because he wants to see our state working again. As a middle school teacher, a deputy prosecuting city attorney, and an environmentalist working with Al Gore's climate project, Karno said he is the only candidate in the race with experience in all three areas. The issues he would tackle first are reforming the criminal justice system, addressing the problem of the state's mentally ill and homeless population who wrongly end up in jail; shifting to a public health system; and enacting a Teachers' bill of rights.

**Mitch Ward** has been in city government since 1994, starting out as a member of the Cultural Arts Commission. He served on the Planning Commission during the Metlox development project. Currently serving on the Manhattan Beach City Council, he is also a member of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, where he has worked to

establish tax fairness for small businesses. He wants to end term limits in the Legislature; would work to eliminate the 2/3 majority; favors speeding up trials for people who have been arrested; and is a strong supporter of the provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that guarantees a fair redistricting process to ensure equal representation for minority voters.

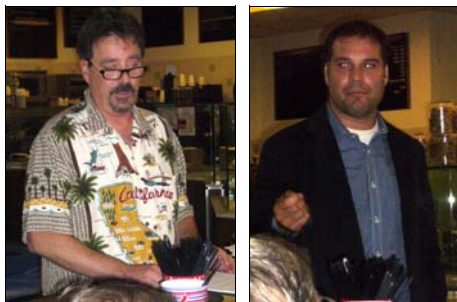
**Ray Waters**, running for Hermosa Beach School Board, is a former educator and is deeply committed to keeping the public schools strong and viable. Ray would like help walking precincts to support his candidacy.

Our featured speaker was **Joe Galliani**, chairman of South Bay 350 Climate Action Group. He is an active environmentalist and co-owner of Mr. Joe's Really Big Productions, a creative services studio. He also built the web-based Creative Greenius ([creativegreenius.wordpress.com](http://creativegreenius.wordpress.com)) to announce local South Bay Green events and updates. In his own words:

"I've spent my entire career inventing and delivering creative solutions that inspire and motivate people to action. Long before that, my love for unspoiled wilderness and wildlife drove me to the green side. Today my passion to protect the beauty and power of nature drives me to help clients who use their powers for the good of the many instead of the greed of the few. To me the choice is clear - go green... or go away."

Galliani also founded the Parks Company ([theparksc.com](http://theparksc.com)), which publishes a catalog on the National Parks and contributes some of the proceeds to the parks.

He spoke about the urgent need to address climate change immediately and referred to the great scientist James Hansen's testimony before Congress in 2008. A leading climate scientist and director of



Clockwise from upper left: 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Candidates Mitch Ward, Jim Aldinger, and Nick Karno; Environmentalist Joe Galliani

the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Hansen writes a blog called Solve Climate that provides daily climate news ([solveclimate.com/blog/james-hansen](http://solveclimate.com/blog/james-hansen)). Hansen testified that we are at a tipping point, having used up all the slack in the schedule to defuse the global warming time bomb.

There is overwhelming worldwide consensus that climate change is caused by man and becoming an emergency. Some South Pacific Islanders have had to flee their homes as their islands sink into the ocean.

Galliani talked about the upcoming **South Bay 350 Climate Action Group** event to be held at the Manhattan Beach Pier October 24<sup>th</sup>. Environmentalists and friends will gather at 3:00 PM to be part of "the largest climate action in the history of Southern California." Mainstream media outlets and citizen journalists will turn out,

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(open)  
Vice-President (interim)  
Tony Hale—310-465-6188  
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Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
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Beach Cities  
Democratic Club



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*(Monroe, continued from page 2)*

security. It is now time for Obama to carry out his election mandate & pull us out of the muck & the slime left by the Bushies!!!

A most noteworthy & heartfelt tip of my Top Hat to President Obama for his Nobel Peace Prize...for exemplifying something new in world politics.....DIGNITY.....

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*(Prop UU, continued from page 1)*

Galleria of South Bay this past year which paid substantial sales taxes. The power plant owners have sent out fliers criticizing the city for spending \$154,000 at Alta Vista Park. But the city saved \$500,000 on the project from donated labor so that the Little League snack bar and rest rooms, closed down by the County Health Department, could be rebuilt. They are now in compliance with the American Disabilities Act. The bleachers also were rebuilt by donated labor. There are two playing fields at Alta Vista, in constant use by youth baseball and youth soccer. The old bleachers were in bad shape. The youth games are heavily attended by parents and grandparents.

Redondo Beach employees have taken a six percent salary cut. We are down seven police officers which the chief has

been unable to replace. Recreation programs have been cut. Librarian slots are not being filled.

The power plant also is claiming that power costs of residents would rise. Tony Hale has estimated that if the increased cost of natural gas were passed through to consumers, it would increase residents' monthly bills from between two cents and twenty two cents.

City Councilman Steve Aspel says: At the end of the day, don't be dissuaded by AES and their money. They are spending *big bucks* to gain your vote. They simply *do not want to pay their fair share of taxes.*

1. AES sells its electricity to JP Morgan.
2. Southern California Edison, not AES, provides residents with electricity.
3. The power plant in El Segundo pays their Utility Users Tax as does the Mobil Exxon energy plant in Torrance.
4. AES is *not* regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and can charge buyers whatever the market will bear for their product.

*Lori Geittmann*

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*(Recap, continued from page 3)*

along with elected officials; and speakers will each have exactly 35 seconds.

350 refers to the amount of sustainable CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere: the level is currently at 389 and rises 2 ppm every year. We must immediately take steps to reduce the level back to 350 ppm by installing solar energy, driving hybrids and electric vehicles, and following the many green initiatives being promoted by Greenpeace, Heal the Bay, Environmental Priorities Network, Surfrider, Oxfam, and other activist groups.

We heard a brief report from Carol Waters on the County Committee, which passed a number of resolutions including one that would demand that California have 33% renewable energy by 2020.

Maira reported on a recent "summit meeting" to discuss the search for a club president and larger meeting space. Lori Geittmann will draft a letter for Ray Waters's signature to the Beach Cities Health District requesting the use of a meeting room.