

Next Meeting

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

Community Health Care

What resource do people without health insurance have? Many years ago the South Bay Free Clinic was founded and it has since become South Bay Family Health Care.

At this month's meeting Brooke McIntyre-Tuley and Joanne Silva from the clinic staff will tell us about the services and the unmet health care needs in our community.

This will be an opportunity to find out what's really going on with health care in the South Bay.

One of Los Angeles County's leading community clinics and largest safety net providers, **South Bay Family Health Care** (SBFHC) offers high-quality low- and no-cost health care to underserved populations in the South Bay and South Los Angeles County. Founded in 1969 as the South Bay Free Clinic, SBFHC has expanded over the last 40 years to accommodate a growing patient base. It now includes four conveniently located health centers—Redondo Beach, Gardena, and two in Inglewood—as well as a school-based clinic at Carson High School and a mobile health van, the *Healthy Kids Express*.

SBFHC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) serving more than 17,000 uninsured and underinsured people throughout the South Bay.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

As promised in last month's issue, here are the second six of "The Top 12 Plug-in Electric Vehicle Myths," paraphrased and personalized by me for you, courtesy of Plug In America:



7. MYTH: EVs take too long to charge.

FACT: The most convenient place and time to charge is at home while you sleep. That's how I have "fueled" my car 90% of the time for the past 8 years. Even using the slowest 120-volt outlet, the car can be left to charge overnight, producing about 40 miles of range. Most new plug-in electric vehicles will charge from 240-volt outlets, which would provide double or triple the charge in the same amount of time. And charging stations like those the City of Hermosa beach is committing to install will reduce that charging time even more.

8. MYTH: Plug-ins are too expensive for market penetration.

FACT: New technologies are typically costly when first introduced. Then prices drop dramatically as competition and volume pricing come into play. (We saw this soon after cell phones and DVDs were first introduced.) Also, the government stimulus package includes a \$2500 to \$7500 tax credit for these cars, and some states like California offer an additional \$5000 incentive. One must also factor in that these cars' electric "fuel" costs will be about 2 cents a mile or even less, and that these vehicles require almost no maintenance or repair: no oil or filter changes, no tune ups, no smog checks. After almost 8 years and almost 100,000 miles, I am on my third set of tires and my

third set of brakes. The only other things I've had to do to my car have been to rotate those tires every 6 months or so and to top off my brake and window washer fluids. That's been about it!

9. MYTH: Batteries will cost \$15,000 to replace after only a few years.

FACT: The battery is the priciest part of a plug-in, and up until now, that definitely has been the major obstacle preventing the electric vehicle from becoming the overwhelming hands-down first choice for car buyers. But costs will drop as production increases, and the technology will improve. Some car makers plan to lease their batteries, so replacement won't be an issue. The Chevy Volt will have a 10-year battery warranty that would cover battery replacement.

10. MYTH: There isn't enough lithium in the world to make all the new batteries.

FACT: Even in the worst-case scenario (zero battery recycling, aggressive EV sales, and no new mining methods or sites), existing lithium stores will be sufficient for projected EV production for the next 75 years. Also, lithium comes from many countries (24% from the United States), so we won't be dependent on any one global region.

11. MYTH: Lithium batteries are dangerous and can explode.

FACT: Many kinds of lithium-ion batteries are found in all kinds of consumer electronic products, and some of those batteries have posed fire risks in some circumstances. These risks are being mitigated by the use of advanced-battery management systems and careful design that prevents "thermal runaway." Most plug-in vehicle makers are working with lithium battery types that have inherent safety advantages and provide more years of service.

12. MYTH: Most of us will still be driving

(Continued on page 2)

From the Acting President

Lori Geittmann

Sometimes individuals make the mistake of volunteering when they should keep their mouths shut. The story of my life.

When the top office in our club became vacant, there was concern that the club would not survive. No one was willing to step up into leadership. So, this 76-year-old retread said, OK, if others will do certain things, I will run the meetings and find programs. Others will have to handle the other functions.

Fortunately Tony Hale, our vice president, said he would handle some of the bureaucratic things such as taking care of our charter renewal and lining up our delegates to regional events.

Edna Murphy, our wonderful treasurer,

said she would continue to handle our finances and our campaign reporting. No one knows how much work this involves except Edna and we are very lucky she keeps abreast of all the many laws and forms this requires.

Let us not forget Moira Zucker who puts out what should be classed as a prize-winning newsletter. Her husband Steve also keeps our membership lists and posts the newsletter on the Web.

The secretary duties have bounced around but volunteers have helped.

This malaise is not unique to our club. Other clubs report the same membership drop. It appears that once President Obama took office, everyone said our work was done. Not so. Look at the problems he is having in the Congress.

Californians especially should be

aware of the problems facing us in Sacramento. We need a Democratic governor and to turn back the threats to Senator Barbara Boxer. Other important races include our own 53rd Assembly District contest.

Please lure all your friends to our meetings. We have a new format in which we will explore various services available to the people who need them. We also will keep you up to date on the political world. I promise to try to end our meetings at 9 PM.

Finally we are in the planning stages for a forum featuring the 53rd Assembly District candidates in our party. At last count there were nine. This will probably be in April.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

The dictionary defines the word Democracy (A) as government by the people; rule of the majority. It defines the word Court (B) as the place where justice is administered. It continues by defining Judge (C) as one who is a public official authorized to decide questions brought before the court.

NOW, in these extraordinary times, in this remarkable land of the USA, with all our intelligence & educational advantages.... we cannot seem to get A plus B plus C..... to arrive at JUSTICE.

The Supreme Court of the USA is now in the hands of FIVE men, who in my inestimable opinion have brought us (you & me) to our collective knees.

These five men are Roberts, Scalia, Alito, Thomas & Kennedy. This Court has now decided that the dissemination of political speech requires MONEY; it now allows corporations owned by foreign entities to invest in our elections; it wipes



out prior laws dating back to Teddy Roosevelt in 1907; it further cripples our ability to adapt protective measures against mega-corporations; it is a stunning example of judicial activism; it permits lobbyists to use blunt, heavy handed force favoring legislation they favor.

Finally, after promising to maintain a respectful balance for historic law, they have uprooted & overturned accepted law! I think that judges should be required to take the same oath taken by medical doctors...first to do no harm!

The Supreme Court is no longer the third branch of government, but rather an extension of the Legislative branch (Senate & House). Suddenly a legal business entity created to ease financial maneuvers has evolved into a living, breathing, functioning human being... even though it has no physical substance and lacks any moral standards!

The necessary changes will, no doubt, occur when composition of the court is re-balanced. I can hardly wait!!!!

(Green, continued from page 1)
gas cars through 2050.

FACT: Several irrefutable factors are driving the shift from gasoline to plug-in electric vehicles. Broad agreement about the need for America to reduce its reliance on petroleum for economic and national security reasons (not to mention climate change, which is occurring faster than previously thought) indicates that the time for this shift is overdue.

For everything you'd ever need to know about plug-in electric vehicles, visit www.pluginamerica.org or come visit us in person at the Hermosa Beach Electric Vehicle Mini-Expo on Sunday, March 14, from 9AM to noon in the parking lot of St. Cross by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1818 Monterey Blvd., Hermosa Beach.



Jane Harman's representative Rebecca Kim, who attends regularly to update us on Harman's latest initiatives

January Recap

As our acting president, Lori Geittmann opened with the announcement that she will serve in this capacity until the club is able to fill the position of president formally. She called on our treasurer Edna Murphy, who said that we made about \$67 on our January holiday party.

Ray Waters, newly elected to Hermosa Beach School Board, said his city is facing extreme budget cuts. The Education Foundation has helped hold onto teachers and maintain school quality, raising over \$1 million last year and aiming for \$1.5 in the coming year.

The Board is exploring the use of interest-based bargaining, which differs from traditional adversarial negotiations in recognizing that employers and unions have common interests and that the outcome of negotiations can be win-win.

Jane Harman's representative, Rebecca Kim, reported that Jane is currently active on homeland security issues. She called the Christmas Day airliner bombing attempt a failure of intelligence and said we need "leadership, not laundry lists." The Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 left unfinished the formation of a Privacy and Civil Liberties Board that was supposed to oversee new practices to keep our country safer.

Regarding health care, Harman has always backed the House bill including the public option. Ray commented that in Lee Fink's article last month, he said that what's important is to pass *any* bill, then improve on it.

Our featured speaker, Janice Martin, was up next. Ms. Martin is the director of programs and volunteer services for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles. She spoke about the organization's mission, which is to build affordable housing for those who need it most.

Contrary to popular belief, Habitat does not give away homes; they build them for working families who qualify. They provide a "hand up, not a handout," and require a partnership agreement with families who demonstrate a need for



Janice Martin from Habitat for Humanity

adequate shelter, have good credit, and contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" toward home construction. Recipients must have a history of steady employment and make mortgage payments, which never exceed 35% of income. In turn, the mortgage proceeds are reinvested to build more houses.

Los Angeles suffers from a severe shortage of affordable housing. This year, the demand for housing in the county will exceed new housing production by about 28 thousand homes. Only about 3% of LA housing is affordable. Nationwide, 95 million people—that's one-third of the population—have housing problems including overcrowding, payments too large a percentage of income, poor quality shelter, and homelessness.

Habitat homes are built using volunteer labor, but the organization uses licensed plumbers, electricians and other specialists for the critical jobs. Ms. Martin said that HHGLA's goal is to build and renovate 250 homes in the region over the next few years in cities such as Lynwood, Burbank, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and the Westside.

Habitat utilizes green technology in their construction; three of their current projects are LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a Green Buildings rating system). They also operate a Home Improvement Store that sells new and used surplus home furnishings and building materials to the public, saving landfills and reducing waste.

The impact of home ownership is far-reaching: children of homeowners are

more likely to achieve higher grades in school, less likely to exhibit behavior problems, and more likely to become homeowners themselves. Home owning adults are more likely to vote, participate in civic organizations, and volunteer in their communities.

Volunteer opportunities with Habitat include assisting with maintenance work on Habitat-owned buildings, maintaining databases, documenting construction projects, and helping in the office. Habitat also seeks ambassadors who will advocate for favorable legislation.

Next, Tony Hale spoke about his work on James Lau's campaign for the 53rd Assembly seat. Lau is a committed environmentalist and works with the League of Conservation Voters, an environmental watchdog agency. He has served as a policy consultant for a state senator and as legislative director for a member of the Assembly on environmental issues. He has drafted legislation for a number of bills later signed into law including a landmark consumer protection bill and the creation of a special fund for community centers serving low-income communities.

Tony also said that the DAC office is in full swing and serves as a resource for all Democratic candidates. They remain neutral in all races and focus on projects such as voter registration, signing up almost 2,000 voters in the last 4 months.

Ray Waters passed around petitions to put the Democracy Act on the ballot. The bill would change one sentence of the California Constitution to read: *All Legislative actions on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote.*

This change would end the budget gridlock that plagues our state every year. To vote it into law requires only a simple majority vote. As things stand, the majority of our elected representatives are unable to run the state the way voters want them to. The club has already endorsed this act and donated \$100 to publicize it.

In closing, Lori asked that members notify her of all upcoming events so they can be announced at our meetings.

Acting President
Lori Gettimann—310-316-1729
Vice-President
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
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(vacant)
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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