

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

March, 2010

Next Meeting

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

Health Care For Seniors

This month we have invited Marilyn Rafkin from Beach Cities Health District to speak about services available to seniors. Ms. Rankin is the director of community care at BCHD, a government agency that provides preventive health services to the three beach cities.

Lori Geittmann Honored

At his annual State of the City address on February 22, Redondo Beach Mayor Mike Gin announced this year's winner of the Lifetime Community Service Award: It went to our acting club president, Lori Geittmann.



Lori with her Lifetime Community Service Award

Lori's years of public service include serving as President of Friends of Redondo Beach Library; Member, Redondo Beach Recreation and Parks Commission; Volunteer, Torrance Memorial Hospital; Chair, Senior Caucus, California Democratic Party; and Member, Community Health Committee, Beach Cities Health District.

Said Lori: "I'm in shock. It was me this time. Everyone laughed when they dragged me to the podium and I said I was speechless."

The award reads, in part: "In recognition of your lifetime of community service to the City of Redondo Beach, and in sincere appreciation of your lifelong dedication to the community."

Convention Volunteers Needed

The annual California Democratic Party convention will be held in Los Angeles on April 16-18. In order to run a smooth and effective convention, we need to recruit over 800 volunteers. All volunteers must attend a mandatory meeting on Thursday, April 15th.

Please note that the CDP does not handle travel or accommodations for volunteers. All Democrats are welcome, but they need to be able to attend on their own accord.

If you're interested in volunteering, please complete the volunteer form at cadem.org/volunteer2010.

If you have any questions, please call

Christopher Guerrero, Deputy Political Director at 916-442-5707 or email volunteer2010@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 15th, 7PM at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Thank you and spread the word!

Sergio Carrillo, Director, Region 17
California Democratic Party
www.cadem.org

Regional Vice-Chair, Region 5
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
www.lacdp.org

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

In April of 1970 I was Senior Class President of my high school in the San Francisco Bay Area.



My congressman was Republican Korean War hero Paul M. "Pete" McCloskey. As well as being an anti-war advocate who challenged President Nixon in the Republican primary in 1972 and also called for that president's impeachment, Pete McCloskey was an early environmental activist. A Stanford Law School graduate, before running for Congress in the mid 60's Pete set up his law office in the predominantly African-American, low-income neighborhood of East Palo Alto where he did pro-bono legal work for that community and for otherwise unpopular cases including "environmental law," although I don't think that's what it was called in those days. "Ecology" was the word for all things environmental in the late 60's and early 70's, and it was in that atmosphere, in the large shadow of Pete

McCloskey, that I became an environmental activist. So much so, that as April 22, 1970, approached, the very first "Earth Day," I convinced my high school's administration to suspend regular classes and let me organize a day of "Ecology Workshops" to "promote awareness and appreciation of the Earth's environment." As we approach the 40th anniversary of that first Earth Day, I thought that I'd offer a brief history of exactly how it came about.

My source is a letter from Earth Day's founder, then-Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) sent to then-President of CBS Television, Dr. Frank Stanton, to set the record straight after a 1971 CBS News broadcast that had erroneously credited Dennis Hayes and a group of college students for the creation of Earth Day. The idea for Earth Day, as Sen. Nelson states in his letter, occurred to him in early August, 1969, while he was in Santa Barbara "inspecting that awful oil spill and puzzling about what could be done to bring public opinion to bear on the lethargic political community." After the Santa Barbara experience, Sen. Nelson spent a month developing the concept for Earth Day and then announced the plan at a speech in

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Seattle on September 9.

Sometime after that, he appointed himself chairman and looked for a Republican co-chairman. The only Republican, in both the House and the Senate, willing to step up and co-chair such a dangerous thing as Earth Day was my Congressman, Pete McCloskey. Sen. Nelson then selected Sidney Howe of the Conservation Foundation to be a member of the Executive Board, and the three of them selected the balance of the Board, created the Environmental Teach-In, Inc., as a non-profit, tax exempt organization and selected a national office, staffed by Denis Hayes and a number of college students who later went on to form "Environmental Action," but that organization had nothing to do with the founding of Earth Day.

Sen. Nelson's objective was "to have a massive nationwide demonstration to show

the politicians of the country that there was genuine grass roots, deeply-felt interest in the issue that crossed all political lines and age groups."

The idea occurred to Sen. Nelson that political attention could be achieved by having a nationwide environmental day patterned after the Vietnam teach-ins of two or three years earlier. After the success of the one-day spectacular of the first Earth Day, in late summer 1970, Sen. Nelson announced the plan to institutionalize "Earth Week" as an annual event—"an occasion each year when we can take an inventory of progress for the past year and plan for the next; a time set aside for the nation, the media and the environmental groups to pay special attention to the issue. In particular, however, my (Sen. Nelson's) objective is to have set aside a period when all the grade

and high schools can bring to fruition their educational efforts of the year—essay and speech contests, projects and clean-up plans. After all, education and understanding are fundamental to gaining commitment on this issue as with any other."

Sen. Nelson and Congressman McCloskey started this national movement 40 years ago. Do your part to honor the Earth and these two heroes by participating in an Earth Day activity this year. You can also attend the Torrance Environmental Fair on Saturday, March 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Madrona Marsh, and you can participate in "Earth Hour 2010" by turning off your lights later that same night from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. For more information visit www.earthhour.com.

The New Frontier

Lee Fink

Being away from home, I try to offer some insight into what has been transpiring in current events in DC or the administration. This month, I want to talk about something that I am very closely involved with—NASA, where I serve in the administration.

For 50 years, NASA has been the clearest examples of the pioneering American spirit as we have ventured into that new, and final, frontier of space. It landed men on the Moon, built a human space station, built a telescope that could see to the farthest reaches of the universe while launching satellites that gather the data about our own changing climate on Earth. But after a half century of leadership, NASA needs to recapture that innovation that has kept us reaching for the stars.

Last month, President Obama and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden announced plans for NASA to enter a new era of innovation and discovery, with the goal of once again developing new technologies and sending humans beyond the confines of Earth's orbit.

The first step in our strategy is to spur the emerging commercial spaceflight industry. NASA has already laid the foundation, as more than 500 different people have traveled into Low Earth Orbit. With

two private companies already under contract to re-supply the International Space Station, NASA will invest \$6 Billion over the next five years in funding private companies to create rocket ships that will launch astronauts to the ISS by 2016. By allowing private companies to take astronauts to Low Earth Orbit, it will reduce costs, increase options, and allow NASA to focus on the next generation as we invest nearly \$14 billion over the next five years in developing new technologies that will send us beyond Low Earth Orbit.

A lot of misinformation has been reported about our new direction. Media outlets have reported that our plan retires the Space Shuttle—but NASA decided to retire the shuttle in 2004. Others have reported that we have canceled our plans to go back to the Moon by 2020. But the fact is that the Bush-era "Constellation" program was never going to get us to the Moon. A panel of independent experts determined last year that the program, based on Apollo-era technology, had been severely underfunded and would not return us to the Moon until the late 2030's, if ever.

Our new direction takes the next great step by having America once again lead the way in space exploration and returns NASA to its place of the leading innovator in the world.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

The old comic Henry Youngman coined the phrase, "Take my wife, please!"

I'd like to amend it to "Take my BANK please!" Now let me begin using the "N"

word...NATIONALIZATION. Even if only used temporarily, it would allow the government to take control of the troubled banks, pump in new capital and sell them back into the private sector. It is a careful, delicate, balancing act that could clear away lots of debris & deadwood.

As consumers, you & I are like the surrounded Marine troops with the captain shouting, "The poor bastards! They've got us right where we want them. We can shoot in any direction." In any case, the truth of the matter is that back in the Gilded Age of the 19th century, the banks came close to ruling the USA!!!

Today we still have six major banks that are TOO BIG TO FAIL (TBTF). They still reap rewards, with little risk of failure! NOW is the time for us to seriously apply anti-trust laws. NOW is the time to separate

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February Recap

Lori Geitmann called the meeting to order as petitions circulated for Jane Harman, Jenny Oropeza, and other candidates including Lori herself, running for Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee.

Primitivo Castro reported that Jenny Oropeza is urging everyone to support the census. In the last census, LA lost \$200 million due to undercounting; Oropeza aired a PSA explaining that the county risks losing up to \$3,000 per person this time.

Her legislation includes a 27-bill package to create 140,000 jobs without raising taxes or reducing protections for the environment, labor or consumers. On her website she said: "This bill appropriates \$20 million to Local Conservation Corps and \$10 million to the California Conservation Corps to recycle items that would otherwise be destined to go to landfills." She is also sponsoring bills to end the surcharge on debit card use and to restore early cancer detection to health insurance.

Ray Waters reported from the Hermosa Beach School Board, saying that they are still struggling with a reduced budget and may have to lay off fifteen teachers.

Next we heard from Edgar Saenz, running for 53rd Assembly District. Saenz has worked for Maxine Waters and is running on an environmental, jobs, and good

(Monroe, continued from page 2)

again the savings banks from investments banks that do their own thing. NOW there is no reason that the banks cannot be reduced in size or even split up! The recent failure of our dysfunctional banking system was NOT AN ACT OF GOD...IT WAS MAN-MADE!!!

Our TBTF banks operate within a culture of greed and raising salaries & bonuses for themselves. These banks oppose & seriously lobby against needed changes. These are the same banks that created NINJA loans (No Income, No Assets, No Jobs). NOW is the time to re-institute Glass-Steagall of 1933, which would separate investment from savings banks. We might even create a new "Infrastructure Bank" limited to investing in building roads, airports, bridges, high speed rails, etc.....

We better get crackin' soon or the Chinese will gobble us whole!!!!!!



Principal speakers Joanne Silva and Brooke McIntyre Tuley from South Bay Family Health Care

government platform. He is committed to balanced budgets and pay-as-you-go government.

Our principal speakers were Brooke McIntyre Tuley and Joanne Silva from South Bay Family Health Care. Tuley had just celebrated her 40th year with the group that started out as the South Bay Free Clinic in a Hermosa Beach store front.

Their mission is to provide access to quality health care for people regardless of ability to pay. Founded in 1969, the organization has expanded to accommodate a growing patient base. It now includes four centers—Redondo Beach, Gardena, and two in Inglewood—as well as a school-based clinic at Carson High School. Their Healthy Kids Express mobile health van provides immunization, well-child exams, and care for sick children.

SBFHC serves everybody, no matter where they live. Their funding comes from foundations, corporations, community groups, individuals, patients, and government. Services are provided on a sliding scale and they offer free services to qualified patients. They participated in the Remote Area Medical event held at the Inglewood Forum last August, a charity that in the past has staged clinics in rural sections of the United States.

As of 2009, the number of patients

served was close to 21,000. Percentage of patients below federal poverty level: 77%; patients without insurance: 67%. Their Teen Clinic offers confidential STD testing and family planning. Other services include diabetes treatment, disease management, prenatal and pediatric care.

Joanne Silva focused her talk on mental health services. Senior services are partly funded through the Department of Public Mental Health, and additional funding was recently provided by the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. For more information, visit their website at sbfhc.org.

Announcements

Tony Hale reported from the DAC that 3,000 voters have been registered in the past three months. The Center serves local Democratic clubs and candidates and remains neutral in the primary races.

Teresa Bird said that the 53rd AD meeting centered on planning for the Democratic Convention.

Ray Waters spoke on behalf of his work for the California Democracy Act initiative and said he also spoke to the PV Club. He passed around petitions for the initiative and is seeking more volunteers to get signatures. Many people are still unaware of the move to restore a majority vote to budgetary and tax legislation in California.

Acting President
Lori Gettimann—310-316-1729
Vice-President
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
(vacant)
Newsletter
Maira Zucker—310-546-7562
MoiraZ@alumni.reed.edu
Database and mailing
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Web Manager
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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.

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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