

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2010

Next Meeting

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

Convention Recap

At this month's meeting we will hear reports from the State Party Convention and decide whether we want to make any endorsements.

53rd AD Candidates Forum

Beach Cities Democratic Club
Invites Democratic Primary Candidates
for the 53rd Assembly District
to Participate in a Candidates Forum
on Saturday, May 8, from 2 :00 to 4:00 PM
Knob Hill Community Center, 320 Knob Hill Avenue
Knob Hill and Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach

Hermosa Beach Mayor Michael DiVirgilio will be the moderator.

March Recap

After calling the meeting to order, Lori Geittmann said she had had a letter printed in that day's *Daily Breeze* thanking Jane Harman for her support of the Health Care Bill. Among the developed world, the US ranks 37th in the area of health care, with higher infant mortality rates and shorter longevity than other developed nations.

Lori announced that we have received many emails from judicial candidates requesting donations and endorsements. However, it was agreed that we wait until the LA County Committee has interviewed candidates before making endorsements.

We did give the floor to one candidate who showed up, Patricia Vienna. She is running for LA Superior Court Judge Office No. 117 with three other candidates in the race. She is a private practitioner specializing in civil and business litigation and has served as a Temporary Judge in Los Angeles County. She feels strongly that a judge should not be intimidating and should be a good listener.

Our featured speaker was Marilyn Rafkin, Director of Community Care Services for Beach Cities Health District. She has served at the Health District for



(L), judicial candidate Patricia Vienna; (r) Marilyn Rafkin from Beach Cities Health District.

fifteen years, overseeing programs for seniors and the disabled. The District's charter is to enhance community health through partnerships, programs, and services for beach cities residents. They offer support groups, classes, in-home visits and volunteer-based programs; they coordinate services with other organizations including hospitals, churches, police and fire departments. The building also houses a fully-equipped fitness center.

Rafkin's staff includes seven professional care managers who make home visits to elderly and disabled beach cities residents, assessing needs and co-

ordinating follow-up services. They attempt to keep seniors living in their homes as long as possible.

Some of their programs include: Friend to Friend, which trains volunteers to visit home bound seniors and the disabled, assist with shopping and errands, and provide companionship; a Move Well exercise program sponsored in part by the National Council on Aging; and a number of support groups on health, caregiving, and mobility. BCHC also operates a phone support line for volunteers to check in on people on a regular basis.

Acting President
Lori Gettmann—310-316-1729
Vice-President
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
(vacant)
Newsletter
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Database and mailing
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Web Manager
James McCreavy—310-320-1638

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*Beach Cities
Democratic Club*



Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

I recently read an article in the Columbia Journalism Review about a "major global trading firm."



The company planned to clean and re-sell Mexican contaminated oil wastes in Africa. These wastes are too toxic to accept by regulators in Europe or the USA. The paper trail for this transaction dates back to 2005-2006 and public exposure was attempted since then.

Finally, in 2010, after thousands of Africans suffered severe headaches, nausea, breathing difficulties, skin ulcerations, and DEATH...The Guardian newspaper in England printed the facts (after the details had been on the Web for some length of time).

The purpose of my article is to indicate that it is quite simple for large corporate litigants to use ominous threat to stifle unfavorable reporting. This corporation used & abused libel laws. What finally forced exposure was a backlash on Twitter. It forced exposure because preventing newspaper

publication forced the information onto the web.

The "bad guys" made things uncomfortable, but fortunately could not prevent final exposure. This obviously show us all... why we must have a free & unfettered press. Free, even to the extent of allowing the likes of a Murdoch to operate the Wall Street Journal & the London Times. And another step by the FCC is to look beyond network neutrality and keep the internet engines without editorials.

Going back to 1776 to a bunch of the original Americans who instituted postal & printing subsidies, we have a precedent for maintaining & supporting a free press. Journalism is a PUBLIC GOOD and it must have PUBLIC SUPPORT. The Government protects churches with subsidies & yet favors none of them. We must fund local public reporting & broadcasting. We can get many young folks working on the research, investigating, reporting, and writing. The need is NOW!

Announcements

Local Democratic clubs have been asked to donate \$100 to an April Candidates Forum, and BCDC voted to contribute. Our own 53rd AD Candidates Forum, sponsored in

tandem with the Torrance Democratic Club, will be held on Saturday, May 8 (see front page).

It was announced that James Lau, running for the 53rd Assembly seat, received 60% of the vote at the March 20 pre-primary endorsement conference, falling short of the number needed to guarantee the Party endorsement. A caucus will take place at the April 16-17 Convention to determine the Party's top nominee.

Ray Waters announced a showing of Michael Moore's movie *Capitalism* at his house on March 27 as part of a MoveOn initiative.

Dency Nelson announced the second annual Torrance Environmental Fair was to be held on Saturday, March 27 at the Madrona Marsh. That same evening, Earth Night was to be observed, wherein people were asked to turn off all electricity for one hour beginning at 8:30 PM.

Ray Waters said we were unable to gather enough signatures for the majority-vote initiative, so the initiative will be revived next year. He also said we need volunteers to help with Fiesta Hermosa on May 26—28.