

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

September, 2010

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, September 22
7:30 PM

Change We Can Believe In

By Lee Fink

Two years ago, America was a country where CEOs were bailed out, while working Americans lost their jobs and homes; where health care costs went up, while the number of Americans with insurance went down; where energy cost more, polluted the Earth, and enriched dangerous forces overseas; where young soldiers were sent overseas to fight, but did not get taken care of when they came home.

Two years ago, many questioned whether our institutions were too outdated, our politics too broken, our leaders too timid to fix the problems that confront us. Voting for Change was an act of Hope. But today, we know that our problems can be solved and the last two years have seen the most progress towards a better America than we have seen.

President Obama signed the S-CHIP bill to provide health care to 4 million kids, just a down payment on the universal health care reform that had eluded Democratic and Republican presidents alike, from Teddy Roosevelt to FDR, Truman, LBJ, Nixon, and Clinton, assuring health care for all Americans. Congress passed the CARD act to protect consumers, which was a down-payment on a transformative Wall Street Reform measure to prevent the abuses that led us to this disastrous recession. As promised, President Obama has ended our combat mission in Iraq, and is bringing all of our troops there home. He raised the CAFE

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BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

As October approaches it's hard to believe that it has been one year since we here in the South Bay made history, along with other environmental activists and organizations around the world, by participating in the October 24 International Day of Climate Action that was held in anticipation of the Copenhagen Climate Talks.

Sadly, the December Copenhagen talks were a disappointment, and here in the United States the "just say no" Republican filibusters at both the Federal and California state levels have blocked any real action to address climate change and other environmental calamities. We here in California even face a challenge to our environmental legislation guaranteed by AB 32; a challenge financed by out-of-state oil interests who are financing the sham Proposition 23.

On November 2, we have the opportunity to re-establish our environmental pri-

orities by defeating Prop. 23 and by electing and re-electing Democrats to all of our state and federal offices. That is our number one priority for the coming weeks. We must elect our Democrats, who consistently demonstrate that they are the political leaders who take a serious approach to solving the threat of climate change by providing legislation that regulates and offers incentives to achieve a green economy and a safe and sustainable planet.

This October 10 offers us another thing we can do to reaffirm our commitment to the planet. We can stand with activists around the globe as we did on October 24, 2009, with our "Amazing Waving Human Tide Line." Once again, 350.org is partnering with Greenpeace, WWF, 1Sky, Oxfam, Friends of the Earth, the Rainforest Action Network and dozens of other climate activist organizations around the world for the "10-10-10 Global Work Party." It will be a day when we can celebrate climate solutions by pitching in and participating in one or more "work parties" that demonstrate the real solutions that can be learned and provided at the grass roots level. These work activities can be anything from organizing

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Local Democrats came from all over the South Bay to meet and greet 53rd AD Candidate Betsy Butler at the home of Ray and Carol Waters on September 12. Betsy spoke about jobs, education, and environmental issues, took questions, and made many new friends.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

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a tree planting or working on a community garden or organic farm, to installing solar panels on a local school or building a solar cooker for your community. Ways to work with the planet, not against it. You can find a list of these activities at <http://www.350.org/workparty-ideas>. Right here in the South Bay there are two activities in which our friend and the Chairman of the South Bay 350 Climate Action Group, Joe Galliani, will be participating, and he invites the rest of us to do the same.

The first one will be "Pedalpalooza," sponsored by the South Bay Bicycle Coalition. They are looking for 50 to 75 bike riders to participate in a bike ride to promote carbon-free bike transportation and the South Bay Bicycle Coalition's Master Bike Plan initiative to link the cities of the South Bay with an interconnected bike-way network. The second major event that day will be in Manhattan Beach at their "10-10-10 Sustainability Summit and Eco-Fair." The theme of the summit is:

"Climate. Oceans. Community. Working Together to Protect Our Planet."

The summit will take place from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the Manhattan Beach City Hall and will feature interactive panel discussions on climate change, energy efficiency, and water conservation through sustainable landscaping. It will be followed by an Eco-Tour from 1:15 PM to 3:30 PM featuring the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, residential rainwater harvesting system and a drive-by of homes that have sustainable landscapes.

There will be an all-day Eco-Fair from 11:00 am to 4:00 PM, showcasing green technology vendors, solar, water efficiency and environmental organizations. For more information, contact Sona Kalapura, Manhattan Beach's Environmental Programs Manager, at 310-802-5058 or by email at skalapura@citymb.info. For more information about all the "10-10-10" activities in the South Bay visit <http://sb350.pbworks.com>.

(Change, continued from page 1)

standards so that cars pollute the environment less; empowered the EPA to regulate carbon emissions to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; and went to Copenhagen to forge the beginnings of a framework to curb global climate change.

People may realize that the Recovery Act passed in early 2009 saved the economy from falling into a second Great Depression, but forget that it was also the biggest middle class tax cut since Reagan, the biggest investment in infrastructure since the Interstate Highway Act, the biggest education bill since LBJ was President, the largest investment in scientific and medical research in forty years, and the biggest clean energy bill ever. Only now is this coming to light, as *Time* Magazine recently detailed "How the Stimulus is Changing America" (<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2013683,00.html>).

That is Change We Can Believe In.

All of this did not happen because Barack Obama can give a great speech (though he can), or because Republicans in Congress have begun cooperating (they are more obstructionist than ever). It happened because Americans believed in a better country, and in record numbers went to the polls to vote for Change.

Now, the mid-term elections are upon us. It's easy to think that the crisis has passed. Some might think that the progress we have made is enough—some might be frustrated that not everything that had been broken in the prior 8 years has been fixed in the last 20 months. But we all must realize that the forces of the status quo are trying to stop our progress. The Republicans in Congress have made clear that their plan for America is to reverse the changes we have made, to take us back to the abyss that we were looking into 2 years ago.

So once again, we have to register voters, and sign them up to vote early; knock on doors and make phone calls; donate our time and money to make sure that we continue to move forward, because there is still Change We Can Believe In.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

People alone are no longer our ONLY concern....we now face a ROBOTIC world!!!

Robots present mechanical, physical, technical and moral decisions. The Pentagon wants to develop robotics that can operate *without human control*. Stepping back a moment, the word robot was created by the Czech author who wrote the play R.U.R. in 1921. The word derives from the Czech & Slavic languages, referring to a peasant revolution in the 1800's against human masters. The revolt was led by a mechanical servant opposing slavery by human masters.

To date there have been amazing technological changes. In 2003, the U.S. forces in Iraq had "zero" robots. Since then we have 7,000 unmanned aircraft and 12,000 ground vehicles in our military



inventory. Today we have TALON that can defuse bombs & peek over ridges to hunt an enemy. At sea we have *littoral combat ships* to act as mother ships to control unmanned helicopters & motorboats. In the air, we have *Predator & Global Hawk*, operated by pilots that never leave an office in the U.S.A. And a current development is size, going to "nanoscale robots" that are measured in billionths of a meter. These should be commonplace within the next few years.

Now, touching morality bring us to the reality of human combatants, safely ensconced far off from the actual field of combat, allowing some minor flunky, or birdbrain, or malcontent to literally have access to start a war!!!! And this kind of disconnect and separation will change a soldier's identity as well as affect stress & combat fatigue. Pushing our scientific function onward & upward, unmanned guided drones changes our identity and creates a new deadly, violent, inhuman, misguided FRANKENSTEIN. Since leaving the Garden of Eden, man has had a monopoly on *war but not anything more!*

August Recap

The upcoming election challenge was our theme at the August meeting. 53rd Assembly candidate Betsy Butler made an appearance to greet the club and update us on her campaign. She is busy with fund raising and attending multiple events per day, and said that in a recent roundtable event with her opponents, she felt there was a positive response from the audience.

Butler served in President Bill Clinton's Commerce Department and on the California Film Commission, but her more recent work as a fundraiser for environmental groups and trial lawyers made her a target in some highly negative primary advertising. The negative ads seem to have backfired, as Betsy won more than a quarter of the vote with 8 candidates. Her emphasis will be upon working with business to help open up jobs and get people hired, particularly in the field of green technology. She said we will "go solar and make it pay." Her endorsements so far include Sheriff Lee Baca and the Sierra Club.

Her opponent, Nathan Mintz, is an aerospace engineer backed the South Bay Tea Party who managed to scare off any potential opposition in the Republican primary. Mintz has been quietly raising money and preparing an aggressive campaign. Club members were reminded to attend Betsy's event at Ray and Carol Waters's home on Sunday September 12.

Former Gardena Mayor Don Dear spoke next. He was elected to the West Basin Board of Directors in November 2000 to represent the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and portions of El Camino Village. Before joining West

Basin, he served as the Mayor of Gardena for nine consecutive terms.

West Basin's 12th Annual Water Festival will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 10AM to 2PM at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility at 1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo (at Sepulveda).

Dear said that two-thirds of our water is imported from the California Aqueduct. Our goal is to reduce that by half through ground wells, recycling, desalination, and conservation. The plant is open to the public every third Saturday for tours.

Tony Hale reported from the United Campaign summit with State and County party officials. Their election strategy is to turn out Obama Democrats to vote, rather than focus on particular candidates. They are also working to motivate moderate Democrats who may have become discouraged. The MOE database software is being deployed across California, a program that allows users to target voters, generate walk lists, call lists, and mailings. The system contains an online application to do virtual phone banking, create scripts and email known volunteers. The program can lock names of people who have already been called so they will not receive multiple calls. Any member interested in training should contact Tony.

Tony also said the DAC is again using additional office space on Sartori Avenue which is already gearing up as a headquarters and phone bank location.

(Editor's note: Democrats gathered for a potluck and Boxer/Fiorina Debate Watch in the new space on September 1.)

Teresa Bird reported that she is still awaiting word from Jerry Brown about a fund raising date, and we may have to



As is our custom, BCDC members took turns staffing our booth at Fiesta Hermosa. We signed up new voters and drew in some new members. The foot traffic at the next booth over, the John Birch Society, was nowhere near as brisk.

consider a different program if Brown is not available to come to the South Bay before the election.

Club Reports and Announcements

Don Dear reported that the Gardena Club is working for Maxine Waters and Laura Richardson and planning their 43rd Annual Breakfast. Mary Ann Tyler said the Four Star Democratic Club is co-sponsoring a meeting with Brad Sherman in Van Nuys on September 11.

Dency reported that in Hermosa Beach, the Green Building Committee has fostered a new Green Task Force working for carbon neutrality in the city. Democratic officials have stepped up to help, and a lucrative grant has been applied for. A Sustainability conference was to be held in the Hermosa Beach Council Chambers on September 10, hosted by Major Michael de Virgilio.

Bobbi Buescher announced a Debra Bowen event on Sunday September 19 in Venice.



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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 _____

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Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box *only* if you would like to receive it by US mail.

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