

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

November, 2010

Next Meeting

Different date!

Our November meeting will be on **Thursday, November 18, 7:30 PM**, at Manhattan Bread and Bagel, 1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard, Manhattan Beach. Please note it's a week early and a different day this month to accommodate Thanksgiving and scheduling needs.

This will be a joint meeting with BCDC and the 53rd AD Democratic Congress. Come and participate as we go over election returns and discuss raising funds for the Democratic Action Center.

Best of all, we are expecting our **Assemblyman Ted Lieu** to attend. Don't miss this last meeting of 2010: BCDC does not hold a meeting in December.

Give Back to the DAC

It's not an overstatement to say that our very own Democratic Action Center was one of the big players in this region's get-out-the-vote effort. While the national election went mainly to the Republicans, California stayed bright blue, and we can thank Tony Hale and his energized volunteers at DAC for a good part of that. It's our goal to keep the office humming as we go into the special election to fill the late Senator Jenny Oropeza's office, and keep building a coalition of committed Democratic activists.

Please consider making a donation. You can donate online at DemocraticAction-Center.org, or mail checks to:

Democratic Action Center
1673 Cravens Ave.
Torrance, CA 90501

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

I'm writing this column the day after our midterm elections. I'm sure that we all will agree, the day was a very mixed bag for us California Democrats. We watched the rest of the country take away President Obama's House of Representatives and some of the Senate, but as L.A. County Democratic Party Chairman Eric Bauman predicted in a visit to the Democratic Action Center on Monday, "The red tide stops at the California border."

We can take heart and some well-deserved pride in having elected or re-



elected all Democrats both locally and to statewide offices (as of this writing, Kamala Harris still holds a slight lead in the State Attorney General race). We're going to need them, as the statewide propositions did not fare so well. Yes, I'm happy about Prop. 25 passing, and of course, Prop. 23's defeat. But 20's passing, 21's defeat, 24's defeat and especially 26's passing all spell bad news for the people and environment of California.

With these results, and knowing that this newly elected Republican congress won't be working on a realistic energy bill anytime soon, we the people will have to rely completely on the Democratic leadership we will have in Sacramento to make sure that California leads the way with innovative and aggressive measures to

(Continued on page 2)



Last Month's Meeting

Here was the scene at our Democratic Action Center on October 28. That's where our club meeting took place beginning at 5:00 PM to allow members to make phone calls to get out the vote.

In addition to BCDC members, the room was bustling with high-school student volunteers recruited by the DAC to help with calling and earn volunteer hours.

The large DAC Annex in Torrance has been a hub of activity in the months leading up to the election.

(Green, continued from page 1)

ensure a reduction of our carbon footprint and our dependence on fossil fuels. We've done it before, and we can do it again, and eventually the smarter states will follow our lead (as occurred with our 1990 Zero Emissions Vehicle Mandate that was quickly imitated by New York and other progressive states). So, congratulations and thanks to Governor-elect Brown, Senator Boxer, all of our elected Democrats, and especially Congresswoman Harman and Assemblywoman-elect Butler as we head into 2011. We will also have the opportunity early in the New Year to honor our late State Senator Jenny Oropeza by electing an environmental watchdog to fill her seat. She was a champion of our environmental agenda, and reminded us daily of the toxic dangers of pursuing any other course. Thank you, Senator Oropeza, for your service and your legacy.

As this will be my last column before

the holidays, let me remind you about a couple of ways to reduce your impact on the planet while still enjoying the pleasures of the season. Consider renting a living Christmas tree and decorating it and your house with ultra-low voltage LED lights, all from a local company, the Living Christmas Company, 800 South Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 443, Redondo Beach, www.livingchristmas.com.

My family did it last year, loved it, and will be renting our same tree again this year. The company just received a well-deserved 2010 SEED Award for Environmental Innovation and is truly part of the green business trend right here in the South Bay that will prove all of the naysayers wrong! It's about little businesses with good ideas, as well as big, revolutionary, paradigm-shifting businesses, and we should recognize and patronize them all. And when making your gift-giving and gift-wrapping choices, don't forget the impact of all the packag-

ing that comes with the whole orgy of consumption that is the holidays. Think about reusable bags or recycled wrapping paper for your gift giving. Better yet, consider foregoing all of this "stuff" and give the gift of a better world by making a donation to socially conscious and/or environmentally friendly organizations on behalf of your friends and relatives. You will truly be giving the gift that keeps on giving to people and the planet, with only a positive impact on both. Happy Holidays!

Bike the Vote Day

On Saturday, October 30, Democrats came out in support of Jane Harman, Betsy Butler, and local candidates in a fun bike ride from Torrance Beach all the way to Venice Beach with stops along the way at Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan, and Playa del Rey.

The rally stops featured food, information, and fun. At the Manhattan Beach stop, we heard rousing speeches from City Councilmembers Mitch Ward and Portia Cohen and School Board Member Amy Howorth. Outgoing Assemblyman Ted Lieu greeted the crowd, and former Hermosa Beach Mayor Michael deVirgilio served as MC.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

I write this before the November 2nd elections. To my mind it is not a question of winning or losing, but how many seats will be lost & where! With the help of the FIVE on the Supreme Court, we now have a political landscape that is desolate & void, contaminated by the likes of the Tea Party.

It ain't good or bad; right or left; progressive or conservative; soft headed or hard hearted...it is now Dollars!!! To quote the legendary Ohio Financier (1896) Mark Hanna, "There are two things important in politics. The first is money and I can't remember what the second one is."

First prize for deceit, lying, & misleading the world goes to our Chief Justice John Roberts. Before being appointed to the bench he swore that there would be no erratic legal decisions from the courts.



He also swore that there would be no "legislating from the bench." This Court has now allowed political chaos to reign supreme, allowing money contributions to come from anyone & anywhere (anonymously).

The USA is now hobbled for years by 5 judges, unelected but appointed for life, and with political ambitions to change the world (back to the days of Cal Coolidge). The sluice gates of money can now buy and sell almost every open election, because of legal loopholes & weak or no enforcement of election laws. Without naming sources, it is now simple to lie & cheat with impunity.

This is the last edition for 2010, so I leave you with the hope that we'll still be around next year....looking for that shining castle on the top of the hill....with the audacity of hope....

I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Xmas, and a PROGRESSIVE NEW YEAR.



Congresswoman Harman with Michael deVirgilio at Bike the Vote Day

October Recap

Our October meeting consisted of a three-hour phone-bank session at the DAC Annex (see photo on page 1) followed by a brief wrapup in the back room. Our main focus was our upcoming holiday party, which this year will be a fund-raising event for the DAC. The party will be in January, with time and place to be announced. Tony and Lori are discussing this event with other Democratic Club presidents and the 53rd AD Congress in hopes of holding a combined event.

Please watch your email and stay in touch, as it will be important to keep this headquarters operating as we go forward.

We discussed the importance of the upcoming special election in the event of a win by the late Senator Jenny Oropeza (which was in fact won). BCDC members are well positioned to work this race and keep the seat for the Democratic Party.

From the Editor

Since this is the last issue of *BCDC* for the year, I once again extend my gratitude to the people who have faithfully contributed columns, updates, photos, and other indispensable help:

Dency Nelson for the elegant Beach Cities Green; Monroe Weinstock for his always-upbeat commentary; Lee Fink for occasional bulletins direct from Washington; Lori Geittmann for her leadership and meeting updates; Steve Zucker for proof-reading and mailing, and Jim McGreevy for his hours of work putting our newsletter up on the website.

Maira Zucker

Their Finest Hour

By Lee Fink

On May 8, 1945, the world celebrated V-E Day, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe. The celebrations were led by Britain's indefatigable Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who, as Edward R. Murrow put it, "mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." Churchill was immensely popular in Britain at the time, and his place in history is secure—in 2002 he was named by the BBC as the Greatest Briton of all time (topping Shakespeare, Darwin, King Arthur, Queen Elizabeth I, Lord Nelson, and the Beatles).

On July 5, 1945, less than two later, the British public voted out Churchill out of office, giving the opposition party a 146 seat majority in the House of Commons. But here is a quick quiz—can you name the Liberal Party leader who beat Churchill to become British Prime Minister in 1945? Historic achievements are not always immediately recognized by the public, nor are they always rewarded by voters at the polls. Churchill literally saved the world from the Nazis, and was cast aside before the Japanese had even surrendered.

The Democratic Majority in the 111th Congress made landmark achievements over the last two years. Health Care Reform, Wall Street Reform, education reform, and record investments in Green Energy are just part of the legacy that Ezra Klein calls the "Do-Lots Congress" ([http://www.newsweek.com/2010/11/06/klein-the-do-lots-111th-](http://www.newsweek.com/2010/11/06/klein-the-do-lots-111th)

[congress.html](http://www.newsweek.com/2010/11/06/klein-the-do-lots-111th-congress.html)). And President Obama and the Democratic Congress literally saved the economy from falling into a second great Depression. The night that Congress passed the Health Care law, President Obama said that it proved that "we are still a people capable of doing big things and tackling our biggest challenges. We proved that this government—a government of the people and by the people—still works for the people." In reality, the 111th Congress proved that every day it was in session.

That the Democratic Congress will surely follow Churchill into the pages of history may seem like cold solace in the wake of this month's elections results. But Churchill's success was not simply a matter of history. In the next election Churchill led his party to big gains in Parliament. A year later he was once again Prime Minister, and his party governed Britain for most of the remainder of the 20th Century. We will work tirelessly for that same result in 2012 and beyond. But we will never forget the importance of what we have achieved. For like the British army of Churchill's day, if the Democratic Party shall last for a thousand years, people will still say, "This was their finest hour."



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

Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



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I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

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Employer _____ Occupation _____

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