

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

March, 2011

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach

Wednesday, March 23
7:30 PM

Come and discuss the results from our recent local elections, hear what people have to say about the upcoming Congressional contest, and more. We will also talk about the upcoming Party Convention coming up in April.



Our newly-elected State Senator Ted Lieu chats with Mike Keegan and Ray Waters at the February meeting.

President's Message

I know we were all taken by surprise that our Congress Member Jane Harman resigned her seat so soon after the regular election. We were right in the middle of a campaign to fill the State Senate seat that had been held by Senator Jenny Oropeza.

The death of Senator Oropeza came as a shock to all of us. She was a wonderful leader who especially was concerned about the little people. Anyone who went to any of her campaign events was aware that they were her favorite constituents.

We were grateful to have former Assemblyman Ted Lieu able to step in and run for the seat. Senator Lieu won by more than 50 per cent of the vote so was immediately able to step into the office and help Governor Jerry Brown deal with the budget crisis. He attended our last meeting to thank us for our support.

But now, even though we are suffering campaign exhaustion, we are jumping into the Congressional contest.

A quick survey of members has indicated most want to endorse Secretary of State Debra Bowen for the seat.

Secretary Bowen previously served as our Assembly Member and State Senator. Others have told me they endorse Los Angeles City Council Member Janice Hahn. Councilwoman Hahn represents the Los Angeles Harbor Area on the City Council.

Marcy Winograd also has announced she will seek the office. I would suggest that she has lost a lot of support because many persons who favored her in the past just opposed Jane Harman. Many of those Marcy supporters are now switching to either Bowen or Hahn.

Both women appeared at our last meeting and made impressive pitches. Some members wanted me to call for an endorsement vote then.

However, since the Governor has not set a date for the election, we do not know who all the candidates will be. It is inappropriate to make an endorsement until filing is closed. I know that makes some of our members unhappy but in the interest of fairness, let us wait until the filing is over.

Lori Geittmann, Acting President

February Recap

Our February meeting featured visits from Debra Bowen and Janice Hahn, the presumed front runners in the race to succeed Congresswoman Jane Harman. Harman has announced that she is leaving Congress to lead a Washington think tank.

Since Bowen arrived first, Acting President Lori Geittmann gave her the floor. Bowen said she has represented the district for 14 years as a state legislator, with the past five years as Secretary of State. In that nonpartisan office, Bowen brought about crucial changes in California's voting systems, conducting an in-depth review and imposing strict limitations on the use of electronic voting machines.

Now that she is running for a partisan office, she's coming out strongly on environmental issues, saying that Americans make up 5 per cent of the world's population but use 37 per cent of its road fuel. She talked about a range of issues

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(Recap, continued from page 1)

from getting out of Afghanistan to legalizing gay marriage to opposing legislation that targets immigrants.

On the economic front, she emphasized that we should not reward companies that ship jobs overseas, and we must put emphasis on technical education in our public schools. Bowen has been active in the Youth and Government program, founded in the 1930s to inspire young people to become involved in politics. She pointed out that other countries place greater emphasis on education than the US; and our costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are siphoning off resources that could otherwise go toward higher education.

Bowen's campaign office is located at 1311 Sartori Avenue in Old Torrance.

Next we heard from Ted Lieu, our newly-elected State Senator, who handily won the seat vacated by the late Senator Jenny Oropeza. Lieu now chairs the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee.

When he served in the Assembly, Lieu earned a 95% lifetime score on environmental legislation on the California League of Conservation Voters' annual score card. He co-authored landmark



Debra Bowen

climate and clean energy law AB32 and believes that global warming is the single greatest threat to California's and our nation's future. He also went to work immediately

after assuming office to sponsor a bill which would expand California's gun-free school zone from 1,000 feet to 1,500 feet. Club member Diane Wallace, recently elected delegate in the 53rd Assembly District, spoke up in favor of the gun-free bill.

Then Janice Hahn, who currently serves on the LA City Council from San Pedro, addressed the meeting. She has been active in clean air legislation and cleanup of the Los Angeles ports; she said we don't have to sacrifice jobs to have cleaner air. She has pushed for the Clean Trucks Program which generated 150 new jobs, and has received endorsements from Ted Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and others.

Asked about the current economic downturn, Hahn said now is not the time to cut funding for such things as Planned Parenthood, public

education, and investment in the future. We got into this mess, she said, not because of teachers and longshoremen and policemen, but greedy Wall Street bankers.

Michael Keegan then took the floor and talked about the upcoming bid for a new waste contractor in Manhattan Beach. The owner of Manhattan Bread and Bagel, our club's regular meeting venue, and a former city councilman, Keegan feels strongly that the city should award its waste removal contract to a company that will recycle food waste. The city is currently served by Waste Management, but another bidder, Crown Disposal, would increase food recycling and charge less for their service. He said a local group in Manhattan Beach called



Janice Hahn

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

Last month was the 100th birthday of the late Ronald Reagan. In 1991 Bill Clinton described Reagan's years as President as having "exalted private gain over public obligation, special interests over the common good, wealth & fame over work & family. The 1980's ushered in a Gilded Age of greed, selfishness, of irresponsibility & excess, and of neglect."

One of Reagan's most famous quotes is "Tear down this wall"—pointed at Gorbachev of the USSR. He said it on June 12, 1987. The wall did come down, but not till November 1989... and torn down



by the Germans, not the USSR.

On another note, Reagan was terrified of Nuclear War, after seeing a film that portrayed its horrors. It was part of his inability to distinguish reality from movie make-believe. In the same vein, he said he had served in the military during WWII, because he had portrayed a Navy Pilot in another film.

Recent task-force details show that he had a pre-election deal to delay the release of the 52 hostages held in Iran. They were released on January 20, 1981, the day after he was sworn into office. Reagan later (1985-86) had a clandestine arrangement (thru the infamous Col. Ollie North) to illegally sell arms to Iran, take the profits & illegally support the Nicaraguan Contras. Then there was Grenada, the miniscule island we invaded to

prevent Castro from building an airport! And let me not forget the 250 Marines who were bombed to death in Lebanon!!

During his presidency, Reagan sent EIGHT unbalanced budgets up to the hill, because we over-spent based on supply side economics, and he ended by working with Democrats (1982) to pass a massive tax increase to prevent financial calamity!

Reagan has been characterized as "an amiable dunce." I disagree! In my sincere opinion, he wanted to be beloved by everyone, everywhere. He needed to be "Mr. Nice Guy," with a tough job, surrounded by unreasonable pressures, and with impossible associates (Congress). The pity of it all is that his closest advisor was Nancy, who knew about building images but nothing about humanity!!

Greys for Green works on recycling issues but they are funded by Waste Management, who threatens to pull funding if their contract is not renewed. Keegan urged members to show up at the Manhattan Beach City Council meeting and voice their support for an alternate waste management service.

Bobbi Buescher spoke next and said that Betsy Butler is staffing up her new office. She is currently working on a Holocaust Memorial project, and has good things to say about Governor Jerry Brown's realism on the budget. She is encouraged that he has made education and green jobs a priority.

Sergio Carrillo announced Ted Lieu's upcoming swearing-in ceremony on March 5 at Cal State Dominguez Hills, with details posted on the DAC website. He said that the upcoming Democratic Convention will feature Robert Reich on the program along with the activist band Ozomatli. He said we do not yet have a date for the election to fill Jane Harman's seat; it could be as early as April or as late as September.

Tony Hale then took the podium and thanked Sergio for providing free taxi rides for voters needing to get to the polls.

Rochelle Schneider reported that Janice Hahn showed up at the 53rd AD meeting. The members have formed an ad hoc committee to study redistricting, and they are building a website.

Kay Cooperman Jue and Lori Geittmann are putting together a two-hour seminar on how to deal with the press, which will be open to all interested members. Lori said she recently wrote a

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BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Glad to be back writing this column after a two-month hiatus. Seems we've had a couple of elections to take care of, and another one or two are on the horizon. Courage, voters! It is Democracy in action.



Besides elections, troubling budget cuts, union bashing, civil uprising in oppressed countries, and the ongoing war in Afghanistan, have you who drive internal combustion gasoline vehicles noticed that you are paying close to \$4.00 a gallon for your fuel? Do you really think that this is ever going to get much better, and have you really swallowed the lie that if we don't impose an oil extraction tax on the petroleum producers it will keep the prices down at the pump? Do you think that, at any price, it is worth the risk to the planet to keep drilling for this dirty, unsustainable fuel that creates deadly emissions when you burn it in your cars' engines? There is a better way. You've heard it from me before, and there is no better time than right now to ask you again to consider an electric car.

Fully electric cars are becoming more and more available, as are plug-in, extended-range hybrid electrics. By the end of this year, and most definitely in 2012, thousands of these cars will be coming to car dealer showrooms and very quickly out onto the streets and highways of America and the rest of the world. So, to nudge you on your way to embracing this alternative, healthier, sustainable

choice of vehicle, I will risk redundancy by paraphrasing an abbreviated list of "Electric Vehicles: Myths vs. Reality."

Myth: Switching from gas to electricity just means trading tailpipe emissions for greater emissions from power plants.

Fact: When calculated from well to tailpipe, the CO₂ pollution attributable to an electric car is 35% to 60% less than that produced by your gas guzzler. SCE, our local electric utility, leads the nation in clean-energy production, with 19.4% of its power coming from clean, renewable sources. Or put photovoltaic solar panels on your roof, and you can do what I have been doing for 9 years, that is fuel your car 100% emissions-free and cost-free from the sun that shines, day after day after day. Let me say it again: 9 years, over 110,000 miles, not a dime spent on dirty gas and oil and zero emissions!

Myth: Electric car batteries pose a recycling problem.

Fact: Lead acid batteries used in internal combustion vehicles have a recycle rate of about 98%. Batteries are by far the most recycled product we produce. The lithium-ion batteries in the newer electric vehicles include even more valuable and recyclable metals and will have a life well beyond the vehicle.

Myth: My battery will run out of juice.

Fact: The majority of drivers in the US drive less than 35 miles each day. All of the new fully electric vehicles have a functional range of at least 80 miles. My 80-to-100-mile-range Toyota RAV4EV has been the only car I have used for all of my freeway commuting miles in Los Angeles County for over 9 years. I have NEVER been stranded or inconvenienced in any way.

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Myth: Electric vehicles are much more expensive than traditional vehicles.

Fact: While the initial sticker price of EVs is higher than traditional vehicles, you need to do the math to account for a variety of factors, such as the currently available federal tax credit of up to \$7500 plus a California State rebate of up to \$5000 plus no maintenance costs. After 9 years and 110,000 miles, I'm on my third set of brakes and my third set of tires. Other than paying for that and for rotating those tires every six months and topping off the windshield washer fluid, there are no maintenance costs. No other parts, belts, filters, etc. Zip, nada, nothing! And, as mentioned above, little or no fueling costs. An average \$800 per year savings on fuel alone.

These are just 4 of a list of 9 electric vehicle myths debunked in the March Sierra Club newsletter. For the complete list go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/electric-vehicles/myths.aspx>. And for everything you'll ever want to know about

electric cars, visit www.PlugInAmerica.org.

Reminders: Saturday, March 26, from 10 to 2, the "3rd Annual Torrance Environmental Fair" at Madrona Marsh; also, Saturday, April 16, from 10 to 3, Manhattan Beach's annual "Earth Day at Polliwog Park."

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rebuttal in the Daily Breeze to an article critical of the late Senator Jenny Oropeza written by a member of the Republican Club.

Tony Hale reported that the DAC will have a blog in which both Congressional candidates may participate, as well as an ongoing online poll.

Mary Anne Tyler thanked everyone who participated in their meeting focusing on veterans and homelessness.

Editor's Note: Hans Grellman wishes to point out that in his January presentation on George Lakoff, he said that the Palos Verdes Democratic Club was hoping to get Bonnie Lowenthal to invite Lakoff to address the Democrats in the California Assembly. It was Lori Geittmann who said that Nancy Pelosi had invited the author to address Congress.