

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

May, 2011

## Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach

Wednesday, May 25  
7:30 PM

We will have updates from the Convention and recap the recent Congressional race for Jane Harman's seat.

We will also announce candidates for BCDC officers to be voted on at our June meeting.

## You Can Help

Please consider making a donation to the Democratic Action Center, our year-round headquarters in the South Bay. You can donate online at [DemocraticActionCenter.org](http://DemocraticActionCenter.org), or mail checks to:

Democratic Action Center  
1673 Cravens Ave.  
Torrance, CA 90501

## Bowen Endorsements Grow

The Sierra Club joins the California League of Conservation Voters and leading California environmental legislators Fran Pavley, Mark Leno, and Alan Lowenthal in their endorsement of California State Secretary of State, Debra Bowen, for the 36th Congressional District.

## BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

As promised in last month's column, this month I will offer you "The 10 Easiest Ways to Cut Your Energy Use in Half." But first, as a follow-up to last month's discussion of renewable energy, I am pleased to draw your attention to a late-breaking statement from Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan, on the two-month anniversary of that country's nuclear crisis: "...Japan will scrap a plan to obtain half of its electricity from nuclear power and will instead promote renewable energy." Similarly, earlier this week, Germany's Prime Minister, Angela Merkel, said that Germany will take steps toward closing the last of their 17 nuclear plants, and will replace them with wind farms, natural gas plants and solar facilities by 2020.



And now, here are 10 really simple ways to cut your energy use in half. Mind you, some of these tips will have more impact in areas of harsher climate than what we enjoy in the Beach Cities, but they all help remind us of the many small yet effective things we can do:

1. Save 2% — Be mindful of shutting off lights when you leave a room. For even greater savings, replace all of your bulbs with CFLs or LEDs. About 10 years ago, I switched 10 of my most frequently used 65- and 75-watt incandescent bulbs to 14-watt CFLs, and in one month my electricity use dropped by 100 kilowatt hours.
  2. Save 19% — Place Energy Star ceiling fans in the rooms you use most often. This is one of the
3. Save 4% — Your refrigerator is one of the biggest energy users in your house. Clean the coils every six months to keep it running efficiently. If the refrigerator is relatively empty, take up some of the unused interior space with jugs of water, to retain the cold better. If your refrigerator was made before 1993, consider replacing it with a newer, Energy Star model.
  4. Save 9% — Wash your clothes in cold water, and air dry them either indoors or out if possible. Drying your clothes on an outdoor line or indoor rack can save around \$100 in energy costs every year.
  5. Save 12% — Upgrade all your appliances to Energy Star models. Appliances use 20% of the energy in the average US home.
  6. Save 1 to 3% — Wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. Depending on the heater's location, this can reduce heat loss by 24 to 45%. Turn the temperature control on the unit down by 10 degrees if possible.
  7. Save 12% — Plug air leaks. Weatherstrip around doors and windows. Again, this is less of an

solutions that has more of an impact in areas of harsher heat and cold than what we have here in the South Bay, where instead of using ceiling fans, we should remember to take advantage of the natural cooling breezes created by opening our doors and windows to allow air flow to occur. We should also remember to close those same windows and doors to retain heat when that is desirable.

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issue in the temperate Beach Cities, but an inexpensive improvement.

- 8. Save 10% — Use a programmable thermostat. Target it for 68 degrees when you are at home in the winter and 55 degrees when you are away. In summer set the target at 78 degrees when you are at home and 82 degrees when you are away. Again, not so much a Beach Cities issue; just be mindful of unnecessary heating or cooling.
- 9. Save 3% — Air-dry dishes. Using a fully loaded dishwasher saves more water than hand washing those dishes, but skip the drying cycle. You'll save energy and

money. Also, skip the pre-rinsing before loading the dishes. It saves water and actually allows the dishwasher to do its job better.

- 10. Save 5% — To eliminate “phantom load,” unplug your electronics when you’re not using them, or plug them into a power strip and switch it off.

That’s just a quick teaser to whet your appetite for even more savings of energy and money. Find more tips at [www.GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst](http://www.GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst). You may not think these small changes can add up, but the City of Hermosa Beach recently reported that over the past 5 years such measures reduced the electricity use in city buildings and facilities by 15%, saving over \$50,000 a year. There’s plenty more that the city and all of us can

### Democrats of the Year

Congratulations go to Anne Faas and Marc Saltzberg for winning Democrat of the Year Award from the 53rd AD delegation of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

They will be honored this summer at the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner held annually by the County Committee.

The vote was unanimous.

### Monroe’s Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



In my lifetime, I have seen many that HAVE... and many many more that AIN'T GOT NOTHIN.'

In the USA today, we have 1% of our people who control 40% of the wealth of the nation. The closest comparison to make is the Oligarchs of Russia. When such disparity exists, many plans tend to dry-up & evaporate...like investment in education, infrastructure expansion (bridges, roads, etc.) and support for the destitute (needy). It forces me to think of the possibility of a new American Revolution, which is hinted at by the Tea Party Looney-tunes.

Today we are surrounded by an erosion of fair play, a lack of equal opportunity, a loss of a sense of community, and little chance of escaping out of the “dung heap!”

The critical need today is to protect Social Security & Medicare; invest in education; rebuild infrastructure; flatten

the tax burden so that the heavy hitters are hit the heaviest! And if the big guns move off-shore, then their citizenship goes along with their assets as well as their protection.

So far this year, we've spent \$150 BILLION indirectly on many wars (Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, etc. etc.). The cost for one minute would be enough to pay for 36 elementary school teachers. What a comparison!!

Why do we rarely hear questions like (a) Where are we fighting & why? (b) Who are we fighting & why? (c) Are we winning or losing or just staying even? (d) Are we safer and more secure & did we help anyone else? Now the Pentagon envisions a long war and plans for 20 years. Does this mean we are living the 1984 book by George Orwell??? I must admit, I feel the Pentagon is poorly managed, maintains bloated resources & personnel, is slow moving, hidebound, and wasteful. Let us put our money to better use....healthcare, better living and a secure lifestyle for all of us!!

### Senator Ted W. Lieu District Office Assignments

Lori Geittmann sent out the following information about new assignments in Senator Ted Lieu’s office:

#### Robert Pullen-Miles

##### Areas:

Carson (lead), El Segundo, Del Aire, Mar Vista

##### Issues/Policy Areas:

Public Safety/Courts  
Utilities/Energy/Water  
Business  
Insurance  
Budget/Rev and Tax/Appropriations  
Housing- Affordable housing, Apartment Association, housing bills, etc.  
Liaison for local government issues

#### Veronica Zendejas

##### Areas:

Wilmington, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Venice

##### Issues/Policy Areas:

Transportation  
Seniors/Aging/Disabilities  
Children’s issues (non-education)

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Labor (back up for Irving)  
Health (share with Melissa) and  
environment (back up for Jennifer)

**Melissa Ramoso**

**Areas:**

Westchester/Playa del Rey, Playa Vista,  
Marina del Rey, Long Beach, Carson  
(back up for Robert)

**Issue/Policy Areas:**

API liaison  
Animals  
Higher Ed  
Military/Veterans Affairs  
Health (share with Veronica)  
Appointments  
LGBT

**Irving Pacheco**

**Areas:**

Harbor City/Harbor Gateway, Lomita,  
Palms, Lennox

**Issue/Policy Areas:**

Labor/PERS  
Housing- Foreclosures, Real Estate  
Arts and Entertainment  
Tribal affairs/Gaming

**Warren Myers**

**Areas:**

West LA/Rancho Park/Brentwood,  
Cheviot Hills, Torrance (back up for  
Jennifer)

**Issue/Policy Areas:**

Elections and Constitutional Amendments  
K-12  
Financial literacy  
Social Services  
Air Quality

**Jennifer Zivkovic**

**Areas:**

San Pedro, Torrance (lead)

**Issue/Policy Areas:**

Environment  
Ports  
Aerospace/Airports



## April Recap

### City and State Politics

Our April meeting covered a wide-ranging agenda from redistricting to Convention planning, and included updates from some of our local officials.

Hermosa Beach City Councilman Howard Fishman talked about recent moves by the city to curtail government spending. At their April 26 meeting, the Council unanimously approved new two-tiered labor agreements with seven of its unions that will reduce the city's pension costs for new hires. Existing staff will maintain their current pension plans, but new hires will receive a reduced pension benefit, raising the retirement age and reducing the percentage of salary paid out.

The changes are different for the various unions: Police and firefighters will maintain their current retirement age of 50, although new hires will receive a lower percentage—2% instead of the previous 3%—of their annual salary multiplied by the number of years they worked. Other city employees who currently enjoy a retirement age of 55 will now see that raised to 60, but with no change in their 2% pension formula.

Fishman also reported that Hermosa Beach offered early retirement to ten employees, freeing up funds to hire two new police officers, a police captain, and a public works director. The city has adopted a four-day work week, with ten-hour days, to save overhead costs, and is



making more public services, such as bill paying, available on the Internet.

Next we heard from Ted Lieu's representative Veronica Zendejas. She brings a wealth of experience to the job, having worked fifteen years for the late Senator Jenny Oropeza. She said that Lieu's office in Sacramento is now fully staffed and their local office is located at 2512 Artesia Boulevard in Redondo Beach. Measures being introduced by the Senator currently include prohibition of youths under eighteen from the use of tanning beds, and a bill to help prevent animal abuse by banning their sale on sidewalks and street corners and increasing penalties for animal neglect. There is also a bill that seeks to improve financial literacy by allowing public school teachers to give instruction in "real life" money management.

Ray Waters reported from the Hermosa Beach School Board, saying that the district continues to be strapped financially and was recently forced to lay off ten of its teachers. He said that some school districts are facing insolvency. In the past, the Education Foundation has been able to raise funds directly from parents, asking for up to \$1,000 per family. But this year the contributions have fallen off, and the board is considering its alternatives, including a parcel tax, charter schools, and merging with adjacent school districts.

We discussed the upcoming Party Convention and President Lori Geittmann brought in a petition to create an Education Caucus. Lori then announced that she will step down as acting president in June, at the end of the Club's fiscal year. She has put together a nominating committee for new officers which consists of Ray Waters, Teresa Bird, and Edna Murphy, and plans to ask Bobbi Buescher and Dency Nelson to participate.

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*Left, Ted Lieu Field Representative Veronica Zendejas; Center, Hermosa Beach City Councilman Howard Fishman addressing the April meeting*

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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.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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*