

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

June, 2011

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach

Wednesday, June 22
7:30 PM

ANNUAL MEETING
Agenda: Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Report:

Kevin Sullivan, president
Diane Wallace, vice president
Kathryn Campbell, secretary
Edna Murphy, treasurer

DUES ARE PAYABLE

BCDC memberships for the new fiscal year are due and payable. The BCDC year goes from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$25 per person or \$40 for two at the same address.

Please bring your check to the June meeting or send it in to the club at PO Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

Many of our longtime club stalwarts have let their memberships lapse. Please bring your membership up to date if you haven't already: we need your participation more than ever!



Janice Hahn's campaign held its Democratic Unity Rally and Kick-off on Sunday, June 5th. Marcy Winograd joined forces with Janice. Photo courtesy of James McGreevy.

President's Message

First I want to congratulate our new slate of officers. They will have challenges in dealing with club needs, the most important of which is boosting membership. Then there is the job of motivating new members to become involved in campaigns.

This club was reorganized after the McGovern campaign to put solid Democrats into office. In 1992 we helped put Debra Bowen in the State Assembly, re-elected Ralph Dills to the State Senate, helped send Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to the U.S. Senate and put Jane Harman in the Congress.

Some of our members don't seem to understand that electing Democrats is our first job. That means being on the phone banks, walking the precincts and getting out the vote. It is stuffing envelopes and making up precinct kits. It does not mean sitting around campaign headquarters pontificating to campaign managers and eating up all the workers' food.

One campaign manager told me that clubs were worthless because they could not get volunteers out of them.

Unfortunately our club ranks have shriveled during the years and two years ago, after several years away from club leadership, I agreed to step it as acting president until we could find someone who was experienced in politics to take over.

I will be eternally grateful to Kevin Sullivan for stepping up. For those who have no knowledge of Kevin's background, I first met him at Harbor Area

Labor Union meetings. Kevin then represented the shipbuilders at Todd Shipyard. That was more than 30 years ago. Since then the shipyard closed and Kevin went into the real estate and mortgage loan business and served on the Redondo Beach City Council. He is wise in the ways of politics and anyone would be a fool not to learn from him.

I have a final word about the Congressional special election. Many of us are sick at what we consider the immoral political moves of Janice Hahn, luring Marcy Winograd into the campaigns. Then there was Janice's dirty politics against Debra from day one, first by questioning her Democratic credentials and then by distorting her record in last minute mailers.

As one of our club members said, I won't work for Janice but I will go to the polls with a clothes pin on my nose to go vote for her.

None of us want a Tea Party leader to win and that's what Huey is. He is dangerous because he is smart, has lots of money behind him and he has no political record. Despite the Democratic majority in this district, Janice may have a tough battle so do not sit on your hands on Election Day.

Lori Geittmann



(Right) Ray Waters, Steve Zucker and Marian Altamura field questions in our booth at Hermosa Beach's Memorial Day Fiesta.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

May Recap

There are few more riveting speakers than Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. At our May meeting, BCDC members were treated to a streamed video feed of his Convention address, thanks to equipment and setup provided by Tony Hale and Diane Wallace.

In his impassioned half-hour delivery, Sanders described the struggle being felt by so many Americans, with the top one percent of people earning 22 percent of all income in this country. The gap between the rich and everybody else is only growing wider. The top 400 people own more wealth than the 150 million people who make up the bottom half of America. Furthermore, their tax rate is lower than that of teachers, police officers, and others in the disappearing middle class. Our government, said the Senator, is an oligarchy.

The Ryan bill, if passed, would transfer trillions of dollars from the middle class to the richest Americans. Republicans have been very straightforward about what they stand for, and now it's time for Democrats to do the same. The Republicans' claim that Social Security is going

bankrupt is a lie: for the last 75 years it has paid out every nickel owed. There is a \$2.6 trillion surplus in the fund, good for the next 26 years. The program has not added one penny to the deficit. But Sanders warned that when the Democrats say "everything is on the table," that's code for cutting Social Security. Don't let them do it!

As for universal health care, single payer is the only way to guarantee care for all. The Senator and Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin are working on a bill designed to make Vermont the nation's first state to have fully publicly funded health care. (Editor's note: the bill was announced on Friday, May 27).

Sanders spoke about the financial reform bill, which gives the Commodities Futures Trading Commission authority to end speculation in oil futures. He said our trade policies have failed workers and lost tens of thousands of factory jobs. We should insist that the goods we buy are manufactured in the United States. Our budget deficit is thanks to the tenure of George W. Bush, who squandered our surplus from the Clinton years on two wars, tax cuts for the wealthy, a Medicare

prescription drug program written by the insurance companies, and the massive Wall Street bailout.

To reduce this bloated deficit we need to end tax breaks for the wealthy, end the long streak of loopholes by which companies use tax havens in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, and bring the troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In other business, the nominating committee presented its proposed slate of officers: Kevin Sullivan, President; Diane Wallace, Vice-President; Kathy Campbell, Secretary, and (returning) Edna Murphy, Treasurer. The club voted to accept the slate which will be voted upon at the June meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor.

Ray Waters spoke about the Hermosa Beach School District budget cuts and said that all districts are facing severe financial shortfall: Hermosa Beach is \$1 million short, Manhattan Beach \$4 million, and the Los Angeles Unified School District, \$497 million. All the schools will be forced to lay off teachers if they cannot raise the lost funds.

Our Region 17 Director Sergio Carrillo delivered a two-part message: first, to announce that a regional meeting was to be held in June for new delegates to discuss their issues and submit resolutions prior to the Executive Board meeting in July. The Rules Committee is meeting to go over caucuses and the new open primary rules. A cost-saving measure is under discussion that would shorten the Convention by one day in odd years, which could save the Party a quarter of a million dollars.

Second, he spoke about Janice Hahn's recent victory in the primary election to fill Congresswoman Jane Harman's seat. He said that all of the Democratic candidates ran spirited and passionate campaigns, but now urges all those who voted for Debra Bowen and Marcy Winograd to unite behind Councilwoman Hahn. Her opponent Craig Huey, a Tea Party candidate, will start off with at

(Continued on page 3)

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



The USA, bastion of democracy, freedom & opportunity ain't what it used to be!!

We have created a monstrous behemoth of excessive bureaucracy with uncontrolled secrecy!! Luckily, WIKILEAKS has done the world a super-service in exposing much dirty laundry. It makes me think of Tricky Dick Nixon & the Watergate fiasco!!

BIG BROTHER can now read our email, our messages, our postal mail, and our opinions...thus controlling our decisions. We know the laws prevent the phone companies from sharing information taken from a cell phone, WITHOUT OUR

CONSENT. But there is no such law for Google or Apple!!!

To be fair, there is a balance to strike between the public's right to know & the government's to maintain some operational secrecy. The decisions for exposure & cover-up are delicate. This requires the need, (to quote George Dubya), for a Decider!! That is where we come into the picture; we elect the deciders!! Unfortunately, our officials have been less than honest and more concerned with error cover-up than with truth & government security.

It has long been my opinion that the ACLU does more for our open society than the combined efforts of the FBI, CIA, and NSA. The FBI recently admitted to almost 800 violations regarding national security. They claim that they were inadvertent, careless errors or sloppy mistakes due to a lack of guidance, or even inadequate oversight!!

(Recap, continued from page 2)

least \$1 million from his own pocket. Huey's party is opposed to marriage equality and women's choice, while Hahn is a strong, progressive woman who stands for 99% of our issues. There is to be a campaign kickoff on June 5 attended by Gavin Newsom, Judy Chu, Allen Lowenthal, and other Democratic luminaries.

Tony Hale spoke on behalf of the DAC and said that although he and the Democratic Action Committee remained neutral in the primary, they are now fully engaged for the winning candidate and are expecting to meet with Janice when she returns from Washington. DAC is trying to organize Democrats to register as permanent absentee voters and vote fifteen days ahead of the election, which will allow them to be taken off the call list.

Kathy Campbell said that the 53rd ADDC has lost its state charter and faces two options: remain unchartered by the State until after redistricting is completed; or submit a charter application to the County, which would not require a delay. There is to be a meeting on June 9 to discuss the choices.

Announcements

- Ted Lieu still has a campaign debt from the Attorney General contest. The club moved to donate \$200 to help retire the debt.
- Anne Faas and Mark Saltzberg have been voted Democratic Woman and Man of the Year from our district. They will be honored at the annual FDR dinner later this summer.
- The Redistricting Commission will submit its draft maps on June 1 and the proposal is expected to face litigation.
- Diane Wallace said the Education Caucus has received hundreds of signatures, the database is growing, and she thanked all those who helped. Club members will be invited to attend the rules committee.
- In closing, Janice Hahn's Field Organizer Max Freedman introduced himself and asked for helpers in her campaign. The office is located at 2513 Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.



Janice Hahn Field Representative Max Freedman introduced himself at the meeting

Hermosa Fiesta

We had an interesting time holding up some liberal ideals and promoting Janice Hahn's campaign Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Fiesta. We were located at the intersection of Manhattan and Pier Avenues in front of Java Man.

I want to thank all of those who signed up and spent hours helping us maintain a presence in the "free speech" area. Other booths were the Open Carry group maintaining their rights to openly carry their firearms in public places. I am sure someone may feel safer for their display. The Libertarians had a table right next to the Republicans promoting their candidate, Craig Huey. This guy is a work of art. Next came a table for "Our Veterans, Our Heroes Foundation." A really nice couple collected donations for their efforts to gain housing for veterans. Then, our neighbor on the last or first booth depending on your point of view, was the John Birch Society.

Those signed up and helping were Edna Murphy, Martha Hanley, Katheryn Campbell, Clare Chik, Jimmy Gow, Rochelle Snyder, Tony Hale, Diane Wallace, Steve and Moira Zucker, Lynn Thompson, Isabel Rodriguez, Marilyn Altamura, and Marc Mitchell. Much of the time we had three and four attending our table. I want to especially thank Dency and Moira Nelson for delivering and picking up the umbrella and stand.

All in all we had good reception from passersby and except for the wind on Sunday when the wind tried to take away the umbrella, I think we all had a good time.

Ray Waters

The Final Frontier

By Lee Fink

I try to give updates from the nation's capital, and fortunately I'm in the middle of one of the hottest topics in Washington. With Congresswoman Giffords' husband having just returned from space, and the final flight of the space shuttle set to blast off next month, there are people accusing President Obama of ending space exploration. But this is not the end—in fact, it is just the beginning of an even more exciting era.

For 30 years, the Space Shuttle has been an icon. But NASA was not created to do what we have grown accustomed to doing; it was founded to explore where no one has gone before. So with 50 years of launches under our belts, it is time to turn the technology to get to low Earth orbit to the commercial sector. Starting next year, NASA will hire private companies to carry supplies to the International Space Station. In a few years, they will start taking astronauts into space.

Government must and always has done this type of technology development. 100 years ago, the US began investing in basic aeronautics research, which led to commercial air travel. In 1969, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency developed the first ever packet switching network. When this network was commercialized in the early 1990s (thanks in no small part to Al Gore), the Internet revolutionized the way we live, work, and learn.

By commercializing space access, we once again spark innovation and begin creating the economy of the future. A company here in the South Bay, SpaceX, is leading the way, having become the first private company to launch a spacecraft into orbit and return it to the Earth. Commercial space will also open the door to regular people traveling in space. And because this innovative way of accessing space is much less costly, it will free up the money that NASA needs to invest in new technologies and new propulsion systems that will eventually send humans to deep space, to an asteroid, and ultimately to Mars.

In the State of the Union, President Obama declared that we had once again reached a "Sputnik moment," where we must invest in innovation, education, and building in new technologies, clean energy, and biomedical research. I often point out that NASA is the child of that first Sputnik moment, and 50 years later, is still central to winning the future.

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**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.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

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Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

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