

## November Meeting Note New Date!

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, **November 16**  
7:30 PM

We are meeting a week early due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

Lisa Pinto, Legislative Director for Congressman Henry Waxman, will be our November speaker.

## President's Message

*Kevin Sullivan*

Lisa Pinto is the District Director for Congressman Henry A. Waxman, who now represents California's 30th Congressional District. Congressman Waxman's new district under our new redistricting map will include our beach cities and Waxman is the Chair of the House Energy & Commerce Committee.

For the last twelve years, Lisa has overseen constituent services in the district. Lisa acts as Representative Waxman's chief liaison to constituents, community organizations, businesses, homeowner groups, and federal agencies. Prior to working for Congressman Waxman, Lisa practiced law for eight years, having last worked in the Los Angeles County Dependency Court representing children who had been abused and neglected. She earned her B.A. in History at UCLA in 1985, and her J.D. from UC Davis School of Law in 1988.

Lisa lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Robert, and their daughter, Stella. Lisa will be our office contact and liaison if Congressman Waxman is re-elected. Lisa has done an excellent job for our Democratic friends and colleagues

on the westside over the years. Congressman Waxman has one of the highest ratings for environmental, labor and senior causes.

Last month, Al Muratsuchi spoke to our meeting about the importance of his race in our new 66th assembly district. The district, drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, contains most of the South Bay, including Torrance, Gardena Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan Beach and Palos Verdes Peninsula. Al presently serves as a Torrance School Board member and State Deputy Attorney General.

"I'm running for Assembly because I know firsthand how the dysfunction in Sacramento is harming our schools and our communities," said Muratsuchi. "I want to fight for change in Sacramento and make good jobs, good schools, safe neighborhoods, and a clean environment my top priorities."

Our meetings are informative and targeted for information regarding our new 2012 districts and candidates.

*Editor's Note: This is the final issue of BCDC for 2011. Heartfelt thanks to my many contributors, who have made the newsletter a true reflection of our best Democratic-activist soul.*

*Maira Zucker*



*A scene from our successful October 27th membership party*

## BEACH CITIES GREEN

*By Dency Nelson*

"This city will not soon see a meeting like last night in relation to major, game changing, environmental actions." These were the words of Hermosa Beach Mayor pro-tem Jeff Duclos in an email to me following the history-making October 25 meeting of the Hermosa Beach City Council.



Mayor pro-tem Duclos was referring to the passage of all 4 of the environment-related items included in that meeting's public hearings, specifically, adoption of the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan; a recommendation for an ordinance banning the further use of polystyrene food-service take-out containers; a "no smoking" ordinance for all outdoor dining areas, the Pier Plaza, the Strand, all city parks, the greenbelt, and public parking lots; and acceptance of the Vitality Cities Livability Plan. A great night for the City of Hermosa Beach, the South Bay and the planet!

As promised in my October column, because this will be the last newsletter before the holidays, here are reminders of some of the ways you can celebrate the season while still minimizing your impact on the environment. These are all ideas that you've heard from me before, but they are worth repeating if only to keep you thinking about your choices.

First, if a Christmas tree is part of your yearly celebration, consider renting a living Christmas tree from a local company, the Living Christmas Company [www.livingchristmas.com](http://www.livingchristmas.com). This company received the 2010 SEED Award for

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Environmental Innovation, and my family has enjoyed renting our tree from them for the past two years. They keep our tree and the rest of their "rentals" in tubs on the "brown field" of a local oil refinery. It's land that can't easily be used for anything else and is located near a source of reclaimed water that is used to irrigate the trees throughout the year. Smart, sustainable and truly innovative! Be sure to decorate your tree and your home using only ultra-low-voltage LED lights, available at very low cost just about everywhere. Better yet, you can trade as many

as two working strings of old electricity-guzzling incandescent holiday lights for two new energy-efficient LED strings at no cost, courtesy of the South Bay Environmental Services Center. Log onto their website at [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com) for dates and locations of the exchange depot near you, or call them at 310-371-7222.

Holiday gift giving always presents a dilemma for lots of reasons, not just concern for the environment. The economy is struggling, and local small businesses deserve our support, so do what your conscience directs you when it comes to purchasing gifts for family and friends.

However, should you want to avoid the hassle of parking and the gas consumption of driving to the malls, consider online shopping at Fair Trade and other socially conscious websites. Help further reduce pollution and energy consumption by choosing ground delivery for those items. If you do purchase gifts, either from local vendors or online, be conscious about how you wrap them. Gift packaging and wrapping contribute to a 25% jump in trash during the holidays. Choose gifts with minimal packaging and wrap them in reusable gift bags or recycled wrapping paper, or even in newspaper or brown bags that you decorate yourself.

And then there is the best option, in my opinion, for holiday gift giving. Each year it has become easier for me to ignore the pressure imposed upon us all in our over-consuming society to buy, buy, buy! I have been finding it so much more satisfying, both as the giver and as the receiver, to see the dollars flow into worthwhile causes rather than into cash registers during the holiday season. You can 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. Create a note or use the notices that many of these organizations furnish for the purpose, and you'll be spreading the word as well as providing them with desperately needed dollars to do their work. The negative impact that this kind of giving has on the planet is minimal: just the paper for the note and the energy consumed for postal delivery, and that's it! A truly gratifying way to celebrate the spirit of the season! Happy holidays!

## Monroe's Ruminations

*Monroe Weinstock*

America the beautiful & bountiful isn't what we hoped it would become. Economic times are tough & we need a small miracle to turn on the business faucet. The banks used our hard earned tax rescue money to enrich themselves & continue the process of mass foreclosures.

Is it fair to spend more to kill enemy combatants than it is to help our citizens crawl out of abject poverty?? What kind of country abandons the unemployed while it helps derivative speculators?? What kind of country allows its ecosystem to be destroyed without protecting future generations??

There is a movement that can change public opinion enough to give Congress the courage to face up to the Industrial Lobbyists. OCCUPY WALL STREET (OWS) is a vital new golden opportunity to restore the American notion of higher aspirations; loftier dreams; attainable better jobs; leaving our following generations better off than before.

I can hardly contain my enthusiasm for an emerging movement that exposes the growing discontent with ever increasing disparities between the rich & the poor. OWS is a people-oriented action



demanding social & economic rights that have long been denied to the majority of the nation.....you & me!!!!

- ◆ OWS condemns police brutality & aggression.
- ◆ OWS requires sustained & far reaching economic justice.
- ◆ OWS is an opportunity for everyone to grow into a better world.
- ◆ OWS does not seek political positions.
- ◆ OWS searches for the dignity of everyman/everywoman.
- ◆ OWS wants the 1% to repay what was stolen from the 99%.
- ◆ OWS has morphed into a Global March.
- ◆ OWS grants people a real voice against government opposition.
- ◆ OWS maintains the highest moral imperatives.
- ◆ OWS confronts authority but does not seek revolution.
- ◆ OWS is patriotic & democratic.
- ◆ OWS list 20 conditions that require immediate attention.
- ◆ OWS essentially says, "WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!!!!!"
- ◆ OWS is a leaderless resistance movement that is PEACEFUL AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL.



*Moira Zucker, Varo Asorian, and Club President Kevin Sullivan*

## October Recap

*Following is an edited version of the minutes from our October 26 meeting, courtesy of Kathy Campbell.*

Al Muratsuchi spoke: He is Deputy Attorney General, Torrance School Board Member and the only announced Democratic candidate for the new 66th Assembly. The newly drawn 66th includes all beach cities south of Manhattan Beach, Gardena, Lomita, W. Carson, Alondra Park, and the four PV cities.

He's a longtime Democrat, since being a Berkeley activist in the 80s. He worked for Ron Dellums in Berkeley and with the US House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and a Japanese-American civil rights organization. He has served as Deputy Attorney General for health quality enforcement for the state. (See more details at [www.alforassembly.com](http://www.alforassembly.com)).

Al has been endorsed by Janice Hahn, Ted Lieu, Cliff Numark, Pat Fury, and the Torrance Dem Club. Craig Huey will probably be in the race, as well as Nathan Mintz, both Tea Party candidates. One member asked why Al has been labeled as a conservative; Al says he's not sure since he supports progressive causes, but noted that he is running in a moderate to conservative district. He has always had the support of the Teacher's Union.

Marianne Tyler asked how there is any hope of effectiveness in Sacramento right now. Al mentioned California Forward, a group working on systemic changes necessary for the future of our state. To address the big issues, Democrats, Republicans and Independents all need to work together. Al noted that conservative Palos Verdes has voted to increase their own taxes 5 times since 2000 for school bonds and parcel taxes. So while in Sacramento Republicans are afraid of riling Norquist et al, at the local level they realize that you have to pay for good schools.

Lori Geittmann asked about Tea Party activists who have run for Torrance School Board; Al said that even in a



*Top: Ted Lieu addresses the membership at our October 27th membership meeting. Right: Al Muratsuchi, also addressing the group.*

Republican leaning city like Torrance, people move there for the schools, so public education is very important to them. Tony Hale moved to endorse Al and make a \$500 donation to his campaign. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Lori mentioned that she and others actually asked Al to run and that he needs to raise \$100k by the end of the year to let Sacramento know that the grassroots knows what it is doing.

### Report from Elected Officials

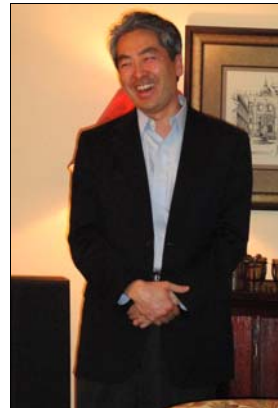
Don Dear of the Water District reported on Water Harvest last month: best turnout ever. Tony Hale also mentioned that they have renamed the main building the Donald L Dear building!

### County Committee

Lori Geittmann reported on a presentation on a homeless veterans' building in West LA, donated specifically for veteran housing but is now used by corporations instead. Ron Kovik of Redondo Beach is a longtime demonstrator. But Dianne Feinstein and Henry Waxman have not supported a shift to housing, so Lori suggests raising this issue with Waxman's representative next month. There are 20k homeless vets in the LA area, the highest in the nation.

**4 Star Democratic Club**—Marianne Tyler spoke on behalf of AmVet, a group that helps homeless vets and helps them express themselves through the arts.

Members were asked if we're support-



ing Occupy Wall Street and Occupy LA (and Long Beach and Torrance). Many members are. Dency Nelson asked and Lori Geittmann confirmed

that County Committee endorsed Occupy LA. A motion was made to support Occupy Wall Street: seconded and passed.

Varo Asorian suggested that we send letters to Mayor Quan in Oakland objecting to police abuse at Occupy Oakland.

**DAC**—Still struggling financially, they received a donation from Warren Furutani. DAC will create an office for Al if all agree to endorse him.

**LAX**—School board race in November, and they will have a speaker from Kamala Harris's office.

**Torrance Democrats** had an event to meet Al on Monday and are planning a fundraiser event on 11/12.

**Other**—Scott Houston, Secretary of LAX club, Delegate and Treasurer of 53rd ADDC, is running for El Segundo City Council. He has been endorsed by CDP and League of Conservation Voters. It's unclear which incumbents will run for re-election. Scott has support on both sides of the aisle in a small, conservative town. He supports bike friendly routes and alternatives. There is only one Dem in El Segundo now, the Mayor, and it's not known if he's going to run for re-election. They will now be in the 62nd AD.

Members asked if the club has taken a stand on the El Camino Community College or Hermosa Beach. Lori stated that we don't endorse people unless they ask. Diane Wallace said that Susan Truax is on the El Camino redistricting commis-

*(Continued on page 4)*



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**Beach Cities  
 Democratic Club**



*(Recap, continued from page 3)*

sion and says that two appointees are Republicans, Steve Napolitano and Nathan Mintz. Diane suggested we find out who the Dem is and support her!

**Hermosa Beach City Council Meeting**

Four environmental bills were up and all 4 passed. (See "Beach Cities Green" on page 1.) A 3-1 vote, Michael DiVirgilio voted against. Dency took a pledge not to endorse anyone, but he's voting for Fangari and David Cohen, not for DiVirgilio, and is voting No on Q and Yes on N.

**Membership Committee Report**

*Diane Wallace*

BCDC has been really busy this month!

**Dedicated to Blue:** Motivated by our strong commitment to keep the Beach Cities blue, I attended community outreach training, sponsored by the California Democratic Party and DFA. Varo Asorian attended from the Torrance Club. It was well-run and provided training in some proven strategies to reach out to Democrats and to ensure that they will vote in 2012!

**Special event:** PV, Torrance, and Beach Cities Dem Clubs co-sponsored a great event on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Robert Greenwald joined us, discussed the impact of the Koch Bros., and showed some of his recent documentaries. If you missed this, you can see Mr. Greenwald's work at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Just type Robert Greenwald into the search area. Informative! Great stuff!

**Community Leadership:** Our BCDC membership team, which includes Lisa Power, Lori Geittmann and me, sponsored a wine and cheese party for BCDC members and their friends. A special thanks to Lisa and her husband Mike for hosting the party and to members who brought hors d'ouvres and dessert! Lots of people enjoyed the evening. We had the opportunity to visit with **Ted Lieu** and he shared his thoughts about the upcoming legislative session in Sacramento. And we met **Al Muratsuchi**, the candidate to represent our new 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Sacramento. You can get to know Al in more upcoming events and through his website: <http://www.al4assembly.com>.

al4assembly.com. Al's goal is to raise \$100,000 by 12/31/11. You can contribute on his website – \$5, \$10, \$25, and more. Al is our endorsed candidate.

**66<sup>th</sup> ADDC:** Our new Assembly District now includes Palos Verdes and parts of Gardena. Beach Cities has worked with Torrance, Gardena and PV Dem Clubs to form a new organization – the 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Democratic Council. A volunteer group has developed by-laws and the application to be approved as a chartered organization by the California Democratic Party. Watch for future announcements!



*Our October 27 membership party*