

## Next Meeting

Wednesday

August 23 at 7:00 PM, Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254  
(Please note the new room location! It is on the same floor, just down the hall a bit.)

We will meet and have endorsement votes for the Democratic candidates for City Council from Hermosa Beach. Per our By-Laws: "Every member present at any duly called membership meeting may vote. Endorsements shall be made only by a vote of 60% of the members voting. Only those members who have paid their dues at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or at the previous meeting, or are a renewing member, may vote."

Labor Day Weekend will be here soon. That means we will be at our Free Speech booth at Fiesta Hermosa on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 2—4, on Pier Avenue.

Please join us for a couple of hours to talk politics with our neighbors and friends, and to promote our endorsed Democratic candidates. As we all know, we are living in perilous times and we must talk to voters about the future. As the old adage goes, all politics is local and we need to promote our local Democratic candidates and concerns.

And finally, Beach Cities Democrats is partnering with several other Democratic Clubs and the 66th AD Democratic Council to present an evening with Tom Steyer, Founder and President of NextGenCalifornia, on Tuesday, August 29 at 7:00PM in the Toyota Meeting Hall at the Torrance Civic Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance 90503. RSVP at [pvedems@gmail.com](mailto:pvedems@gmail.com), or 310-378-1554.

We hope you are enjoying your summer, and look forward to seeing you on August 23. —Bobbi

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was in Hawaii in July of 1991 when the Longest Total Eclipse of the Sun occurred. It was one of the most awe inspiring spectacles I have ever experienced.



I can still remember the shudder I felt down my spine as the sky was suddenly dark and the hot humid weather changed dramatically to cool and windy.

There were hundreds of people in my location, but it was eerily silent as we witnessed the black moon moving slowly in front of the sun. You could see stars where bright sunlight had just shown. As it moved to cover the sun there was a glowing halo surrounding it. Everyone gasped and cheered and cried...together.

I recount this awe inspiring experience because in this summer with our crazy leader saying and doing ever crazier things, I thought it would be a nice respite

to reflect on the fact that we live in an orderly universe.

There really are facts and science.

On Monday, August 21, there will be another Total Solar Eclipse. Its path will travel the entire Continental United States from Oregon to South Carolina, giving millions of Americans the opportunity to have that same feeling of oneness, that we are all here together on this fragile planet interdependent on each other, everyone the same, everyone an integral part of the whole.

We must try to find common ground to connect with each other and continue to fight for the health of Mother Earth and for our shared Democratic values.

These trumpian times are traumatizing and tumultuous, but this world has withstood greater horrors and we will pass out of this dark era too.

Enjoy the remainder of this beautiful summer and be sure to Look Up to the Heavens on August 21!!!

*Bobbi Buescher, President  
Beach Cities Democrats*

### Reception for Ted Lieu

There will be a reception for Rep. Ted Lieu at the Hermosa Beach home of Dency and Moira Nelson on **Saturday, September 16**  
4:00 to 6:00 PM

For more information or to RSVP please call 562-981-2111 or email [Genelle.Buchert@gmail.com](mailto:Genelle.Buchert@gmail.com).

*Right: Bobbi Buescher helps Ray Waters serve special birthday cake in honor of Carolyn Waters's birthday and Ray's own, which was to take place three days later.*



## Minutes of July Meeting

By Moira Nelson

### Welcome & Visitor Introductions

President Bobbi Buescher called the meeting to order by unveiling a birthday cake in honor of Carolyn Waters (whose big day it was) and Ray Waters (whose birthday was three days later). Sadly, Carolyn was not in attendance – so we took a picture and saved her a slice.

### Officer Reports

Bobbi presented a rundown of pertinent developments that have intervened since the June meeting:

At a productive BCD Board Meeting last week, the board agreed to close the club's bank account at One West – owing to the expenses of maintaining the account, the difficulty of changing names on the account whenever new club officers are elected, the bank's aggressive foreclosure policies during the economic crisis a few years ago, and other objections – and contract with Gary Crummitt, who provides treasurer services for LACDP, to take charge of BCD banking on a permanent basis. This change will have no effect on the way we pay dues, write checks, use Act Blue, etc.

The Board also tackled the problem of the loss of our website, as the host went out of business. Kathryn Campbell and Reggie Jue are helping us set up a new one. Meanwhile, the link to the newsletter at beachcitiesdems.org still works.

Bobbi proposed an idea for helping to turn the five local red congressional districts blue. Specifically, she suggests that we go as a club to the Convention Center when new citizens are being sworn in there and register those new citizens as Democrats. The idea was greeted with an enthusiastic show of hands.

Auditing of the recent election for CA state party chair has been completed, confirming Eric Bauman as the new chairperson of the California Democratic Party. Kimberley Ellis is considering a lawsuit; others say it's time to move on.

The Summer 2017 CADEM Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for August 25 to 27 in Anaheim, to review the resolutions that have been proposed and decide which will go forward.

Vice President Dency Nelson followed with his announcements:

He asks that any members who have not been receiving iContact notices of meetings should let him or Bobbi know.

He urges any members not yet in the Yahoo group to subscribe to it, since it is a useful resource for club communications. Dency posts information there pertaining to other Democratic activities in the area. Let Mark Drabkin know if you want to join the group or if you have subscribed but are not getting the messages.

The monthly 66 ADDC breakfast is coming up on Sunday, 10 AM, at Eat at Rudy's. It's an opportunity to share ideas about issues and situations of local and national interest. RSVP to 66 ADDC Co-Chair Varo Asorian, at varo.asorian@yahoo.com.

Among the many efforts underway to flip districts in the area is a "Flip the 49<sup>th</sup>" bus trip with CADEM Caucus Chair Mike Gipson this coming Saturday to inform voters about Darrell Issa's vote to end health care for 26 million Americans.

Congressman Ted Lieu is having a town hall in Dana Rohrabacher's district (the 48<sup>th</sup>). Democratic members of Congress are conducting meetings like this in districts where Republican members of Congress are refusing to meet with their own constituents. Dency and Connie Sullivan have volunteered to help at Ted's event. The town hall will be held at Aliso Viejo High School, deep in Orange County. (Ted has met with a lot of reluctance there in planning this meeting.)

A rally is planned Saturday at noon by advocates of traffic calming and protecting the wetlands, in support of the attempt to slow traffic on Vista del Mar.

Hermosa Beach has city council elections coming up in November. The only other races in the 66<sup>th</sup> are for Rancho Palos Verdes City Council and for the Palos Verdes Library District. Filing closes August 11. In Hermosa Beach, two Democratic incumbents have pulled papers (Stacy Armato, who has switched parties; and Hany Fangary). Another Democrat and two Republicans have also pulled papers, so there are five candidates in all.

### Treasurer's report

Treasurer Edna Murphy reiterated that closing the accounts at One West will save money (no bank fees) and that the bank's ex-CEO is a Trump appointee. She also informed us that we have (as of this

writing):

\$4924 in the Federal account  
\$1375 in the State account

### Reports from Elected Officials

Senior Field Representative Andrew DeBlock reported from the office of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (66<sup>th</sup> District), who:

- ◆Voted for SB 188, which he cosponsored with author Hannah-Beth Jackson, to ban offshore oil drilling along those parts of the coast under state control.

- ◆Is cosponsoring AB 398 (the cap-and-trade bill) and the attached bill AB 617 (for air-quality improvement). Al feels this is the best way to move forward on combating climate change.

- ◆Authored HR 47, establishing International Surfing Day.

- ◆Attended Hermosa Beach Councilmember Hany Fangary's Community First meeting last week, where Al discussed the safety problems of the Torrance refinery and responded to questions concerning the Vista del Mar road diet. (He coauthored a letter with State Senators Allen and Burke about the lack of public input in advance of the changes there. Andrew will be attending a community meeting about this issue on Saturday.)

- ◆Is meeting with Dency Nelson, Hermosa Beach Mayor Justin Massey, and Hermosa environmental innovator Robert Fortunato on how to advance low-carbon goals in Hermosa Beach and the State of California.

- ◆Is a member of the California State Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.

- ◆Attended PV Dems and West LA Dems summer parties and has lots of community hearings and coffees coming up. (In response to a question about whether Al has been visiting the parts of his district where he is less well known or popular, Andrew promised to bring a list to our next meeting of activities Al has been conducting and attending throughout his district.)

- ◆Presents a monthly award recognizing environmental stewardship. The award for August will be presented to Kathleen Jaceko in Wilderness Park on Friday, August 11, the last day of the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

summer ecology camp she conducts there. If you plan to attend, just follow the children's voices.

Hermosa Beach Councilman Hany Fangary reported on doings in Hermosa: the new solar panels on the Community Center roof, which were turned on yesterday (we can keep track of their output on the city website); and his Community First meeting last week, attended by Al Muratsuchi, Manhattan Beach Mayor David Lesser, and Hermosa Beach Councilmember Jeff Duclos, where the Vista del Mar issue was discussed.

Since then Hany has reached out to LA City Councilmember Mike Bonin, whose district Vista del Mar is in (no response yet); and he will be reaching out as well to LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, who received much needed support from Hermosa Beach during the measure M campaign. Hany already met with LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who is in communication with the city of LA on this issue. Hany and Jeff drove Vista del Mar during rush hour to see what the consequences of this particular road diet have been. They saw lots of safety problems. Also, they noted that, although free beach parking has been increased, there is no actual access from the road to the beach.

Hany ended his report by promising to come to next month's meeting to seek our endorsement for his run for council. (Anyone who wants to help with his campaign should of course let him know.)

#### Introduction of Local Candidates

Endorsement Votes will be held at our August 23 meeting.

#### Program: SB 54 (The California Values Act)

*Presentation by Claudia Bautista, Organizer & Regional Campaign Coordinator from the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.*

SB 54 – the California Values Act – is intended to prohibit enforcement agencies from using state and local resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. Also, it would prohibit state and local law enforcement from detaining any person for deportation without a judicial warrant. The overall purpose is to keep

California schools, health facilities, libraries, courthouses, etc., safe and accessible to all California residents regardless of immigration status.

Claudia told us that law enforcement policy at present is to pick up everyone they meet who seems to be an immigrant. She says that ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) comes to LA more often than they used to, with the excuse that they are investigating drug crimes, prostitution, etc. They are trying to normalize these escalated practices. Among many negative consequences for immigrant communities, reporting of sexual violence has dropped 25%, and reports of domestic violence dropped 10%.

The bill has passed through the State Senate and gone through two committees on the Assembly side, where it passed along party lines. The sponsors and supporters have not yet been able to lobby the governor on this issue – he's been too busy with other matters; but they will meet with him after summer recess. Claudia is reaching out to us because Assemblymember Muratsuchi is undecided. She passed out fact sheets and a flyer with information about the bill and how to support it, including how to sign an online petition.

Mark Drabkin made a motion, seconded by Ray Waters, to endorse SB 54. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

#### Additional comments from Rochelle Schneider

Rochelle has been doing local advocacy for immigrant rights. She says it would help if we knew Attorney General Javier Becerra's position on the bill. (Claudia says she can get it for us.) Perhaps we should urge Al to ask Becerra. Rochelle also says we should contact those on the CA Assembly Committee on Appropriations to let them know we are in favor of the bill (she mentioned Richard Bloom, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Ed Chau).

Rochelle reports that a policy in the Manhattan Beach Police Department policy notebook fails to recognize the difference between a judicial warrant and an ICE rubber stamp warrant. If Manhattan Beach police book someone and decide to arrest them, the arrest information automatically links to a nationwide search for an ICE warrant (which is not a judicial warrant).

(Continued on page 4)



*Claudia Bautista Speaks on SB54*

#### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

##### U.S. Senate

Kamala Harris  
312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Local #213-894-5000  
D.C. #202-224-3553  
[www.harris.senate.gov](http://www.harris.senate.gov)

##### Dianne Feinstein

11111 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Local # 310-914-7300  
D.C. # 202-224-3841  
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

##### House of Representatives

Ted Lieu (33rd C.D.)  
5055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 310  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
D.C. # 202-225-4099  
Local # 323-651-1040  
<https://lieu@house.gov/>

##### County Supervisor

Janice Hahn  
213-974-4444, 213-626-6941  
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##### State Senate

Ben Allen  
2512 Artesia Blvd., Suite 320  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278-3279  
310-318-6994  
<http://sd26.senate.ca.gov/>

##### Assembly

Al Muratsuchi (66th A.D.)  
3424 W. Carson St., Suite 450  
Torrance, CA 90503  
Local #310-375-0691  
Sacramento #916-319-2066  
<https://A66.asmdc.org/>

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*(Continued from page 3)*

These practices create a potential for a police state. The MB Police do not enforce this policy.

**BCD Representative to the 66 Assembly District Democratic Council**

Beach Cities Democrats must appoint a representative to the 66 Assembly District Democratic Council for the coming year. Chartered by CADEM, the council has four chairpeople who rotate the responsibility (from Palos Verdes, Beach Cities, Torrance, and the east part of the district). Tony Hale has been our representative and is willing to continue. Dency asked if anyone else would be interested in the position, and Bob Monzingo replied that he would be. Dency suggested that Bob come to Sunday's 66 AD breakfast to meet some of the people attending from other clubs in the district.

We will vote on our representative at next month's BCD meeting.

**BCD Booth at Fiesta Hermosa, Labor Day Weekend, September 2-4**

As always, Ray Waters and Dency Nelson will spend the entire three-day weekend at

our booth, but additional volunteers are needed. The main mission this year (in addition to discussing what people can do to help flip districts from red to blue) will be to let the public know which of the candidates in local (nonpartisan) elections are our endorsed Democratic candidates. This will be discussed again at next month's meeting, and an online signup sheet will be sent out.

**Reports from County Committee; 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District; and other Democratic Clubs**

Ray Waters reported that at its last meeting, the County Committee held elections for some of the offices that needed filling (Patt Sanders was made Secretary, and Tom O'Shaughnessy is the new Controller). A new chair is needed now that Bauman is State party chair. Also two new vice chairs, a man and a woman, will be elected. Check out the website: [www.lacdp.org](http://www.lacdp.org).

Connie Sullivan, reporting on the Assembly District Democratic Council, said the August general membership meeting, perhaps on August 29, may have Tom Steyer as a guest speaker. If not, the

speaker will be Lee Fink, who worked for 8 years in the Obama Administration. Connie also spoke about the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance and their campaign encouraging the AQMD to adopt a rule banning the use and storage of hydrofluoric acid. Write the AQMD or sign an endorsement form. Get any group you belong to, to endorse the ban.

A motion made by Andrea Valcourt and seconded by Moira Zucker, to endorse the ban or die, passed with one abstention.

**Announcements & Adjournment**

Ray Waters announced a talk to be given this coming Sunday by Susan Burton about reentry into society of women released from prison; the talk will be at Pacific Unitarian Church in Palos Verdes.

Check with Edna to see if your dues are up to date, so you can vote on endorsements next month!

Andrea Valcourt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ray Waters. So moved, and Ray departs with a chunk of birthday cake to take home to Carolyn.