

Next Meeting

Wednesday

September 27, 7:00 PM, Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda includes an early endorsement vote for the 2018 elections for the 33rd Congressional District, the 26th State Senate District and 66th Assembly District. We want to get these in place as we anticipate fundraisers and tabling in the coming months. Endorsements for Statewide offices from Governor on down will be coming soon.

According to our By-Laws: "Every member present at the meeting who has paid his or her dues at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or at the previous regular meeting, or a renewing member, may vote." Endorsements shall be made only by a vote of 60% of the members voting.

There are several events coming up in support of our elected officials in their re-election campaigns. These receptions and fundraisers are a great opportunity to meet with our leaders, hear about the issues they are working on and ask your questions of them. Here they are:

Fundraiser for Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi

Thursday, September 21, 6:00-8:00 PM, Smog City Brewery

Address: 1901 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA. RSVP 562-981-2111 or email Genelle Buchert at genelle.buchert@gmail.com.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi District Office Grand Opening

Friday, September 22, 4:00-6:30 PM
3424 W. Carson Street, Suite 450, Torrance, CA. RSVP 310-375-0691 or www.asmdc.org/hv.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I just returned from a beautiful two week vacation to Italy and Croatia, sailing around the Amalfi and Dalmatian Coasts and ending in Venice.



It was divine. I was on a total news blackout. No TV, no newspapers, no email, no texts, NO trump.

It's amazing how happy and un-stressed life can be when we completely avoid the world and focus on being in the moment. It was heaven. Gorgeous blue sky and turquoise waters. Tiny islands, centuries old cities and churches. Colorful houses clinging to sheer cliffs hundreds of feet above the azure sea, surrounded by grapes and lemon trees. Paintings, fountains, music, food, wine. As I said, it was heaven.

The only thing diverting me from this dream was the inevitable questions from

In Memoriam: There will be a celebration of the amazing life of our local Democratic family member and founding member of the Beach Cities Democratic Club, Vi Mullins, on Saturday, September 23, at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes 90275. All are invited to attend!

We look forward to seeing you on September 27.

Until then, check out our fabulous new website at www.BeachCitiesDems.org. Our thanks to Jim McGreevy, Reggie Jue, Kathryn Campbell and Ryley Simcox for their great work getting it up and running.

the waiters, tour guides and shop owners who all wanted to know what was going on in America. Why did we have such a terrible, crazy president? How could we inflict such a person on the world. Don't we understand that they all count on us to lead, to be the voice of reason and good?

Of course, each conversation went pretty much the same. I understood their shock and anger. I know we are letting down our allies. I am well aware of the consequences of our folly. The majority of Americans did not vote for him. It's our wacky, undemocratic and outdated election system. We are doing everything we can to mitigate the harm. Yes, we are sick about the Paris Accord too.

Having spent my life traveling and enjoying different cultures, the thing I love most is the interaction with the people. The way they see their city and the world, What foods do they recommend? Where is the best cappuccino? The prettiest piazza? How has recent history and wars affected the population? What is the

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Hermosa Beach City Council Candidates Mary Campbell, Stacey Armato, and Hany Fangary

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effect of escalating real estate prices on families in the city? What are their hopes for the future?

I think that is what travel is for. To slow down, to contemplate, to ponder. To understand that everyone in every country is essentially the same. We all love our families, our home, good food, our work that sustains us and our passions that drive us to fulfill our inner needs, desires and destinies.

Coming home refreshed and revitalized, I am ready to jump back into the fray and tackle the daily onslaught that is this administration.

But, just as I thought, it only took one quick look at the news to see that nothing changed while I was away, shocking events are the new norm. The glaring consequences of Global Warming in the form of devastating hurricanes and flooding, while the EPA-suing former Attorney General from Oklahoma, now EPA Administrator Pruitt says this is not the time to talk about it. The Senate is going for one more stab at repealing the Affordable Care Act and another tweet storm criticizing and infuriating the British authorities over the attack in London. Sadly, another unprecedented day on the trump Show!

Our work is cut out for us dear friends, but as ever we're up to the challenge.

*Bobbi Buescher, President
Beach Cities Democrats*



August Recap

By Moira Zucker

Vice-President Dency Nelson called the meeting to order by asking new attendees to introduce themselves. There were several new attendees, including a Redondo Union High School student who was interested in setting up a Young Democrats club. We also heard that a recent Indivisible event was well attended, with seven Congressional districts in California that are good targets for turning Democratic.

Dency reported that two very prominent Democrats had recently passed away: Joan Arias, a paralegal volunteer for the Legal Aid Foundation of LA; and Violet Mullins, who was one of the founders of our club and the mentor for many of our longtime members, including Dency.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Edna Murphy reported the following ending balances:
\$4,924.78 in the Federal Account
\$1,375.47 in the State Account

Secretary's Report

Ryley Simcox said that she was now updating our new website, and could be contacted at webmaster@beachcitiesdems.org or info@beachcitiesdems.org.

Reports From Elected Officials

Joey Apodaca reported from Ted Lieu's office. Ted is becoming a strong voice in the Congress. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently announced that the government would be shutting down the War Crimes Bureau. Joey read a statement from Ted regarding transgender service members:

"The President's exclusion of Americans who happen to be transgender from serving in the military is not based on facts, it is based on naked bigotry. I know because I served on active duty. The

military doesn't care what your sexual orientation or identity is, or who you love. It cares about whether you can shoot straight and complete the mission. The President's discriminatory decision harms our military readiness for our volunteer-based military.

"Thousands of transgender Americans are already in the military. Why? Because they are qualified, patriotic and willing to die for their country. There is zero evidence a transgender sniper would be any less qualified than a gay sniper or a straight sniper. Today is a sad day for America."

Regarding Yemen, Congressman Lieu also worked on Amendment 93, which requires the Department of Defense to reevaluate Saudi Arabia's actions and determine if they have committed war crimes. Ted also urges that the US practice diplomacy with North Korea: we must do everything in our power to de-escalate the situation.

Ted is among the congress members who sent a letter to the Veteran's Administration in May regarding the inhumane testing of dogs, and said he is relieved the experiments have ended.

"This much needed reform will put the Los Angeles VA back on track to taking care of our veterans without wasting resources to conduct unnecessary and inhumane experiments on dogs," Lieu said in a statement.

On the subject of Afghanistan, Ted wrote a letter to the House Foreign Affairs Chairman which said"

"After 16 years of war in Afghanistan, a surge to 100,000 U.S. troops, and hundreds of billions of dollars spent, it is clear that there is no military solution to the conflict... A decision on U.S. military operations in Afghanistan should stem from clearly-defined political objectives—not the other way around."

Next we heard from Hermosa Beach Mayor Pro Tem Jeff DuClos. He announced that the city has created a

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In front of our BCD Fiesta Hermosa booth: Ray Waters, Mary Campbell, and Dency Nelson

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comprehensive redrafting of the Hermosa Beach General Plan. It includes progressive goals for the environment. DuClos called PLAN Hermosa, the "most collaborative document this city has ever produced."

"PLAN Hermosa's purpose is to serve the collective interest of everyone who calls Hermosa Beach home, from the youngest member of our community to the oldest," DuClos said in a recent press release. "It will be our guide into the 21st century and our shared vision for protecting, enhancing our quality of life."

Redondo Beach City Councilman John Gran spoke next. He said the Redondo Council is also hoping to update their general plan. There is currently a year-long moratorium on the mixed-use proposal for the Galleria, following a 5 - 0 vote. They have formed a task force to work on an update to the North Redondo/Artesia Corridor plan.

Redondo Beach Councilmember Laura Emdee joined in the discussion to emphasize the need for housing near jobs--"attainable" vs. affordable housing.

In June, the State Senate approved Senate Bill 35 which will create a streamlined approval process for housing in cities that are not meeting their housing goals required by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). This streamlining will expedite the construction of critically needed housing. SB 35 received support from both Democrats and Republicans, including Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica).

Program

We heard from all three Democratic candidates for the Hermosa Beach City Council: Stacey Armato, Mary Campbell, and Hany Fangary.

Stacey is an incumbent, and stated that in her capacity as an attorney, she became involved in the Keep Hermosa Hermosa campaign in 2012. She originally won the seat in a special election called when Nanette Barragan vacated it to run for the US House of Representatives for California's 44th district, an office

which she now occupies.

Stacey has helped oversee the integration of the Hermosa Beach Fire Services with those of LA County. She helped implement a citywide smoking ban, and has worked to eliminate the use of short-term rentals in the city.

Dr. Mary Campbell, a Hermosa Beach school board member and business consultant, was instrumental in the fight against big oil. She has strong environmental credentials and executive experience, having been Assistant Vice-President at USC for the past fifteen years. She led a successful effort to pass a much-needed facilities bond, helping preserve Hermosa's tradition of outstanding public schools.

Hany Fangary, who is an incumbent along with Stacey Armato, said that he also was deeply involved in Keep Hermosa Hermosa. He supported the fire service transfer, the smoking ban, and Measures S and H. He holds popular Community Meetings once a month to better understand the needs of his constituents. In addition, he was instrumental in getting solar panels installed in our Hermosa Community building.

All three candidates have been endorsed by Hermosa Beach Mayor Justin Massey. The club moved unanimously to endorse all three, and in a separate motion, to donate \$100 to each candidate's campaign.

Announcements

Dency next announced the creation of our new website, courtesy of Reggie Jue and Jim McGreevy. The site was created in response to our previous server closing down its service.

BCD has endorsed SB 562, the single payer health care bill. Ray Waters expressed concern that Al Muratsuchi has not yet come out in support of the bill, and Governor Brown may not sign it.

It was announced that we are hoping more people will sign up to work in our BCD booth at Fiesta Hermosa over Labor Day weekend.

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President Bobbi with Rep. Ted Lieu at the Sept. 16 fundraiser at the Nelson home

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Local #213-894-5000
D.C. #202-224-3553
www.harris.senate.gov

Dianne Feinstein
11111 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
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House of Representatives

Ted Lieu (33rd C.D.)
5055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 310
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County Supervisor

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State Senate

Ben Allen
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Assembly

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Tony Hale then reported from the LA Democratic County Committee. He said that the two candidates for California Chair of the Democratic Party, Eric Bauman and Kimberly Ellis, had a very close election. Eric Bauman won by a narrow margin, but Kimberly Ellis contested the results. The Compliance Review Committee went through every ballot, verifying signatures, and declared Eric Bauman the winner.

Connie Sullivan spoke about the 66th ADDC (Assembly District Democratic Council). Members serve two-year terms, and we currently have four representatives: Connie, Varo Asorian, Brandii Grace, and Tony Hale. Tony has been our representative and is willing to continue, but at last month's meeting, Bob Monzingo said he would also like to be considered. A vote was taken, and Tony won the needed majority but suggested that Bob serve as a coordinator, to enable him to learn more about the Committee and its workings.

Sergio Carrillo, regional director of the California Democratic Party, spoke next. He said that the DCCC has hired organizers in each of the seven pivotal districts, even though we do not yet have candidates in all the races. Town hall meetings are underway, and Indivisible South Bay is gearing up for the upcoming contest. There is to be a candidates' forum in November, with time and date to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned in honor of the memory of Vi Mullins.
Recap compiled with the help of minutes from Ryley Simcox



The 66th Assembly District Democratic Council hosted an evening with Tom Steyer, Founder and President of NextGen California, on August 29, at the Toyota Meeting Hall in Torrance. Left to right: Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Tony Hale, Connie Sullivan, Tom Steyer, Diane Wallace, and Varo Asorian.