



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7:00PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda will include electing a member from Beach Cities Democrats to be a Co-Chair of the 66th Assembly District Democratic Committee. We will take nominations from the floor and have a voice vote at the meeting. We will also be appointing an Associate Member to the LACDP from BCD. Everyone is invited to get a little more involved by representing us in either of these positions.

We will also be talking about the upcoming Municipal Elections in Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. As you know we endorsed Wayne Powell and Hildy Stern for Manhattan Beach City Council and we also endorsed a "Yes" vote on Measure A in Manhattan Beach. No candidate reached the required 60% vote threshold for endorsement in Redondo Beach.

There will be an opportunity to hear from the Manhattan Beach candidates on February 21, 11:30 AM, Joslyn Community Center, 1401 N. Valley Drive, MB. This event is for seniors 55+, and reservations are required.

The results of the ADEM elections held on January 27 are:

Women: Sara H. Deen, Amy Howorth, Katharine Nyhus, Lori Ketkar, Susan Goodlerner, Diane Wallace, Maggie Bove-LaMonica.

Men: Tony Hale, Reggie Jue, Wayne Mogilefsky, Doug Bender, Mark E. Henderson, Jimmy Gow, Ben Tarzynski.

"E" Board Representative: Tony Hale was reelected.

These are the people who will represent us here in the 66th Assembly District for the next two years.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bobbi Buescher
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



The Emperor has no clothes.

We certainly have come a long way from our First President George Washington, whose birthday we celebrate this month and who could not tell a lie. He chopped down that cherry tree.

In the 242 years since American Independence, we have had good presidents, bad presidents and everything in between, but we have never had a president so untethered to the truth, to facts, to the law, to norms or to the Constitution.

The current occupant is a fake and a fraud in every way, large and small. He lies about his life, his money, his business, his affairs, his crowd size, his weight; all bad but nothing compared to the lie he has fostered from that first fateful decent down the escalator in his fake gold tower, with the inflated number of floors.

He is a small man with a small mind.

From the beginning he lied about Mexicans, lied about his connections with Russians, banned Muslims, said Nazis were good people too, threw children in cages and shut down the government over a completely made up lie about caravans of thieves and drug dealers invading the southern border.

He does not want brown people or those from "hole"

countries to come here. He is okay with white immigrants however. His current wife and one of his exes are immigrants, with their chain migration family members happily living here.

He found his place and his people in the "Southern Strategy" Republican party, the party of the sniveling sycophants and hypocrites who fawn and cower and are complicit in covering up his lies while undermining our democracy, because they are afraid of the wrath of his bigoted base.

He is fixated on the wall. Build the wall. Mexico will pay for the wall. It will be a big beautiful concrete wall. Or, it can be steel slats or a fence. Call it a wall or call it a barrier or call it peaches. It's being built. Finish the wall is his latest iteration.

The sad thing is the country is caught in the vortex of this horrific lie. The border is the least of our problems according to the recent Intelligence Agency Worldwide Threat Assessment, but he keeps the lie alive and we all continue to live in his alternate universe.

He lost big and decisively on the gov-

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Scene from our well-attended Holiday Party on January 19 at the home of Ray and Carolyn Waters

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ernment shutdown. Now he has declared a phony national emergency to take money appropriated for other projects for the wall. It's shameful, but Mitch McConnell and the Republicans know he is undermining the balance of powers shared by the three branches of government, yet they will not stand up for the Constitution. They instead compliment the emperor's same fake threats.

My birthday wish this President's Day is that we will get a new president who will save the country like Abraham Lincoln did, then start anew and tell no lies like George Washington.

January Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Bobbi welcomed everyone and said that the format would be a little different because we had invited the Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach Democratic city council candidates for a Town Hall, moderated by Diane Wallace, BCD member and a member of the League of Women Voters, and we will have an endorsement vote. Ballots were available throughout the meeting.

Bobbi: Before we start, I want to thank everyone who helped put on our Holiday Party and those who attended. It was great and if you missed it, please come next January. We had several electeds, including Al Muratsuchi as well as city council and school board representatives from Hermosa, Manhattan and Redondo Beach.

The government shutdown is terrible. Trump is being himself and I think Nancy Pelosi is doing a great job. Luckily, we live in California, where the Democrats control the state government.

Manhattan Beach has Measure A on the March ballot, which would allow the city to increase the hotel or bed tax to up to 14%. Bobbi read the ballot statement and said the LACDP has endorsed this measure and I would like us to endorse it as well. It was a unanimous voice vote to endorse.

Bobbi announced that the voting process was underway and it will end at 8:45, and hopefully the count will be completed by

9:00. An endorsement generally entitles the winners to receive \$100 and a robo call, but we have to vote on it. The voice vote passed.

The beach cities are holding a homeless count tonight. So, if you want to leave for that, please do.

With Diane as our moderator and Tony Salvaggio our time keeper, we collected questions from the audience and Diane fielded them. Each candidate had a 2-minute opening statement, 1 minute to answer each question and a 1-minute closing statement.

Candidates from Manhattan Beach: Wayne Powell and Hildy Stern.

Candidates from Redondo Beach: 3rd district—Christian Horvath, Candice Nafissi, 5th district—Laura Emdee.

Diane said that it was a good opportunity to act as Democrats by holding a town hall as opposed to what is happening in DC. She then repeated the rules and said that she would start at one end of the table and then reverse direction. Diane asked Wayne Powell to start with his 2-minute opening statement.

These notes are not a word for word capture of the candidates' statements, but hope to capture their main points.

Powell—Thank you. I was previously elected and in Manhattan, we have a time out before we can run again. I sat on many committees. My top priority is safety—fire and police. I have a BS in accounting, so I watch the financials like a hawk. It would be an honor to be endorsed.

Stern—Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this Town Hall. I'm new to this group and I've learned so many things. I will bring Democratic values to city council. I'm a 24 year resident, have two law degrees and one finance degree, and am a trial lawyer. Creating conversation works here. I belong to many philanthropic groups and met Bobbi at one of the New Citizens Swearing In sessions. I will bring my progressive values to city council.

Horvath—I have 3 children and am running for re-election. Local government is the most important election. I think we've done a lot to improve the quality of life in Redondo Beach.



Another scene from our January party: Bob Monzingo enhancing the festive mood at the piano

Nafissi—It's great to see you all. I've been a life-long Democrat and started voting when I was 7 and my mom would take me to the polls. I'll never leave the South Bay. I've served on 3 commissions and am a co-founder of Rescue our Waterfront. Our proposal was passed, unchanged by the California Coastal Commission.

Emdee—I've lived in the South Bay all my life. I believe in public service and volunteerism. I've been on the Redondo City Council for 4 years. People vote in the national elections, but the local elections are the ones that affect you the most. I sent out GOTV post cards to raise the low voter turnout and it worked.

Diane—Thank you all for running. The first question is—What do you consider the most pressing issue in our community that needs to be addressed and what would you do about it?

Emdee—The environment is the most important—the drought, sea level rise, storm runoff. Our quality of life is affected by the traffic and how cities are changing.

Nafissi—Redondo Beach's overdevelopment is impacting our quality of life and our traffic.

Horvath—Proactively preparing for the future—traffic and the environment. If we don't consider the effects of our decisions, we will be in trouble.

Stern—The environment, we need to consider how our life style affects us now and our children in the future. Must continue to work on this and stay on top of our issues.

Powell—The environment, keeping our small town charm, and increasing police patrols. We're experiencing an increase in

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crime.

Diane—Question 2—How long have you been, and why are you, a Democrat?

Nafissi—I am a lifelong Democrat because it supports equality. I will never change parties because it is part of who I am.

Horvath—I became a Democrat 2 years ago because of Trump. I was an Independent for 18 years, but always voted Democrat. So, I made it official.

Stern—I'm a lifelong Democrat. My parents were always explaining their values and experiences. I'm proud to be one and it is a piece of me. Everyone knows that. I work for tolerance—reaching out, helping others.

Powell—I started out a Democrat, then turned Republican, but I always voted for the best candidate. Two years ago, I registered as a Democrat to equal my voting record.

Emdee—I was raised by two Democrats. Reagan preached independence, so I registered as a Republican. Looking at the Republicans' take on science and the idea that a woman can't get pregnant if she's raped, turned me into a Democrat.

Diane—Question 3—What have you done to support Democratic candidates and/or issues, and what Democratic organizations have you supported/participated in/belonged to, etc.?

Horvath—I canvassed, phone banked for South Bay candidates. I belong to the Beach Cities Democrats.

Stern—I went to Orange County to support the 2018 Progressive candidates, registered voters, and helped Move California Forward.

Powell—I joined the Beach Cities Democrats, walked and phone banked for Kamala Harris. I have and will do anything to get Democrats elected and replace Trump.

Emdee—I helped elect Al Muratsuchi and Ben Allen.

Nafissi—I interned for Mike Gordon, Jane Harman, Ted Lieu, and Al Muratsuchi. I phone banked for Redondo Beach candidates and am a member of the Beach Cities Democrats.

Diane—Question 4—The California Democratic Party has an affordable housing plank. What is your plan for affordable housing?

Stern—Affordable housing is an interesting question for Manhattan Beach. I don't have a good answer, but I need to learn more about the problem and what can be done.

Powell—Manhattan has two senior housing facilities with low income housing and the Sunrise Facility is going in at Goat Hill. The State passed the Granny Unit law and it is difficult to say what is the best way to handle it.

Emdee—Redondo Beach has stopped expansion.

Nafissi—No more development in Redondo. The current plan for the Galleria is 20% low cost housing.

Horvath—I have a constituent that wants to stay in Redondo, but the landlord says she needs to move out and she can't find low rent housing. How do we get lower pricing?

Diane—Question 5—The latest UN Report gives us 12 years to reverse the current rate of global warming. What will you do to support efforts to reverse the climate crisis?

Powell—I'm very proud of my Sierra Club endorsement. It starts with our city—more walkable streets, electric cars—ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

Stern—I'd look at water conservation—storm water recapture, how we affect our ocean and remove waste, our own personal practices, and stay on top of the task force.

Horvath—The fight starts with you. In Redondo, we passed a Climate Action Plan. We banned leaf blowers and promoted lower emissions, electric cars, ride sharing to get out of our cars.

Nafissi—I'm endorsed by the Sierra Club. We need more Plug-ins and to stop over development and building parking structures.

Emdee—In North Redondo, we have bike paths. We've got a plan to enhance the bike path to promote walking. We need to promote having more electric cars.

Diane—Manhattan Beach Question 1—Our local Manhattan Beach schools face continued funding challenges even with



January speakers Wayne Powell, Hildy Stern, Christian Horvath, Candace Nafissi, Laura Emdee

voters approving the Measure MB parcel tax and bond issues. What is your commitment and ideas to grow the city of Manhattan Beach's support for our public schools?

Powell—When I was mayor, we started sharing facilities to share revenue.

Stern—The city's partnership with the school district is strong. The city provides funds for making schools safer.

Diane—Manhattan Beach Question 2—If elected, what is the first new business you will bring forward?

Stern—We have neighborhood quality of life issues with the Short-Term Rentals. How do we more effectively regulate these rentals?

Powell—I'd look at public safety. City Council is looking at going with LA County Fire. It's a safety issue we need to explore.

Diane—Redondo Beach Question 1—What is your stance on outsourcing the fire department in Redondo Beach?

Emdee—I am definitely against outsourcing the fire department. It's about local control.

Nafissi—I value safety, but you also need to look at the dollars.

Horvath—I supported the survey with LA County, which we must do to be responsible. I'll make a decision after the survey.

Diane—Redondo Beach Question 2—Where are you going to get the \$9 million to pay off the Fun factory lease?

Horvath—Redondo has been re-acquiring leaseholds. The \$9 million is coming from new leaseholds.

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Nafissi—I wasn't on City Council then and I don't have a firm answer on where the money is coming from. I will be sure I know funding before I vote on a project.

Emdee—Christian has said where the money is coming from. The Fun Factory owner was a pornographer and has problems.

Diane—Redondo Beach Question 3—What are your plans to promote new business in Redondo?

Emdee—When you sell your house, you spruce it up. I've been sprucing up Artesia to attract new businesses.

Nafissi—I'm a former LA Chamber staffer. I think we need small businesses and look forward to working with the Redondo Chamber. People want small businesses.

Horvath—When we re-invest in the city, we attract businesses. The networking falls to the Chamber and other organizations. It's a partnership between the city, the businesses and the Chamber.

Diane—Now, we will have 1-minute closing statements.

Emdee—I'm running for a 2nd term. I'm an

environmentalist and I want to promote community engagement and listen to all sides and not dismiss any one group.

Nafissi—I am endorsed by Ted Lieu, Bill Brand and Todd Loewenstein. I look forward to bringing government back to the residents.

Horvath—This will be my final term. We got a lot done. We may disagree, but we get things done.

Stern—Women need to step up and I've been supporting that in 2018. I'm ready to step up and bring Democratic values to Manhattan Beach. I'm grateful for the work you've done.

Powell—The beach cities need to work together. I will continue to work for Manhattan Beach and all of the South Bay.

Bobbi thanked everyone for their participation. She noted that the ADEM election is in RPV at Hesse Park, with voting between 1:00 and 3:00. Any registered Democrat can vote. The representatives from the two slates will give their brief comments.

Tony Hale—Victory 2020 Slate—Sunday we're voting for who will vote for us in the

2020 state and local elections. Grassroots progressives could change party rules. It happened last time by eliminating the Super Delegates. I am also running for Executive Board. I'm a good choice because I get people elected. I have many endorsements because I get Democrats elected. We want to fight the Republicans and not the Democrats.

Doug Bender—Grassroots 66—I'm with the Grassroots 66 slate. It is a diverse slate with people from throughout the South Bay. We don't have a lot of endorsements because there are new people. We worked on the 2018 campaigns. The election is democracy in action—vote for the Slate or for individuals. I'm an engineer and now an environmentalist and worked with Indivisible. I'm very proud of our work.

Bobbi—We finished the counting and we will endorse Wayne Powell and Hildy Stern. Both received the required 60% of the votes cast. They will each get \$100 and a robo call.

The Redondo candidates did not get the required percentage and will not be endorsed.

The meeting adjourned.