



Next Meeting

Our upcoming July meeting will include endorsements — please plan to attend!

Wednesday, July 22
7:00 PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
710 Pier Ave
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
Upper level, Room #4

Our featured speaker will be Nanette Barragan, Hermosa Beach Mayor.

Our endorsements will include the following:

We will vote on whether to support:

- Al Muratsuchi in his bid to retake the 66th Assembly District;
- Community Choice Clean Power;
- A letter from Food & Water Watch on Fracking

We will report on the 6/28 fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi and provide an update on our August fundraiser

Please Note

We are planning two date changes for upcoming meetings:
We have changed the September 23 meeting to September 16 in honor of Yom Kippur, and our
November 25th meeting to
November 18 in honor of Thanksgiving.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Democracy vs. Mob Rule



This last month has provided us with a critical reminder of the role and importance of our Supreme Court. By clearly recognizing the fundamental right of gay and lesbian couples to marry (WHOOHOO!!!!), the Court illustrated the crucial role that it plays in making democracy something more than mob rule. For while we all reflexively avow our support for "one person, one vote," the reality is that the rights of minorities are often trampled under such a system without the countervailing force of an institution that stands up for the inalienable rights of each individual, regardless of popular opinion.

It's very interesting to me that conservative scholars claim to both owe deep allegiances to the Constitution and to decry "judicial activism." To me, those are quite contradictory stances. The purpose of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is largely protection of the individual, which is also the primary aim of "judicial activism." Chief Justice Roberts says that the role of a Supreme Court justice should be to "call balls and strikes, and not pitch or bat."

But I tend to agree with Luther Swygert, U.S. Federal Judge and Chief Justice on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, who wrote, "Judicial activism... connotes a liberal approach so as to read into legal norms the essence of due process and equal protection under the law. Those are the two most fundamental concepts of individual rights embraced by

the Constitution." I find it amazing that those who claim to hold our Constitution and Bill of Rights most dear appear to have missed the point of both so completely!

I remember being startled years ago when I heard Iran referred to as a democracy. Technically, it's an Islamic Republic, but in fact there are many semblances of democracy in their election process. However, there is no concept in their republic of either the separation of church and state or of inalienable rights assigned to an individual. The collective, and in particular the Muslim code of ethics and behavior as currently interpreted by the majority of the state's religious leaders, trumps any idea of human rights.

Ironically, this is not too far from the idea that human rights should be superseded by the moral and social norms of fundamentalist Christians in America simply because they are affronted by behaviors that vary significantly from their beliefs. Democracy can often lead to norms trumping rights. In 2008 Californians passed Proposition 8, a ballot measure that eliminated the right of same-sex couples to marry. Yet the Supreme Court just affirmed that that violates a right that was established almost 150 years ago, with the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution in 1868, to equal protection of all Americans under the law.

The Supreme Court has, in recent years, offered verdicts that both elated and dismayed us (we're talking about you, "Citizen's United"!). That just reinforces the importance of both the composition of the court and establishing shared expectations about what the proper role and purview of the court should be. As Daily Kos recently pointed out, likely

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retirements of Justices based on age are most likely to affect the liberal and moderate wings of the court (with the notable exception of Scalia, whom we will all celebrate the departure of).

The ages of the seated Justices are:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 82
 Antonin Scalia, 79
 Anthony Kennedy, 78
 Steven Breyer, 76
 Clarence Thomas, 66
 Samuel Alito, 65
 John Roberts, 60
 Sonia Sotomayor, 60
 Elena Kagan, 54

In short, the President we elect in 2016 will have the opportunity to secure or relinquish our individual liberties for decades to come, depending on whom they nominate to the Supreme Court. This may well be more important than any individual piece of legislation or trade policy they will be tasked with. Let's make sure it's someone who supports the rights of all of us as individuals, not just the popular will.

Yours,
 Kathryn E. Campbell
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New Club Officers

Here are our new Board officers, voted in during our June meeting:

Kathryn Campbell, President
 Dency Nelson, Vice-President
 Tom Cares, Secretary
 Edna Murphy, Treasurer

We congratulate them and thank them for their services!

June Recap

Minutes from the meeting courtesy of Tom Cares

Officer Reports

Vice President Dency Nelson announced that Hermosa Beach Mayor Nanette Barragan will be resigning her post early to focus on her run for the 44th Congressional District.

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's report. The federal account had a balance of \$1856 and the state account had a balance of \$525.

Secretary Teresa Bird was absent due to illness. The minutes of the May meeting were approved in her absence.

Election of 2015/2016 Officers

Nominating Committee Chair Ray Waters was out of town, so Dency Nelson provided the committee's recommended slate. The recommendations were: Kathryn Campbell for President, Dency Nelson for Vice President, Tom Cares for Secretary, and Edna Murphy for treasurer.

Incumbents Kathryn Campbell, Dency Nelson and Edna Murphy were elected by acclamation.

Recommended candidate for Secretary Tom Cares spoke, introducing himself more and making his appeal to be elected to the Secretary position. Tom Cares was subsequently elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

President Kathryn Campbell thanked the members for their support and moved on to speak about the board's goal to continue to increase diversity in membership and to maintain respect and collegiality in regard to minority views, and tolerance for intellectual freedom.

Reports from Local Electeds

Redondo Beach Councilmember and



Top: Redondo Beach Councilmember Bill Brand; Below: Joey Apodaca, Field Representative for Congressman Ted Lieu

BCD member Bill Brand addressed the club with an update on happenings in the City of Redondo Beach. Pointing at the AES power plant stacks through the window, he noted that it's currently operating at around 2% capacity, that the most modern piece of it was built in the late 1960s, and that since the state won't let them use the ocean to cool it, it has lost its functionality. He informs the club that AES is pursuing building a new plant and that he and others have opposed their pursuit of a new license.

Brand warns that the new plant would increase fine particulate emissions over 10 times to 50 tons, as well as drastically

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increasing NOx and greenhouse gas emissions. He notes that exposure to fine particulate emissions kills about 10,000 Californians every year, twice the toll of breast cancer. Brand then concluded by taking questions, which mostly pertained to the power plant.

June Program: Courage Campaign

Tim Molina from Courage Campaign addressed the club. He introduced Courage Campaign as an issue advocacy group working on quite a few issues. He spoke about the "Make It Fair" campaign regarding Prop 13 property taxes (www.MakeItFairCA.com), then spoke about Californians Against Fracking (www.CaliforniansAgainstFracking.org). He then concluded addressing Courage Campaign initiatives encouraging tap over bottled water and a moratorium on bottled water procured from public lands.

Next, Joey Apodaca, Field and Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Ted Lieu, spoke about the recent oil spill, and the attention Rep. Lieu brought to the implicit necessity of liability trust funds, against which Republicans had been "chipping away" at corporate contribution obligations. He further talked about the movement for a federal version of AB 32, California's landmark legislation for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. He then highlighted Lieu's accomplishment in introducing a federal ban of "gay conversion therapy," which prompted President Obama to come out in favor of such a ban for the first time.

New Business

Former Hermosa Beach Councilman Jeff Duclos announced his candidacy for Hermosa City Council. He lamented the current council's dysfunction, and spoke about his hope to rejoin the council as either an appointee or an elected official.

Connie Sullivan spoke about the harms of using hydrofluoric acid at the Torrance refinery and announced that she would



Left, Al Muratsuchi speaking to the crowd at Dency and Moira Nelson's Green Home at our June 28 fundraiser. Above: Nanette Barragan with BCD friends. Below, Dency introducing Al to a large and friendly audience at the event.

be speaking about this at CalEPA refinery safety forums taking place on the upcoming Monday and Tuesday evenings, noting her expectation that most speakers would address issues with dust and asthma, with deficient attention given to the harms of using hydrofluoric acid.

Kathryn Campbell announced an upcoming fundraiser for former Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi and a planned BCD fundraiser in August. We could use help in preparing and running the August event!

It was also announced that the September meeting would be moved to

9/16 due to Yom Kippur, the November meeting would be moved to 11/18 due to Thanksgiving, and that the December meeting will most likely be canceled as in previous years.

Kathryn then spoke of an upcoming County Committee vote on whether to expedite an endorsement for the District 4 County Supervisor race that might allow for early endorsements for Rep. Janice Hahn for that position.

Adjournment



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