

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

June, 2005

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Our June speaker will be someone from the California Clean Money Campaign.

AB 583, For Clean Money and Fair Elections, sets up clean money public financing for all statewide and legislative races in California. It will allow voters to take control over politics because the public, not private interests, pays for election campaigns. It is patterned after the successful and popular systems working in other states.

Don't forget to come and vote in the new officers!

Club Elections in June

At the May meeting, Bobbi presented the slate of new officers: President—Lee Fink; Vice-president—Tony Hale; Secretary—Kathleen Paralusz; Treasurer—Edna Murphy. Barbara Blum will continue to chair the membership committee with new co-chair Peggy Carter. The nominating committee was made up of past presidents Bobbi, Mustapha, and Lori.

We will hold our election at the June meeting and as always, nominations from the floor are welcome.

Dues Are Payable

Please note that membership dues are due in June. \$20.00 per individual, \$35 for two at the same address, plus an additional \$2.00 per person for CDC membership. We cannot afford to keep sending the newsletter to lapsed members, so be sure to renew.



Join us for an evening Fundraiser

ESCAPE TO ITALY

Saturday July 9, 2005
6:00 PM (dress for outdoors)
439 S. Prospect, Manhattan Beach

Gourmet Chefs: Sander & Ranoo Shipper, Sally Boyle and Diane Strack

Cost: \$ 25, Cash Bar

Hostess: Jane Affonso

RSVP: Ranoo Shipper at
ranooshipper@hotmail.com
or Sally Boyle at 310-376-5717

All adults over 16 welcome
Make check payable to BCDC

Send check to:

Sander Shipper, 448 23rd Street
Manhattan Beach

Act, and current legislation.

Saturday, June 25, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, at Los Angeles City College. RSVP at 213-368-1616. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Yard Sale!

Saturday, June 25
Barbara Blum's house
858 Avenue C
Redondo Beach
To donate items, please call Sally Boyle at 310-376-5717.

Local Democrats Honored

The Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 26, at the historic Hollywood Palladium. This year, the 53rd AD will be honoring Ani Haigazian and James Lau. We must have our reservations in by June 20. Tickets are \$75. If you plan to attend, please call Bobbi at 545-7890.

Other Events

The **California Democratic Council** will hold their annual Convention June 17-19 in San Bernardino. If you are interested in attending, contact Herb Engstrom at engstrom@sccdpc.org.

The **League of Women Voters** will be hosting a dialogue on civil liberties as part of their program *Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities*. The program will include speakers on security risks in Southern California, the fiscal impact of homeland security, the USA Patriot



Bobbi congratulates Ani Haigazian, voted Democratic Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles County Democratic Committee, 53rd Assembly District.

From the President

My Dear Democrats:



I thank you all for the wonderful privilege and opportunity it has been to serve as your president for the past three years. It has truly been an incredible adventure, and being a serious traveler, I have thoroughly enjoyed the wild ride.

How could I have guessed at the highs and lows of this all consuming experience we call democracy?

Being a part of the Beach Cities Democratic Club has given me so much hope for the future. I now know first hand how much people care about their country and its people, and how willing they are to give of themselves to make it the best it can be.

We have been through so much and shared so many memories. We have grown as a club in size and strength. We have registered and helped to educate voters. We have worked tirelessly to elect Democrats. We have cheered when we won and cried bitter tears at heartbreaking losses. We have protested injustice and war. We have fought for our environment and Mother Earth. In short, "We the people" have done what good citizens are expected to do. And through it all, we have been blessed to have shared this time in our lives with such wonderful people, our BCDC family.

There are so many people who have contributed to the success of the club and worked ceaselessly on all our campaigns and myriad activities.

I want to thank all the officers who have served with me and helped me. They have made these years fun and fulfilling. Vice President: Bob Bohner and Lee Fink; Secretary: Barbara Blum and Kathleen Paralusz; Treasurer: Shirlee Browne and Edna Murphy,
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May Recap

Media Reform and EMILY's List

Tony Hale reported on the National Conference on Media Reform which he attended in St. Louis on May 13-15. More than 2,000 media activists attended the event hosted by Free Press, a non-partisan organization for media reform. The conference included workshops, panels, films, and performances around the issues of media access, organizing, and policy. Tony organized the California caucus and attended workshops on media ownership and consolidation, Framing and Messaging, and the Telecommunications Act.

Speakers and panelists included Air America's Al Franken, Amy Goodman of Democracy Now!, Bill Moyers, authors Jim Hightower and Naomi Klein, and Medea Benjamin.

Moyers closed the weekend with his first public speech since leaving PBS six months ago. He slammed Corporation for Public Broadcasting chair

Kenneth Tomlinson for towing the Bush administration party line and challenged him to an hourlong debate on the future of public broadcasting.

The conference was not without internal differences. When Free Press co-founder Robert McChesney asked if the goal was to replace the icons of the right like Rush Limbaugh with lefty front-men like Al Franken, the sold-out crowd raucously cheered their affirmation. McChesney then explained why that was the wrong answer and that true media reform required reaching more constituencies.

Howard Dean has asked George Lakoff, author of the popular book "Don't Think About an Elephant," to reframe the Democratic message nationally. Republicans have been fram-



Kathleen Paralusz describes campaigning workshop

Club Business

Bob Bohner has been appointed to the Manhattan Beach Planning Commission. We also have two Democrats on the Redondo Beach City Council: Don Szerlip and Steve Aspel.

Bobbi reported that the Los Angeles County Democratic Committee has changed the rules to let more people become involved. They voted in some new members at the last meeting.

Mustapha reported that the 53rd AD Committee discussed the clean money campaign and campaign finance laws at their last meeting.

Linda Wolin (not present at the meeting) sent news that Mike Gordon is still recovering at home. Bracelets to honor the ailing legislator were offered to BCDC members for a voluntary donation to the National Brain Tumor

Foundation in San Francisco.



Thanking our Volunteers

In wrapping up our successful Cinco de Mayo event, Ranoo Shipper gave enthusiastic thanks to the people who made it happen: Bobbi Buescher—MC; Sally Boyle; Sander Shipper; Shizue Mc Nay; Steve Colin; Diane Strack; Peggy Carter; Ray Waters; Mark Drabkin; Scott Haas; John Mc Nay; Amy Ray; Mary Scott Belgraph; John Clifford; Jane Affonso, Marija Kosanovich.

ing (i.e., controlling) the message, and progressives must learn to explain our perspective without reinforcing the right-wing argument.

More on the conference can be found at freepress.net/conference/.

Kathleen Paralusz reported on a campaigning workshop she attended through EMILY's list. The grassroots political group is committed to electing pro-choice Democratic women to federal, state, and local office. They recruit and train viable women candidates, helping them run effective campaigns



Tony Hale talks about the National Conference on Media Reform

and mobilize women voters. Until EMILY's List was founded in 1985, no Democratic woman had ever been elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right, no woman

had ever been elected governor of a large state, and the number of Democratic women in the House of Representatives had declined to 12—less than three percent of the chamber's 435 members. Since then, the organization has helped elect 61 Democratic pro-choice members of Congress, 11 senators, and eight governors. EMILY's List has also become the largest financial resource for minority women seeking federal office.

EMILY is an acronym for "Early Money Is Like Yeast" (it helps raise the dough). The group's founders realized that early fundraising success made women credible candidates and gave them the best shot at winning.

Running for elected office can be daunting, but Kathleen said she received invaluable guidance on the how-tos of campaigning, free of charge.

She has been appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission and is planning to run for Manhattan Beach City Council.



tions aimed at saving the funding for PBS and NPR, which they intend to phase out over the next 2 years!

You can reach the chairmen of the House Subcommittee addressing this issue: Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) San Bernardino: (202) 225-5861, 800-233-1700; Vice-Chairman Ralph Regula (R-OH): (202) 225-3876. A petition link can be found at commoncause.org/site/pp.asp.



Monroe's Corner

There is much to concern us about our planet Earth. Top of the list must be Global Warming &

climate change. If we destroy our climate, then we commit suicide. Unfortunately President Dubya takes a dim view of environmental controls and doesn't believe there is such a condition known as Global Warming.

So now let us look at our USA environmental policies. The world's people know that atmospheric changes & climate variations endanger us all, our health, our economy, our natural resources; and the future of our children. 190 of the world's countries have made a first step toward some action, with only the USA & Australia refusing to join in the scientific consensus, the Kyoto Protocol. Sea water is rising to flood proportions; oceanic imbalance has impacted the food chain badly; crop yields are negatively affected; animal species are changing habitats & dying rapidly; droughts have affected many fertile areas.

There is one partial resolution that offers some hope. It is a system for producers & countries to trade ratios with one another to limit the spewing of carbon gases into the atmosphere. Our President says that we need to know more about Global Warming before we can deal with this phenomenon effectively. President Dubya feels it is unfair to the USA (the biggest offender).

As a matter of fact, this administration has lowered pollution standards in favor of major industries. Interior Secretary Gale Norton has streamlined the energy production process at the expense of spectacular natural Western resources, which incidentally is killing a great many cattle. We've also opened the use of national park land for lum-

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BCDC Goes to the Fair

Again this year, we had a booth (*photo, right*) at the Hermosa Fiesta May 28—30. We registered voters and signed up new members. Thanks go to Jim Aldinger for setting up the booth and to Barbara Blum and Peggy Carter for coordinating the volunteers.

Thanking our Friends

Thank you to the West LA Democratic Club for their generous \$400 donation to help pay for the slate cards we sent out during the Manhattan and Redondo Beach elections.

Help Save Public Broadcasting

BY DIANE STRACK

It seems the Republicans are determined to discontinue funding of all social programs! I guess if Big Bird were quoting the Bible, he would warrant further funding. Please sign all peti-

Barbara Blum—310-540-6346
Membership
James McGreevy—310-320-1638
Web Manager
Tammy Minion—310-406-8057
Mailing
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Database
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Newsletter
Kathleen Paralusz—310-621-3734
Secretary/Publicity
Shirlee Browne—310-798-0908
Treasurer
Lee Fink—310-370-3020
Vice-President
Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890
President
P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

*Beach Cities
Democratic Club*



(President, continued from page 2)

who recently joined the cabinet; Membership Chairperson: Bob Barnwell and Barbara Blum.

I know I speak for everyone when I thank our fabulous Newsletter Editor, Moira Zucker, for all her hard work and dedication to excellence in making our newsletter the very best there is. And, thank you Monroe Weinstock for always delivering a thoughtful and interesting perspective on the issues of the day. Thanks also to Tammy Minion who has taken over the big job of mailing the newsletters, and those lovely ladies before her, Mary Lou Elsner and Marge Winston, whom we have lost, but whose warmth and kindness will always be with us.

Mailings and much, much more would not be possible without the time and attention to detail that Steve Zucker puts into his position of Database Manager. Thank you Steve for all your efforts.

Jim McGreevy has done a great job being our Web Manager, creating an

interesting and user friendly web site. Thank you Jim.

Peggy Carter is everybody's favorite hostess. Thanks for keeping us in yummy treats and for your happy smile.

My thanks to our Past President Lori Geittmann for all her help and advice.

There are so many others, Patrick, Ray, Jim, Mustapha, Teresa, Anne, Larry, Ani, Ranoo, Sander, Tony, Bill, Bob, John, Jackie, Lillian, Scott, Al, Irma, Mark, Vi, Dency, Chuck, Marija, Dilip, Lisa, who have worked and helped and meant so much to me. I'm thrilled to see our new people, Diane, Sally, Barbara, Shizue and Steve stepping forward to contribute their time and talents. To you, and to all the wonderful members I have not room to mention, you have enriched my life immeasurably and I thank you all for the good work you have done and for your friendship.

The Beach Cities Democratic Club is a very special place with very special

people. I leave it now in the knowledge that I have done my very best, in Lee Fink's most capable hands.

Bobbi Buescher

(Monroe, continued from page 3)

ber removal & oil drilling.

This administration has disregarded environmental damage; ordered ecologists to remove science-based recommendations from official reports; rejected qualified scientists from advisory positions; and censored or suppressed our government's scientists. Fortunately for us all, this administration cannot repeal or control the laws of chemistry and physics.

All this leaves us with a picture of Godzilla striding across the world's cities' horizons, crumbling everything in its wake.

Perhaps our President feels he must have a direct commandment or sign from the Almighty, on the order of a cataclysmic flood or fire or both!

Monroe Weinstock
