

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

August, 2009

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, August 26
7:30 PM

Once again we're going to focus on pending health care legislation and the appalling actions of the right to block reform. Something can be done to get the facts out and counter those lies about euthanasia and the rest.

We will hear from community organizer Linda Green, formerly with the Obama Presidential campaign, and Jeff Gabriel, Regional Field Director – Organizing for America.

We will also have updates from the representatives of our elected officials, and candidates for the upcoming local elections including our own Ray Waters, who is running for School Board in Hermosa Beach.

Don't miss this important meeting!

Local Democrats Honored

Many of our BCDC members turned out for the annual Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Awards dinner on Sunday, August 9 at the Airport Radisson Hotel. Our own Edna Murphy and Dency Nelson were honored as Democratic Woman and Man of the Year. *Left to Right by row:* Dency, Edna; LA Democratic Party Chair Eric Bauman, Vi Mullins and Janni Ekstrand; Dale Petrulius, Bobbi Buescher, and Peter Niemiec, Mustapha Sesay and Rocky Delgadillo; Teresa Bird; Ted Lieu with Dency Nelson and friends.



From our Former BCDC President

Friends,

I wanted to send along an update to everyone about what I am up to these days. When I joined the Obama campaign last summer, the most common question I heard is what would I do after the election, and the only answer I had was that I did not know. Now I do.

For the last several months, I have been working at the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, which is the agency that is responsible for filling up all the political appointments in the Administration. It was, however, a temporary position, basically helping out in the early days to help get people in the government in place, and with

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Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

One question my environmentally conscientious friends are always asking me is, "When can I get a plug-in electric vehicle?"



My answer is always, "Soon, I hope; maybe within the next couple of years." My faith in that answer was greatly increased this week after attending "Plug-In 2009" at the Long Beach Convention Center. There were many exciting automotive developments on display, including the Chevrolet Volt and the Nissan Leaf. We might see the Extended-Range Plug-in Hybrid Electric Volt in the showrooms by the end of 2010, the fully electric Leaf and others as early as 2011. That news, and the \$2.4 billion in economic-stimulus funding for 48 new advanced-battery and electric-drive projects announced the first week of August by President Obama, has me in a very "glass-half-full" mood. For the most comprehensive listing of all of the current and anticipated plug-in electric vehicles, I urge you to visit www.pluginamerica.org

and click on the "Plug-In Vehicle Tracker" box on the left side of the page. It has everything you'll want to know about these cars, trucks, and two- and three-wheeled vehicles, and it is updated every three weeks or so.

Now for the bad news. We are losing the battle to combat climate change. The level of commitment the world's nations have made to reverse the damage that we humans inflict upon the planet day after day, year after year, is a one step forward, two steps back scenario. That is what makes the number 350 and the October 24, 2009, International Day of Climate Action so vitally important. If you haven't heard of 350, you can visit www.350.org for the whole story. In a nutshell, 350 is the number of parts per million of CO₂ in our atmosphere that scientists have determined to be the maximum level compatible with the continued survival of life on Earth as we know it. We were already at 387 ppm in July, and we are just about at 390 ppm as I write. We are causing irreversible damage to our planet at these levels.

From December 7 to 18, delegates, NGOs, and businesses from every nation

will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, to forge a new global climate change agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol. Saturday October 24 is an opportunity for millions of people around the world to let the attendees heading for Copenhagen know that the whole world is watching, that we care, and that we demand strong, enforceable actions to save us from this crisis. Here in the Beach Cities, the "South Bay 350 Climate Action Group" has already held two monthly planning meetings to organize our events for that day. It's going to be big, it's going to have an impact, and if you want to be a part of it you need to jump on board now. The ways in which every citizen can participate in the day will be posted in next month's newsletter, but if you want to be involved in the planning or have some ideas of your own, you have to act now. To do that, and for more information, contact BCDC member and Chairman of the South Bay Climate Action Group, Joe Galliani. You can email him at mrjoe@mrjoe.com, or you can get in touch with me for more information or to be put on my "Friends of Hermosa Beach Green Building" email list. My email address is DLN52@verizon.net.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

If space permitted, I could write about the crying need for a SINGLE PAYER UNIVERSAL



HEALTHCARE PROGRAM; the extended & un-winnable WAR ON TERROR; the Schwarzenegger budget fiasco; the on-coming GLOBAL WARMING DISASTER. But I ain't goin' to any of these places. At my age, it is safe for me to approach two prominent ladies...at the same time.

To begin, there is Judge Sonia Sotomayor, comfortably elected to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. She was first a zealous prosecutor & then one of the

highest rated Federal Judges (by the American Bar Assn.). She is well respected for her integrity, her professional competence & her judicial temperament. She grew up in a Bronx, N.Y. neighborhood that I know quite well (it is where I grew up as a teenager). She proves that a LATINA with moxie & brains can rise from the depths of society (Puerto Rican living in a Publicly Supported Housing Project). Considering the abusive reaction of the Republicans to any & all Obama choices, I think that his next Court appointment should be a "red-hot LEFTY" so that he can shove it down the throat of the "raw meat RIGHT WING NUT white guys."

My second lady is the attractive, inarticulate, unintelligent, undereducated former Alaska Governor, Sarah Palin.

Sarah Palin has almost nothing to show for accomplishment & is thin skinned to the point of being "kooky." Her public record includes many fights with the media, some illegal acceptance of contributions, questionable building contracts in return for personal favors & money. After having resigned, there are many options open for her: (a) Write a book; (b) Go on a speaking tour; (c) Have a ghost written syndicated column; (d) Join Fox/News TV/Radio; (e) Accept licensing advertising. And if she runs for President, she has the problem of not having ONE IDEA. Rumor has it that she is now writing her memoirs titled: Gosh, GollyYou Betcha...about a woman with extremely limited vocabulary who could have been VP of the USA.

July Recap

Lori Geittmann presided this month and much of the evening's program focused on the pending health care issues.

Jessica Duboff from Jane Harman's office gave an overview and answered questions about the health care bill now before Congress. Harman voted against an amendment to HR 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, offered by members of the Blue Dog Coalition, saying that it significantly weakens a key provision of the bill, the public health insurance option. She opposed the Coalition's so-called "trigger" on the public option and said she hopes Congress will pass the "most robust possible public option – which I believe is the key to fostering competition, quality, availability, and affordability of health insurance."

There was discussion of the new Democratic Humane Caucus. Their mission is to increase sensitivity to animal cruelty, raise awareness of humane alternatives, and influence public policy. Their issues include criminal cruelty to animals, neglect and abandonment, institutionalized cruelty toward farm and research animals, and wild animal abatement. For more information, go to humanecaucus.org.

Two Assembly candidates from the Torrance Democratic Club were introduced: Peter Thottam, who spoke at our June meeting, and Manhattan Beach City Councilman Mitch Ward.

There was a brief discussion of medical marijuana. Recent polls show that over 40% of Americans think that marijuana should be taxed and regulated like alcohol; and it's closer to 50% among Democrats, independents, adults under



July meeting at our temporary location at Manhattan Bread & Bagel. This month's meeting was presided over by Lori Geittmann.

age 30, and other groups. This is an issue on which politicians can be counted on to follow, not lead, public opinion. But some at last are saying publicly that legalizing marijuana needs to be on the table. The club passed a motion to support legalizing medical marijuana.

Announcements

The statewide Democratic Convention will be held next April in Los Angeles. One Super delegate seat is open in California; interested candidates can go to cadem.org for more information.

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Awards Banquet is honoring Edna Murphy and Dency Nelson. Tickets are \$90 and Club members who attend will be reimbursed half the cost.

Tony Hale said that Remote Area Medical (RAM), an organization that provides medical care to people in remote areas of the third world, has begun servicing areas across America. From

August 11th through August 18th, RAM will be providing basic medical services to people in the LA area at the Inglewood Forum. Nothing could illustrate more clearly the need for health care reform with a strong public option than the image of thousands of Americans standing in line for basic medical assistance.

Ray Waters announced that he is running for Hermosa Beach School Board.

Dency Nelson announced that the City of Hermosa Beach voted 5 – 0 in favor of installing wind turbines in the city. Also, there is to be a Day of Action on October 24, sponsored by a group called 350.org. They are an international campaign dedicated to promoting solutions to the climate crisis. Their mission is to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the crisis—to create a new sense of urgency and possibility for our planet. Their website, www.350.org, provides details of the event including a nine-step organizing plan.

Notes for this report courtesy of Sam Ingram



President
(open)
Vice-President (interim)
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
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Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
Sam Ingram—310-977-4430
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Beach Cities
Democratic Club



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the hope that I would also be appointed to a place in the administration (kind of like “pulling a Cheney”). I now have another out-of-this-world opportunity.

As of last Monday, I was appointed the Director of Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs at NASA. I am responsible for various legislative outreach activities and NASA’s relationships with state and local governments and members of Congress.

A lot of people ask where I will be, and NASA is headquartered in Washington, just a few blocks from the Capitol. Of course, the new posting means that I won’t get home to California as often as I would like, but the chance to serve the country in this administration is a great honor and opportunity, and I will try to stay in touch and catch up whenever I am back home. Please stay in touch and let me know if you are in or going to be in the DC-area.

I will soon be moving to the Capitol Hill area. In the meantime, below is the best contact information for me in DC:

Lee Fink
leekfink@alum.calberkeley.org
310-809-7279 (cell)
NASA Headquarters, 202-358-0357

Tribute Jackie Decker

*“And in the end it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”
Abraham Lincoln*

Jackie Decker was my friend for many years. We were young together and our love of being aware of our history was the connection. For a time then, we shared many fun times working as volunteers for the Democratic Party. Both of us met when we joined a Democratic Club in the South Bay. Jackie cut men’s hair (which was rare for women at the time, late 60’s). I was raising a family and right away we became friends.

After a few years, we lost touch, but then we met again, when the City of Torrance was having a heated election and I was involved in Jim Aldinger’s election for Assembly. She brought her son Scott to Jim’s campaign and Lori Geittmann said a Jackie Decker was active in Progressives in the South Bay and that she mentioned my name. Well, we got together and it was like all those years ago were like a minute in time. We had a second chance of a wonderful friendship revived.

It met a lot to both of us and I will always cherish that second chance to have Jackie back in my life. I only wish we could have had more years together, but the times we had will never be forgotten!

Teresa Bird