



Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, August 24
7:30 PM

DUES ARE PAYABLE

BCDC memberships for the new fiscal year are due and payable. The BCDC year goes from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$25 per person or \$40 for two at the same address.

Please bring your check to the July meeting or send it in to the club at PO Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

Roosevelt Dinner Honoring 2011 Democrats of the Year

The LACDP Roosevelt Dinner honoring our 2011 Democrats of the Year will take place Saturday, August 27, 2011 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel by LAX, 6101 W. Century Blvd. A reception and silent auction start at 6:00 PM and the dinner and awards program begin at 7:00 PM.

At the event we will honor a man and a woman from each Assembly District in LA County as the Democrat of the Year. Anne Faas and Mark Saltzburg are the honorees from our district. Many BCDC members have signed up to share a table at the event and congratulate these hard working Democrats.

Join with other community leaders and special friends to support this event and to help recognize our honorees. The deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, August 22, 2011.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Before picking up where I left off with my "sustainable day" report in last month's column, I want to do a little "civic pride" bragging about recent actions taken by the City of Hermosa Beach. At a couple of meetings in July and August, the city council renewed or initiated fee waivers for installation permits and inspections for photovoltaic solar panels, small wind turbines, and electric vehicle charging stations.



They have also renewed free parking at downtown metered spaces for zero emission electric and CNG vehicles and voted to provide free parking permits for these same zero emissions vehicles on residential streets in Hermosa Beach. In addition, the city has entered into an agreement with Coulomb Technologies to install a total of 4 electric vehicle parking stations on upper Pier Avenue and at City Hall. The city has also granted permission for the first of what we hope will be many community garden sites within the city. Congratulations and thanks to the City of Hermosa Beach! We are making headway toward our sustainability goals, one step at a time!

When I left off last month, I had just finished dressing and was about to come downstairs to start my work day. Before going downstairs, however, I always step out onto our roof deck to check the meter on my photovoltaic solar inverter to see how much free electricity my solar panels have already made for us that day. (I'll also look out at the view to see if by some

chance any more of my neighbors have considered putting solar panels on their roofs. All those roofs without solar are just lost opportunities for the people living under them and for the planet!) I then check the temperature and the status of the hot water in our roof deck hot tub, sanitized chemical-free by an ultraviolet lamp and a "Nature2" Silver Ion Sanitizer. That water is heated to over 105 degrees and pumped free of charge and free of emissions by a set of thermal and photovoltaic solar panels dedicated to this purpose, separate from our other rooftop array.

Once I'm downstairs, my daily tasks include checking to see if the "BioBag" dog-waste bags that I hang out on the wall by the front of our house for all dog walkers to use need to be replenished. These bags, like the trash bags we use, are made from completely compostable and degradable corn-based material. They contain no petroleum and pose no danger to marine or other wildlife. Once again, as I mentioned in last month's column, it's much easier than it used to be to find these products on retail store shelves or online. We get most of ours through www.ecoproducts.com.

Moira has usually cleaned the cat's litter box by now, replacing the biodegradable liners if necessary and refilling it with grain-based "Swheatscoop" kitty litter. (Both of these products can be found at Petco or just about any other pet supply store.) She has also taken any of the indoor compost bin scraps down to the backyard composting bin. Just about everything from the kitchen—coffee grounds to banana peels—goes into the composter, minimizing what goes down the garbage disposal, down the drain or into the trash. We rarely have much

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garbage to put out. We have hosted two large gatherings of 80 people or so over the past couple of years, with full food and drink, and after each of these events, had no more than about one-third of a 33-gallon can of trash to dispose of. Plates, utensils, glasses and cups, bottles, napkins and food waste were either reused, recycled or composted. It was really not that hard to achieve this result and very satisfying at the end of the day!

Another of Moira's daily tasks is cleaning up after our dog in the backyard. Again, non-petroleum-based biodegradable or at least "Seventh Generation"

recycled plastic bags are used for accumulating the dog waste. The permeable walkways we have in the yard and the drought-tolerant plantings are washed down and watered from the four 50-gallon rain barrels we have for this purpose. I'm about to purchase a couple more, as 200 gallons of captured and recycled water doesn't go nearly far enough. I harvest the water for these barrels primarily when we empty the hot tub from time to time. Since this water is chemical-free as described above, it is just fine for watering, washing down the walkways, refilling our solar-powered backyard fountain, etc. And, the pump for removing the water from these barrels is also solar powered.

None of this irrigation and cleaning has any negative impact on the environment, or uses any precious fresh water.

To be continued next month—but before I end, I want to remind you to check out "Moveable Planet South Bay," a fun, family-friendly celebration of a more bikeable, walkable Beach Cities, on Saturday, September 24, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Manhattan Beach Farmers Market site on 13th Street in Manhattan Beach.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



We have just witnessed an extraordinary display of political/economic/congressional brinkmanship. An agreement, not yet ratified, raises the USA debt limit by \$2.4 trillion in two stages, while providing for an initial huge spending cut that is spread over 10 years. This mish-mash includes cutting the military budget & reducing payments for Healthcare providers (for you & me).

Nothing was decided to help expand our economy; nothing was decided to add jobs for Americans; nothing was decided to correct banking fraud on the public; nothing was decided regarding our unending pointless wars (Iraq, Afghani-

stan, Libya, etc.).

We still face the unsolved problem of reducing the deficit without added revenue (taxes). Social programs remain as before. A congressional committee will decide further spending cuts in November. If the committee cannot agree, there will be further reductions. The real losers are the poor, the aged, the medically vulnerable, & the jobless. This leaves the only positive note to the agreement; the fact that we did not default on our debts & we have delayed economic catastrophe!

To add insult to deadly injury, the credit agencies have lowered the USA credit ratings because of Congressional indecision. This means that WE all pay higher interest rates because a bunch of Cro-Magnon Tea Party Dead Heads want to eliminate government assistance programs. The guys who browbeat Obama will now push us into the swampland of

low taxation, low healthcare coverage, & NO job recovery!!!

P.S. As a sidebar I ask who is Grover Norquist? Who elected him to what??? He heads a taxpayer group that opposes any & all taxes (Americans for Tax Reform). He worked for Ronald Reagan; he was in bed with disgraced & convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff; he has played fast & loose with convicted Tom DeLay & with Newt Gingrich; he is on the board of the National Rifle Assn. He has managed to get 240 Republicans & 2 Democrats in the House to take the pledge to never raise taxes!!!



July Recap

Redistricting and Membership-Growing

Much of our July meeting comprised a discussion of the Democratic Action Center, redistricting, and building our own membership.

Tony Hale spoke about the DAC's need for funding so they can stay open through the 2012 election. He has spoken with Clark Lee about possibly becoming a PAC rather than a club. There was discussion about the difference between a club, which is membership-based, and a PAC, which does not require a membership roster. Tony said the organization's goal is to operate a full-time Democratic headquarters, register voters, and get volunteers to work on campaigns. There was also discussion about whether, and how, Democrats will endorse candidates now that we have an open primary.

Redistricting

Lori Geittmann said she had received a questionnaire asking for feedback about the process: were we satisfied with it? The answer is no, although the final results were not to be released until August 15. Members were encouraged to look online for the district maps and to respond to the survey if they receive it.

Our President, Kevin Sullivan, said that one of his key goals is to increase our club membership. Steps will include inviting office holders who are not members to join, especially if they have been endorsed by the club. We will also reach out to lapsed members and hold a membership party. Vice president Diane Wallace will head up the drive. Each member attending the party should try to bring one or two friends who may wish to join the club.

Diane Wallace also reported on the status of the Education Caucus and said that the Party is directing her to pursue a statewide chartered organization status instead, since it costs money to have a

caucus.

Next we heard from Veronica Zendas from Ted Lieu's office, who told us that Ted was on Air Force Reserve duty during the session adjournment. His bill SB 917 regarding the sale of animals has passed, and SB 919, on sexting, is up for a hearing. The bill would add sexting to the actions school districts can use to suspend or expel students.

Don Dear spoke about the water recycling plant in El Segundo. Dear represents the West Basin Municipal Water District and said 2/3 of our water comes from aqueducts, and they want to reduce that amount by half. There is to be a Water Harvest Festival in October with free food and giveaways including water saving devices. There followed some discussion of the opposition by environmentalists to desalination plants that are near the ocean.

Ray Waters, who is a member of the Hermosa Beach School Board, said that there is a new budget in place and that the laid-off teachers may be getting rehired, but this is not definite yet. There will be two open seats in the next school board election, which elects members to serve four-year terms.

The Redondo Beach City Council will also have two open seats, and is considered a non-partisan office.

The Torrance Democrats are planning a 9/11 event to be held at Portola Park and would like to invite other clubs to join the event, a potluck or picnic.

Rochelle Schneider reported that the 53rd ADDC has not been dissolved but is not yet chartered; they have formed an Ad Hoc group to determine whether to re-charter as a state or a county entity. A meeting is planned for September.

Lori reported that the LA County Committee will again have a Democratic booth at the LA County Fair, which runs from September 3 to October 2. Ray Waters will get a date from the Committee and circulate it to those who are interested in working in the booth.

The Committee also asks us to support the United Food and Commercial

Workers who are currently in labor negotiations. They are asking us to write to CEOs of Ralph's, Albertson's, and Safeway to inform them that we will not cross picket lines. They also urge us as consumers to email Amazon, Overstock, and other online retailers and insist that they pay their sales tax.

The Gardena Club is going to hold an annual luncheon in October with Maxine Waters and Janice Hahn at the Normandie Casino; watch for details.

Dency congratulated the city of Manhattan Beach for passing their ban on the use of plastic bags.

Notes for this article courtesy of Kathy Campbell

New Districts Published

Here's the data on our new Senatorial and Congressional districts, courtesy of aroundthecapitol.com. Regrettably, the maps were impossible to copy, but are easy to find online:

Senate District 26

Next election: 2014

District partisanship: Democrat
Resident Incumbent(s): Ted Lieu

Significant demographics:

- * Asian: 9.5%
- * Asian CVAP: 10.2%
- * Black: 6.8%
- * Black CVAP: 9.2%
- * Latino: 13.6%
- * Latino CVAP: 10.4%

Congressional District 33

Next election: 2012

District partisanship: Democrat
Resident Incumbent(s): Open
Expected/Probable Candidate(s): Henry Waxman (D) - Member of Congress

Significant demographics:

- * Asian: 9.5%
- * Asian CVAP: 10.2%
- * Black: 6.8%
- * Black CVAP: 9.2%
- * Latino: 11.2%
- * Latino CVAP: 8.9%
- * CVAP = "Citizen Voting Age Population"

Source: Redistricting Partners

James McGreevy—310-320-1638
Web Manager
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Database and Mailing
molraz@alumni.reed.edu
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Newsletter
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Treasurer
Kathy Campbell—310-316-4375
Secretary
Diane Wallace—310-540-1425
Vice-President
Kevin Sullivan—310-779-9781
President
P.O. Box 2192
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

*Beach Cities
Democratic Club*



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



Please Print

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

*Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box **only** if you would like to receive it by US mail.*

I volunteer to:

Telephone *Help with mailing* *Hospitality* *Write for newsletter*

Register voters *Programs* *Legislative* *Membership* *Other*

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278