



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



April 2008

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 3, 7:00pm

Orchid Building, UFCW Hall
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

Special Guest Speaker: Wade Sanders, Senior Advisor
on Military Affairs in the office of California
Governor John Garamendi.

General Meeting Directions

Directions from the Freeway

- Travel south on the 101 Freeway
- Exit on Camarillo Springs Road at the base of the Conejo Grade.
- At the end of the exit ramp go straight ahead into the parking lot of the Orchid Building.

Directions with no Freeway driving:

- From Camarillo High School, take Pleasant Valley Road south, toward the ocean, over the freeway to Pancho (about a mile).
- Turn left at the signal onto Pancho Road.
- Almost immediately turn left onto Adohr Lane (aka Ridgeview St.) and go east for about 1 ½ mile.
- Turn left onto Camarillo Springs Rd. The Orchid Bldg. is on the right (500 feet).

April President's Message

What a difference a month makes! As of last month's newsletter the biggest problem facing Democrats seemed to be the corporate media packaging of the candidates, and of course that hasn't changed at all – the examples are becoming more egregious every day. But a month ago the expectations were that the Democratic nomination would likely be decided in March, and that by now a triumphantly united Democratic Party would be busy countering the misinformation campaign from the right with a message of positive change and hope. Sadly, at the end of March that scenario lies in

tatters at our feet; and sadder still, it has been torn to shreds by Democratic Party operatives.

At some point in the last three or four weeks the Democratic debate stopped reflecting the sea change in politics that was going on in the country. At some point the glorious spectacle of two fully qualified “dream” candidates competing with similar visions for a future free of Bush/Cheney/Rove corruption and incompetence gave way to tawdry personal attacks, casting doubts on an opponent's ability to lead and jockeying for position in the Florida/Michigan controversy. It was back from vision to politics as usual.

To be fair, the dead-heat status of the race between Clinton and Obama requires that the campaign continue, and American campaigning has often been heavy-handed, throughout our history. (See some of the scurrilous things opponents said about Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln, and many others!) But somehow, especially in a nominating race, there has to be a limit. For many of us, when the attack tactics used showed victory in the primary to be more important than victory in November, that limit was reached and passed.

When the old politics pushed vision aside, the hope for real change – the wildfire of excitement that had brought millions of people into the process for the first time - began to fade away. In its place, the old, familiar cynicism and despair have started to seep back in. It is a development observed and abetted with obvious delight by the other side, who count on fear alone for their support. Recent polls show McCain leading either Democratic candidate if the election were tomorrow.

We have two good candidates much more alike than they are different - in platform, experience, and in moral justification for their history-making status. So maybe it was inevitable. Maybe the attacks had to get personal to break the tie. But it doesn't feel right

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at all. What is being gained by the Party - and more importantly by the Country - when cheap-shot attacks by Democrats on one another leave Donkey blood on the ground? Who wins except the right-wing jackals circling in for an easy kill of the weakened candidate of a divided Democratic Party in the fall? Clearly we need another turnaround and a return to the campaign of hope and principles, that inspired millions to dream that at last new leadership was rising up to speak for the rest of us.

Meanwhile we have the sad duty of marking the start of another year in the unending occupation of Iraq and the unfinished war in Afghanistan. I write this on the 17th of March, the fifth tragic anniversary. A group of us from MoveOn and the Democratic Club led by new members Gretchen and Pat Eden returned to the flagpole park at the corner of Carmen and Paseo Camarillo for yet another vigil. We stood, holding up candles, signs and our American flag, to protest the shameful waste and to express our grief at the terrible human cost of the continued wrong being done in our name. The response from the people passing by was overwhelmingly positive. The tide is turning, but oh, it is so slow!

Now it's back to work, building the club to be ready for the fall campaign. On April 3rd our exciting schedule of programs continues. We will be hearing from Wade Sanders, Senior Advisor on Veteran's Affairs in the office of Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, about what is happening for veterans and what we can do about it. We will also be gearing up for organizing the get-out-the-vote campaign on a precinct level using some new and improved software and bringing our veteran activists in the Club together with some of the wonderful new people who are joining us every month. It's time to get busy. Anyone can sit around and talk, and that's as far as most people get, but we're different, aren't we? We're going to get to work and *make* a difference.

We want to be ready to turn Camarillo blue in this election cycle. We want to be part of the great cleansing broom that sweeps Washington and Sacramento free of corporate corruption and ideological incompetence. We want to usher in a new age of responsibility – for our environment, for our civil liberties, and for our infrastructure – the schools, roads, parks and ports. We want the economic wellbeing of *all* Americans to be the focus of government regulation, not the greater enrichment

of the richest. We want to honor our veterans with services to heal their wounds and by bringing their comrades home. Yes, we want it *all*, but this is *our* country and there's no reason at all why we should not have it. We just have to get busy, welcome in more new people, and make it happen, that's all.

Jack Phillips

Our special guest speaker this month is Wade Sanders, Senior Advisor on Military and Veterans Affairs in the office of LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI

Wade Sanders, the Lieutenant Governor's Senior Advisor on Military and Veterans Affairs, is a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

An attorney practicing in San Diego, California, he received his Bachelor of Arts from California State University at Long Beach, his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law, is a graduate of the Naval War College, and attended The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

A retired Navy Captain, he has had several commands. Among his many awards, earned with the support of those who have served with him, are the Silver Star, Bronze Star (with combat "v"), and the Purple Heart.

A community activist, he is a member of the San Diego Police Department Senior Oversight Committee, and has served on many non-profit Boards, including the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego.

An award winning journalist, he is frequently published and interviewed by local and national media. He is also a television commentator on national security matters and the war in Iraq. He has been installed in the Long Beach City and State University Halls of Fame and has been recognized by the Mayors, City Councils, and Boards of Supervisors of several cities, including San Diego, for his contributions to national security. A distance cyclist, he concluded a 1200 mile bicycle trip from Hanoi to Saigon.

Office of Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi
State Capitol, Room 1114 • Sacramento, CA 95814 •
Phone (916) 445-8994 • Fax (916) 323-4998
www.ltg.ca.gov

Mr. Sanders will speak about legislative initiatives, the state of our National Guard and families, the looming budget crisis in California and what California can do better for our Veterans.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Many of you responded to our plea and renewed your membership. Thank you so much! Unfortunately this will be the last newsletter for those of you who have not renewed for 2008.

If you're not sure if you have renewed or not just call Joan Adams, Membership Chair at 805-383-7430 or email to ronandjoan@verizon.net. And . . . it's not too late to send in your money, just see the membership form at the end of this newsletter for details.

An item of special interest on the April Agenda

will propose to the club to approve an increase in the annual scholarship donation from \$300 to \$500. A vote on this motion will be held during the general meeting. The Scholarship Committee welcomes any separate donations from club members who would like to give to this endeavor.

If you would like to give a donation please send a check to Pat Wieland at 7315 Village 7, Camarillo, CA 93012. Please write scholarships in the memo section of your check. Thank you, Pat Wieland, Scholarship Chair.

Democratic Club of Camarillo members speak out in the Ventura County Star.

Kennedy Role Model

In response to readers who are afraid of a Democrat who will not go to war as the first option, maybe they should go a little farther back in history. President Kennedy averted a nuclear World War III with Russia through his measured reaction to the Cuban missile crisis. In

this day and age, we need someone more like JFK and less like President Bush.

Tom Magdaleno
Published 3-16-08

Toward Another War

John McCain has claimed, on multiple occasions now, that Shiite Iran is training Sunni al-Qaida. These are not gaffes or misspeaking or misstating or whatever term his campaign is using. This is exactly how we got into Iraq, by conflating 911 with Saddam Hussein. This is as clear and transparent as it can be.

It doesn't matter that it isn't true or that the Iranian Shiites hate the Sunnis. McCain and his crowd are counting on the American people to be as uninformed and dumb as they were in 2002 so that they can attack Iran before the November elections and make it impossible for a Democrat to get elected. Both Democratic candidates are promoting ending this war and the Republicans will have none of that. I can only hope that the American people will come out of their self induced coma and start actually critically thinking and asking questions of a candidate that is promoting more war, and for what real reason this time.

McCain has made no secret of his intentions and hopes and dreams to have us engaged in war for the next 100 years. That is the rest of our lives for everyone who is reading this, plus our children, our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. Don't we have an obligation to them to stop this madness?

Carolyn Crandall
Published 3-21-08



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March 13, 2008
New York Times Editorial
New Hope for the Rich

Americans are getting poorer. In 2007, home equity fell below 50 percent for the first time on record since 1945. Total equity also fell for three straight quarters through last December. Adjusted for inflation, the annual income of the typical working household is still below its peak before the last recession, in 2001. That means the Bush-era expansion is on track to be the first since the government began keeping records in the 1960s in which household income fails to hit a new high.

And yet, in the Senate, Republicans are ready to do battle on behalf of America's wealthiest families.

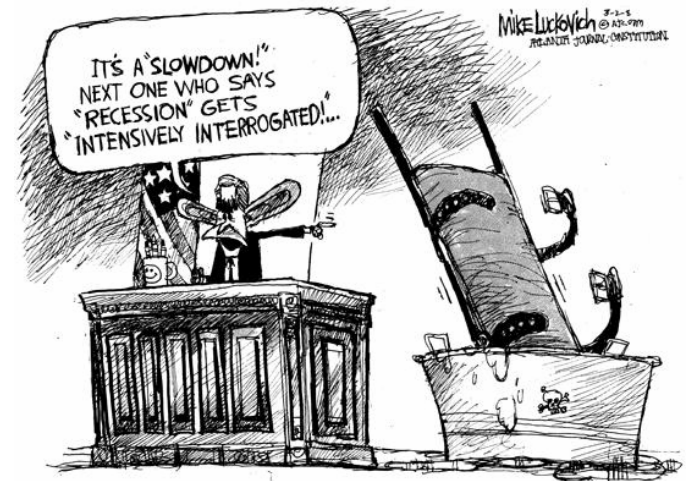
Starting in 2009, the estate tax will apply to Americans with property at death worth more than \$7 million per couple, or \$3.5 million for individuals — a whopping 0.3 percent of people who die each year. As part of the 2009 budget resolution, Senator Max Baucus, Democrat of Montana and chairman of the Finance Committee, has proposed to keep the tax at those levels, with annual adjustments for inflation. The proposal is expected to pass, as early as Thursday.

Everyone knows that the Baucus proposal is better than the status quo: under current law, the estate tax will be eliminated in 2010 then revert in 2011 to the far higher levels that applied in 2001, before the Bush tax cuts. Republicans, however, think that Mr. Baucus's more-than-generous fix does not do enough to shield the wealthy. After it passes, Senator Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona, is expected to propose further cutting the estate taxes of those still covered by the 2009 rules.

That would give the wealthiest Americans an additional \$200 billion in tax cuts over 10 years, with most of that largess going to estates valued at more than \$10 million per person, the top 0.1 percent. The government would have to borrow to make up for the \$200 billion giveaway to rich heirs, worsening the deficit and adding about \$100 billion in interest to the nation's tab.

The Kyl proposal needs a simple majority to pass. So if every Republican voted in favor, only one Democrat would have to join them for the proposal to pass. It is not a given that will happen. What is

certain is that a yes vote, by whoever casts one, would be a triumph of let-them-eat-cake obliviousness.



Mark your calendars to make sure you do not miss our **June 5th Meeting**. We care going to **celebrate Bill Hammaker's 100 Birthday**. There will be food and surprises! Please don't miss this occasion to celebrate with our Club's only centenarian and a man who has devoted his entire life to bringing peace to our world.

For those of you who know Bill, you understand his journey of peace. For those of you who do not know Bill, you don't want to miss this opportunity to get to know him and you will be happy you did. He always smiles and always has something encouraging to say. Please come and celebrate this wonderful human being's 100 years on our planet.

From MinnPost.com
3-24-08

Former Vice President Walter Mondale today accused the current vice president, Dick Cheney, of a wholesale assault on the Constitution, the balance of powers, and the system that evolved since World War II to coordinate intelligence and defense policy.

"They wrecked that system," Mondale said this morning at a University of Minnesota scholarly conference on the vice presidency.

This isn't some academic difference of opinion over the proper balance between branches of the federal government, Mondale said, during a question and answer session after his prepared remarks:

"I think this was a brutal, deliberate policy to ignore a wide range of written laws and constitutional principles and the legitimate powers of Congress...It's different than anything we've seen in American history and I think it ought to be seen not as two responsible positions, but ought to be seen as a dramatic challenge to American's system of government."

In the case that led to the conviction of Cheney's top aide, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Mondale said Cheney functioned as "an ideological enforcer, silencing dissent, punishing critics, to sustain a flawed war policy based on cooked facts. It's all there. Read the case."

Mondale challenged an occasional theme that arises in interpreting the Cheney vice presidency, holding that because Cheney had no presidential ambitions of his own, he was more useful and faithful to the president. On the contrary, Mondale argued, this freedom from higher political ambition freed Cheney to disrespect the Congress, the American people and the law.

Mondale said: "The other morning, Mr. Cheney was on 'Good Morning America.' A reporter asked him: 'Well, polls now show that two thirds of the American people are opposed to this war. Shouldn't that mean something?' And [Cheney] said, 'So?'"

"Y'know, maybe he didn't say it correctly or say it the way he meant it. And I don't say that public opinion should govern everything. But public opinion deserves respect and the president and the vice president ought to be worried about it."

"I think our vice president ought to wake up every morning, like I did, wondering what he can do to enhance public support and respect. And I believe an election-free unaccountable vice president, clothed with some of the aura and power of the president may, as this vice president has, act as though he were beyond accountability to anybody but the president — beyond the reach of the Congress, the court, the press, the Constitution and the American people."

"It scares me and I think we ought to be thinking about it this fall as we pick a vice president."

In a blistering close to his 30-minute presentation at the Humphrey Institute for Public Policy, Mondale said that in looking back on his tenure as Jimmy Carter's

vice president, he took pride in three claims: "We told the truth; we obeyed the law; and we kept the peace." The Bush-Cheney administration, Mondale said, "can't say any of that with a straight face about those first four years. And it's cost us terribly. Let's not make that mistake again."

Teach Your Children Well

By Steve Crandall

One of the most rewarding opportunities I have as a contact for the Vietnam Veterans Against the War is to be able to help students with their class assignments. It seems around this time of the year I receive several requests from high school students to be interviewed about my experiences and thoughts about war. This year there seemed to be more students requesting interviews than usual. Maybe it's five long years of war in Iraq that has spurred their interest. This is a war that has now lasted longer than anyone of them has attended high school.

In the past they, especially the boys, wanted to know if I ever killed anyone and if I did what did it feel like? This year they didn't ask any of those questions instead their questions were more thoughtful and more mature. They asked me about my happiest moments. They wanted to know what I treasured the most and was I afraid? There were some questions that caused me to relive unpleasant experiences but it is a feeling I am willing to endure if I can teach only one child about the tragedies of war. To help them understand war is not a video game. It's real and the consequences are devastating.

I know these children will have to endure the economic consequences of this war but I sincerely hope none of them will have to endure the physical and mental tragedies of this war or any other war. As elders it is our responsibility to teach our children well. The following are lyrics by Graham Nash of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Can you hear and do you care
And can you see we must be free
To teach the children to believe
And make a world that we can believe in

I want to congratulate Mr. Gioglio's students for winning first place in Riverside County's essay contest. They will be moving on to the California state competitions in May. I wish them luck and want to also thank them for their interest in our veteran's lives.

Membership Application

Date: _____

Name _____

Street
Address: _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

(I am a registered DEMOCRAT
or wish to change to such)

*Annual Dues: \$20.00/individual, \$30.00/couple/family
\$15.00/seniors, \$20.00/couple*

Mail to: DCC, c/o **Joan Adams**
830 Calle Los Gatos, Camarillo 93010

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Publicity	Marianne Slaughter
Legislative	Kate McDermott
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