



# DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



December 2007/January 2008

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 3 7:00pm

Orchid Building, UFCW Hall

816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

**Members Forum:** Sign up as you come in for a 3 minute pitch for your favorite presidential candidate. This is our only chance B-4 the Feb. primary. We'll also have wine and cheese to kick off the New Year plus a report from VP Bob Rust on the propositions. Mary Pallant and Hannah Beth Jackson will drop in to update us on their candidacy races.

### 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).

### January 2008 President's Message

This should be reaching you just at the height of the holiday fun, activity and general craziness, so let's start by wishing everyone the happiest of holiday seasons, filled with good times with family and friends.

If you are like Phyllis and me at this time of year, your attention is likely to be split in five different directions, none of which involves your Democratic

Club. But since a really BIG year is ahead of us, and since it starts right after New Years with our meeting on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we need to jump right in and start planning now. Of course the first thing to plan on is *being there* on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and participating in our member forum on the presidential candidates. The second thing to plan on is bringing someone new with you. Explaining why this is so important gives me the excuse to recycle the remarks made at the December 1<sup>st</sup> installation luncheon:

Seeking out new members is one of our most important jobs, for a number of reasons that should be obvious, but aren't. Here is my "list of the top three reasons", (down from the traditional top ten because of the writers' strike, but in the traditional reverse order.)

Reason number three is that if we want to be an active presence in the community we need more *workers*. We need more volunteers to help the good folks who make the phone calls and do the mailings and staff the Farmers' Market table and do the adopt-a-poll work and buy books and walk precincts and write letters to editors and everything else.

Number two is the fact that we always need a stream of new people just to join the conversation and keep stirring up the pot so we don't get too set in our ideas or our ways. We need new people from all generations and the whole spectrum of the Democratic Party and we need progressives from beyond party lines to help keep the Donkey on the right path. We need new people to join us, to come to the meetings and argue ideas loud and long, like good Democrats always do, and then to come together and work hard for the just future we all believe in.

But reason number one - the main reason we always need to be seeking out and inviting new people to

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join us – (drum roll, please) - is because there are so many people out there that need *us* and the change that we represent.

(Now from here on, I'm going to speak for myself, and hope that you agree.) It seems clear to me that the country is in crisis, and that it is up to us to do something about it. (I probably won't get too much argument there.) It also seems clear to me that the only remaining line of defense still standing against the neo-con lies and fear-mongering that threaten us with economic ruin and the loss of our civil liberties is us – “We, the People” – or at least that small percentage of the people who are aware and willing to take a stand, and that means US.

And it seems absolutely clear to me that it is *only* in little groups like our Democratic Club here in Camarillo that the tide will begin to turn. What's more, there is evidence that that tide is in fact starting to turn – slowly, almost imperceptibly, but with increasing inevitability. The only way to take back our country is by getting more people involved and talking and arguing and acting like Americans once more. So that's why we need more members, and why I will continuously ask you to help make that happen as long as you give me this nifty soap box to shout from.

Most of us are Democrats, I think, because we understand that the only way to affect change in this country today is by working through the major parties. But most of us also understand that that many institutional Democrats are no different than the institutional Republicans, in that their only real goal is gaining and hanging on to power.

So being the Democratic Club of Camarillo does *not* mean that we have to support everything the Democrats in government do. In fact, a lot of us are outraged by the way some of the people we fought to elect now *refuse* to do what we gave them the majority to do. But being outraged at our own party and calling it to account is a *good* thing. It does not seem to be allowed in the Republican Party, but it is what people do in a real democracy, and we Democrats revel in it.

As Joe Hill said from beyond the grave, our job is to *organize* – to organize and raise our voices as one to keep our party's leaders' feet to the fire. Part of our job is to push our Democratic Party back into real

power. The rest of our job is to push our leadership to do what We-the-People empower them to do. We want our party to put *real* family values back at the top of the list of priorities for government, not in the optional discard pile.

And what are these family values? How about *compassion, diversity* and *fairness* to all people? – How about values like privacy in reproductive choice, a clean and sustainable environment and the restoration of our traditional American Civil liberties? How about ending a terribly mistaken war and bringing our country back from the brink of fascism? Aren't these all family values? Aren't these all worth fighting for? Isn't this what Democrats are all about? Aside from the fun people we hang out with, isn't that why we're in the Club?

So that's what I hope to see us do this coming year, in our very small but very real way right here in Camarillo. Let's reach out and touch a lot of new people and fight for our values. It's not really like I'm asking for a change in direction, because we've always been a feisty, opinionated vocal group of independent thinkers. But this year there's an urgent edge to it.

So get involved! Join Bridget's tabling team, and talk to people about the Club as well as about the issues and candidates. Or for that matter, reach out on your own: every time someone gives you a thumbs-up on your progressive bumper sticker, invite them to join us and ask for their information so we can follow up on it.

It's going to be a fun year. Thank you for giving me a turn at the tiller.

### **Message from the 2007 co-Presidents**

**Bob and Joan Rust here**, your 2007 Co-Presidents. We want to thank every one of you, for joining the club, for pitching in on board, committee and other work. But this newsletter is not long enough to mention every name, so we must limit ourselves to the board, committee heads, and those who've headed special projects. Please know that every contribution is noticed, and valued. It has been a privilege to know and work with all.

What a fantastic 2007 Board! Vice President Carolyn Crandall did an outstanding job of

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coordinating programs for general meetings. Treasurer Jack Phillips did a great job of managing our monies and keeping the books. Rose Obetz started the year as Recording Secretary, and we are grateful for her work in that capacity. Hardy Hayes took the post when Rose needed time for personal matters (she moved!) and kept up the high quality of reporting. Corresponding Secretary Pat Wieland dispatched correspondence reliably and efficiently. Members-At-Large Linda McKenna and Steve Crandall offered cool heads and valuable perspective during board discussions.

DCC standing committees are essential to club functioning – every bit as critical as board operations. Carolyn Crandall created, implemented and distributed the monthly newsletter. Marge Grate kept communications running by organizing and initiating phone tree messaging. Lenna Reyes and Joan Adams headed the Membership Committee, which included keeping track of memberships, welcoming new joiners, and reaching out into the community to find new folks who might wish to join us. Bridget Frank did an impeccable job of organizing our Farmer's Market tabling and voter registration. Marianne Slaughter, as Publicity Chair, dispatched press releases every month, to let the community know that our club exists, and how to reach us. Kate McDermott, as Legislative Chair, kept us informed of important issues and events. Hardy Hayes was liaison to VCDCC (our chartering Democratic Central Committee) and attended monthly county-level meetings on our behalf. Parliamentarian Sharon Hillbrant advised us on parliamentary procedure, and organized the nominating committee, which found the executive board which will see us through 2008. Pat Wieland headed the Scholarship Committee and did a remarkable job: \$500 scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors at Camarillo, Rio Mesa, (and for the first time this year) at Frontier High Schools. Steve and Carolyn Crandall contributed to the congenial atmosphere of every general meeting by bringing refreshments to each, as Co-Social Chairs.

No less important are the special committees. Jack Phillips helmed Finance Committee planning at the start of the year. Steve Crandall kept us up on Veterans Affairs. Bill Hammaker presented his heartfelt pleas for peace in the world. Kate McDermott organized a wildly successful project for donating books to the new city library in the name of

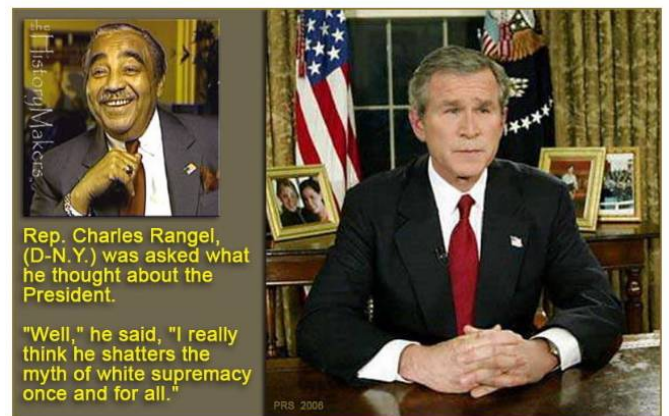
our club. And Chris Robson organized us for precinct walking. Additional work occurred outside the structure of the various committees and contributed significantly to the achievements of the year. Ron and Joan Adams organized Adopt-a-Poll. Staffing the polls is fun, provides a community service, and brings in a good chunk of income. We held a social and fundraiser, "A Celebration of New Members." Thanks to the Crandalls for hosting, to all those who attended and to all those who donated and worked for the event. Thanks again to the Crandalls and Lenna Reyes for getting us into the Camarillo Christmas Parade, another outreach effort that lets people know we exist. And thanks to all who worked on other special events: Pizza Night, VCDCC Spring Fling, Fiesta tabling, County Fair tabling, Labor Day Bake Sale, and December's Installation Luncheon. One final mention: a thank-you to long-time member Debi Miller for providing one of the best programs of the year, her talk on signing statements. Thank you Debi.

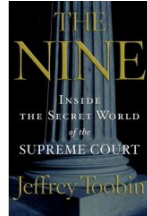
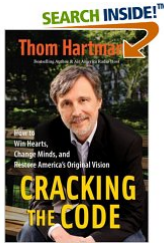
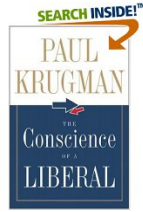
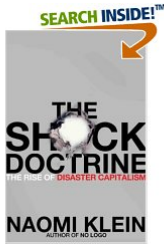
Before closing out, we'd like to write a tribute to Chris Robson, active member and past President, who recently moved to Orange County to take a new job. We thank him for his work this last year, and in past years, and know that he'll continue his political work in his new environs. See you, Chris!

We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

In gratitude,  
Bob and Joan Rust

Pretty much the best quote ever . . .





**We did it.** Our club has donated dozens of political titles to the new Camarillo Library. This month, Pat Wieland and Josette Wingo have donated some great titles, one a Pulitzer Prize winner. Get to know Josette by reading the book she authored, Mama was a Gunner's Mate.

Our first purchase order of new books has arrived and ready to give to the library. Many are titles that you will want to read. Please give us suggestions for other titles that you think are important for circulation in Camarillo.

Broken Government: How Republican Rule Destroyed the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches – John Dean

The Conscience of a Liberal – Paul Krugman

The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot – Naomi Wolf

Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy – Charlie Savage

The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism – Naomi Klein

Cracking the Code: How to Win Hearts, Change Minds, and Restore America's Original Vision – Thom Hartmann

A Young People's History of the United States: Class Struggle to the War on Terror [Volume 2]  
Howard Zinn

The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America – Ronald Brownstein

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court – Jeffrey Toobin

Readings from Voices of a People's History of the United States – Howard Zinn

We ordered 3 copies of this CD, one for the library and one for each local high school.

The total for all these books and CD's was \$170.99. The club will match up to the first \$300 donated to the library fund.

Submitted by:

Library Committee - Kate McDermott - Diane Zeamba - Marje Grate

**DCC Participated in the 2007 Camarillo Christmas Parade.** Thanks to Lenna Reyes, Steve and Carolyn Crandall and Laurie Kleiman for their support and help in making our "float" represent the Democratic Club of Camarillo with pride.



**California Democratic Council** and the **Democratic Party of Ventura County Democratic Leadership Training** Saturday, January 12, 2008, 8:00am-6:00pm E. P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001

Workshops for activists who want to take leadership roles in the Democratic Party or are just getting started! **The California Democratic Party Structure** Presented by: Eric Bauman, Lead Chair, CDP Organizational Development Committee Chair, Los Angeles Democratic Party If you want to get involved with the party and rise through the ranks, you need to know the structure and the roles of the various arms of the party. Learn about the state officers, committees, caucus', clubs, county DCCs, regions, etc., as well as how the State DCC is pulled together. **How to Run a Meeting: Robert's Rules of Order** Presented by Garry Shay, Lead Chair, CDP Rules Committee Whether you are a club president, member, activist or a candidate, you should know the basics of parliamentary procedures.

Most organizations, profit and non-profit, political or non-political, abide by these rules whether it's a local club, state party, or a city council meeting. **Club Finances: How to Stay Out of Jail** Presented by Durkee & Associates, Political Treasurers Learn the dos & don'ts of political finances. Club leaders, treasurers, members, candidates should all have a fundamental idea of political finances. Hands-on explanation of filling out reports included. **Increasing Your Membership and Have Fun Doing It** Presented by Barbie Deutsch, BE for Change Now that you have your club or organization put together, how to go about finding members & volunteers, and more importantly, how do you motivate and hang on to them? **Engaging/Reaching Out to Young Democrats** Presented by Tim Steed, President, California Young Democrats Wondering why you only see chronologically experienced folks at your meeting? Young Democrats are out there and eager to help. Come find out what they want and learn how to reach out to them! **Technology and Clubs** Presented by Henry Vandermeir, Chair, Computer and Internet Caucus Learn about the many free technology tools such as websites, faxing, online applications, etc., that can be used by your club/organization. Additional topics: social networking, email etiquette, listserves, Internet search engines **The Progressive Challenge** Presented by Dr. Bill Honigman, State

Coordinator, Progressive Democrats of America Learn about the top issues facing Democrats. Whether you are an activist or candidate, you need to be aware of what progressives expect of you and what we expect of our candidates. Talking points and concise messaging. Cost: Free (Suggested donation of \$10.00 to help cover food and materials).

Seating is limited, so please RSVP by January 10, 2008 to [training@cdc-ca.org](mailto:training@cdc-ca.org) or 800-446-9709 Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Again, please RSVP to ensure that we have adequate food and materials.

### How to become a delegate to the Denver Presidential Convention



**You could be there!**

Beginning January 15th you can file to be a delegate representing California at the 2008 Democratic Convention in Denver.

Click (or copy and past into your browser) the link below to connect to the California Democratic Party representative with delegate filing information.

For specific questions contact: [president@conejodemocrats.com](mailto:president@conejodemocrats.com)

**A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who never learned how to walk forward.**  
FDR

**Fascism will come to America wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross.**  
Sinclair Lewis 1855-1951

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**The new DCC Board took office at Ottavios in Camarillo on Saturday, December 1, 2007.**

It was a brisk and breezy but sunny winter day and everyone looked absolutely fabulous. We had one of the best turn-outs yet for this annual event at 45. The crowd was upbeat, lively and spirited. **Sharon Hillbrant swore in Jack Phillips as our new 2008 President, Bob Rust as Vice President, Ron Adams as Treasurer (Ron was unable to attend), Hardy Hayes as Recording Secretary, Pat Wieland as Corresponding Secretary (Pat was unable to attend), Sue Booralchi and Steve Crandall as Members at Large.** The new board was welcomed with great enthusiasm and Jack gave an acceptance speech that had the crowd cheering and roaring with laughter.

2008 is a most important year as we will be electing a new Democratic President of the United States!!! We have an impressive board to steer our ship into Democratic victories across the board. Please get involved and help your new board make 2008 a year to remember for Camarillo and Ventura County Democrats. See you at the meeting in January.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

We will operate two polling sites on Election Day, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church. We will need 24 of our members to take a shift as an "election officer". Shifts are about 2-3 hours in length. Although the schedule is not available at this time there will be a mandatory training session in Camarillo prior to election day.

We earn money from the county for providing this service for them so it is a worthy activity for our club and besides its fun!

If you are interested in being a volunteer "election officer" please call or email Joan Adams, 805-302-4588, [ronandjoan@verizon.net](mailto:ronandjoan@verizon.net). We usually have more volunteers than we have spaces so we will take the first 24 people who sign up.

**DUES ARE DUE**

**Lots of people have already paid their 2008 membership dues for 2008! Just in case you haven't, this is a reminder that the dues are due. Just use the form on the back of this newsletter and send your money in today. Or you can pay them at our first meeting of the year, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**The price is nominal:  
\$20/individual-\$30/couple  
\$15/student or senior-\$20/student  
or senior couple.**

**Democrats in Camarillo have an important and valuable job to do and as a club member you can find out how you can be involved. Your membership will help give Camarillo Democrats a strong, viable voice in our community.**

**10-29-07 From Salon.com by: Tim Gieve**

**Hypocrite much?**

In a brief appearance before the press today, George W. Bush complained about press reports that Democrats in Congress may combine the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense with those for Veterans Affairs, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education in order to create one package that would be difficult for the president to veto.

"It's hard to imagine a more cynical political strategy than trying to hold hostage funding for our troops in combat and our wounded warriors in order to extract \$11 billion in additional social spending," he said.

Hard to imagine? Not really.

In December 2005, Senate Republicans, with the support of the White House, tried to force Democrats to vote to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by attaching a measure that would have done so to a bill providing funds for the war in Iraq and Katrina relief.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSE WISURI,  
INDUCTED INTO VENTURA COUNTY  
EDUCATORS' HALL OF FAME**

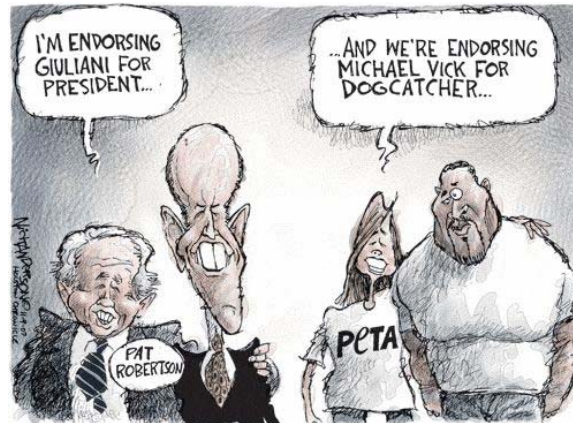
Longtime DCC member, Rose Wisuri was feted October 6 with nine of her fellow educators (including CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell) at the inaugural Ventura County Educator's Hall of Fame gala dinner held at the Lobster Trap.

Dr. Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools summed up the evening when he said, "Educators are the unsung heroes of our community. This dinner is a great opportunity to sing their praises."

Rose's career covered 31 years devoted to improving the Moorpark school system. Her talents as a primary school educator were recognized in the 1970s and she became principal of Flory Elementary School. She played an instrumental role in the unification of the Moorpark School District in 1980. She also took on the added task of District Project Director, obtaining much needed funding grants for the growing school district. Rose ended her career at MUSD as Assistant Superintendent, having been a key player in its quest of "Learning Today to Lead Tomorrow."

As is the case with many retirees, Rose is busier now than ever. She serves on the boards of the Camarillo Ranch and the Camarillo Arts Council and volunteers with FOOD Share ... to name a few

families, our nation and the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.



Veterans Update by Steve Crandall

In 1776 Thomas Paine coined the name, "Winter Soldiers", unlike the soldiers that left the war at the end of summer, the "Winter Soldiers" fought all year round. For three days in 1971 starting January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, also known as Winter Soldiers, gave their testimony to the atrocities of the Vietnam War. Now in 2008 there will be a new Winter Soldier Investigation (WSI II) on March 13<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Against the War will be offering first-hand eyewitness accounts about the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the impact on the troops, their



**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

**Club Officers & Committee Chairs**

**Officers**

President	Jack Phillips
Vice President	Bob Rust
Recording Secretary	Hardy Hayes
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Wieland
Treasurer	Ron Adams
Member-at-large	Sue Boloorchi
Member-at-large	Steve Crandall

**Standing Committees**

Membership	Joan Adams/Lenna Reyes
Parliamentarian	Sharon Hillbrant
Publicity	Marianne Slaughter
Legislative	Kate McDermott
Telephone Tree	Marge Grate
Central Committee Rep	Linda McKenna
Voter Registration	Bridget Frank
Fndrsing/Spcl.Events	Joan Rust/Carolyn Crandall/Rose Obetz
Scholarship	Pat Wieland
Social	Sue and Mahmood Boloorchi
Newsletter	Carolyn Crandall

Help us save postage,  
ask to receive this Newsletter by email.  
Just ask **Carolyn Crandall** at [softails.togo@verizon.net](mailto:softails.togo@verizon.net)

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Camarillo, CA 93010