



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



March 2008

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 7:00pm

Orchid Building, UFCW Hall
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

Special Guest Speaker: Debi Miller will talk on the Supreme Court and why it matters that we elect a Democratic president. Also, this is our annual Pizza night. Dinner is served at 6:00pm – see details in this newsletter.

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).

March President's Message

For the confirmed political junkies – especially Democratic political junkies like most of those who read this - it doesn't get much better than the roller coaster ride we've had this primary season. There is a groundswell of excitement rising among Democrats, and an equally strong wave of dismay washing over Republicans. The massive failures of the past twelve years of Republican rule are becoming evident to more and more Americans. It's even getting through to some of that vast indifferent

majority – the folks who are determined not to see and hear anything that might interfere with their constitutional right to continuous conspicuous consumption.

Two strong beacons of hope have been raised from within the Democratic Party to light the way back from disaster, and in early March as you are getting this, the decision as to who will lead us forward may have been made. Whichever one we choose, the future will be in good hands. Either a strong, capable woman or the strong, capable son of an African father and a white Kansas mother can make history by becoming the next president of the United States.

The excitement grows as progressives catch the scent of possible victory in the wind and hear words of hope and clear direction after years of despair and incompetence. Those of us who fought so hard in 2004 only to have victory snatched away by fraud and power maneuverings are daring to lift our heads and dream once again. We dare to dream of recovering our civil rights and restoring balance and justice to the courts, of defending the most helpless and oppressed among us, of withdrawing from the ruinous occupation of Iraq and slowing the destruction of the ecosystem. We dare to hope for a new beginning in the process of restoring our reputation in the world community, so that eventually we may be seen once again as a nation with principals beyond personal profit.

But will it happen? In the midst of the euphoria, the reality check question must be asked. Is it possible that defeat can once again be snatched from the jaws of seemingly unstoppable victory?

Every election in recent history has broken records - not only in the money spent, but in the sophistication of the duplicitous methods employed by entrenched power to sway the electorate. Little time and money is spent informing people about the issues, of course. Those who study the issues and vote on principle are

www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com

805-504-3749

ignored as the professionals aim their high-tech marketing and manipulative techniques at the uninformed majority of voters. Facts are irrelevant. Winning elections is about packaging feelings, and negativity always has the advantage.

So while our candidates compete to be seen as the best messenger of hope and the promise of change, the other side is refining a thinly-veiled message of class, racial and religious bigotry and fear in preparation for the general campaign. Once the candidates are chosen, the corporate taps will be opened and vast amounts of funding will flow into a professionally designed and packaged nation-wide campaign of misinformation – trumpeted daily by the corporately-owned media monopoly – that will set new low standards for personal “swift boat” attack tactics on our candidates, and for a campaign based once again upon setting us against one another.

The smart money is sure that a sufficient investment in hateful misinformation will stampede most of us into voting our fears instead of our hopes, returning power once again into the hands of the powerful and greedy. It has worked well – especially over the past twelve years - and they are poised to spend what it takes to make it work again, especially this year with the stakes higher than ever before.

I would be delighted to have someone challenge this gloomy picture as irresponsible, left-wing paranoia. I would be ecstatic to have someone offer facts that successfully refute it. But until that happens, it only makes sense to plan for the worst - even as we hope for the best. We must use all the tools we still have to make the make the imperiled system work just one more time. We need to get out and fight for every vote on every level of local, county, and state elections as well as fighting to put a real Democrat in Congress instead of Elton “rubber-stamp” Gallegly. Then we can get to work and restore our freedoms and safeguard our Democracy.

This is a GREAT time to be a Democrat and to have the PRIVILEGE to be part of the movement that will take the greatest nation in the world back from the brink of disaster and set it once again as the beacon of hope for the future. And isn't it great to be the Democratic Club of Camarillo, doing our part right here to make it happen?

Phyllis & I hope to see you at the Club meeting on March 6th, when we will meet for Pizza and conversation about these exciting times, and to hear Debi Miller tell us about why what happens to the Supreme Court may be one of the most important reasons to fight for a Democratic victory in November.

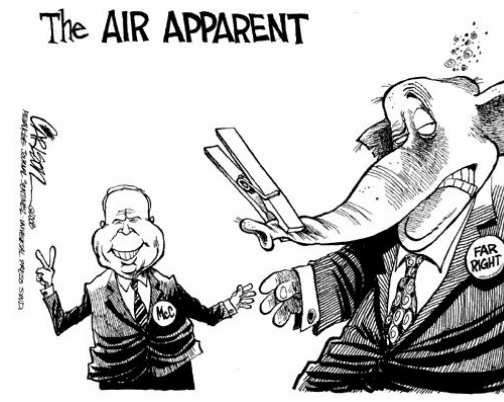
Jack Phillips, President

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MARCH MEETING WILL INCLUDE OUR ANNUAL PIZZA NIGHT!

Pizza will be served at 6:00pm including salad, dessert and beverages (wine, beer and soft drinks). The cost is \$15.00 per person and you need to get your reservations to Joan Rust at 484-6601 or joan@rusts.net by Tuesday, March 4.

Please come out and schmooze with your fellow Democrats and club members. These events help raise a little bit of funds for the club and give us an excuse to talk and discuss the issues of the day, like getting a Democrat in the White House!!!

The general meeting will start at 7:00pm with Debi Miller, our esteemed DCC club member and dear friend, talking to us about the Supreme Court and how important it is who we elect as president and how that will affect the court for many years to come. See you there!!!



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The Powers That Be Are Planning A PARTY
For
W.L. "Bill" Hammaker

Bill officially will be a CENTENARIAN on June
5, 2008.

However, his party is set for
Wednesday, June 11 from 3 to 6 pm
at the Camarillo United Methodist Church
291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010
Bring finger food to share, if you wish.
You are invited to drop by anytime or hang out
from start to finish!

Instead of a gift for Bill, please consider one for –

The Fellowship of Reconciliation at PO Box 271,
Nyack, NY 10960 or,

Amnesty International USA, 5 Penn Plaza, NY, NY
10001 or,

Food Share of Ventura County. (We'll have a
container at the church.)

Please mark you calendars now!!!

DUES RENEWAL TIME

(It's not too late and it's never too late to join the
Democratic Club of Camarillo)

If you have not renewed your membership for 2008,
now is the time! You can mail your renewal dues to:

Joan Adams
830 Calle Los Gatos
Camarillo, CA 93010

or

You can bring cash or a check to the Club Pizza
Night and General Meeting on March 6. Individual
dues are \$20.00, Couple or Family is \$30.00, Senior
or student couple or family is \$20.00. *Members who
have not renewed will be removed from the
membership list and the newsletter list.*

Thank you volunteers to the Super People who
agreed to take a shift during our Adopt a Poll on
Super Tuesday:

Bill Hillbrant, Marianne Slaughter, Louise
Bockall, Harriett Lit, William McKee, Diane
Zeamba, Lenna Reyes, Barbara Shufani, Joan
Rust, Steve and Carolyn Crandall, Tom
Magdaleno, Terry and Gail De Wolf, Karen
Knight, George Lewis, Jack and Phyllis Phillips,
Bruce Little, Katherine Matthews, John Hills,
Linda McKenna, Hardy Hayes, Carol Bley and a
huge thank you to Ron and Joan Adams who
work sunup to sundown to make this a winner for
the club. These volunteers helped our club earn
\$950.00 for one day's work. Yeah!!!

Every spring the Scholarship Committee
convenes to offer a scholarship to a deserving
senior from each of the three high schools.

Since the club membership has grown lately, a
brief explanation of the committee activities
should be informative to the new members.

Each of the scholarship coordinators at the high
schools are contacted and a notice is posted for
the students to view. The school coordinators
know the students and the club's criteria so they
do a great job of matching the organization with
the students.

Applications are passed on to the committee and
each member reads the student applications
(averaging about 6 to 8). Then we meet to select
the 3 or 4 candidates we want to interview. An
interview time is set up and we go to the school
and interview each of the candidates for about 10
or 15 minutes. We make a final decision
immediately following the interviews when the
facts are fresh.

The Committee always welcomes new members.
If you have any questions or would like to
volunteer to join the committee, please call Pat
Wieland at 484-0646.

WELCOME FOUR NEW TELEPHONE TREE CALLERS

Please welcome the new telephone tree callers to active membership in the Club. Jan Moore, Valerie Holton, and Karen Knight are all new members who will alert our members about important Club doings. You all know Joan Rust, our past president. She is doing a second stint as a caller. When the Democrats need her, she answers.

The bad news is that three former telephone tree members have had to resign. We will miss them. Hardy Hayes is our recording secretary and prints the monthly newsletter at his business, Hayes Graphics (plug). He holds a full time job plus responsible Club duties, so we will wish him well.

Bridget Frank is in charge of registration at the Farmers' Market. She is so busy reregistering Republicans to become Democrats that Democrats are just about even with Republicans in Ventura County. I had to talk her into quitting the T.T., but she did say her registration job was pretty hectic.

Mary Burton's busy life leaves little room for volunteering these days. She said she will be available when time permits.

Thank you all - new callers and retired callers. Our Democratic Club is stronger due to your initiative.

Marge Grate

**The Inaugural Jack and Bobby Kennedy Dinner:
A new era in Ventura County politics dawns!**

February 15th 2008 is a date that should be long remembered by Ventura County Democrats. Everyone at the first annual Jack and Bobby Kennedy Dinner could sense that this gathering, with over 300 county activists joined by major officials and personalities from the State Party, marked a turning point in the history of the Ventura County Democratic Party.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Vote Blue committee, Sue Broidy, Helen Conley, Kate McDermott and others, the massive undertaking was

an unqualified success. (Vote Blue is a PAC devoted to increasing the Democratic Party voter registration in Ventura County.)

Of course a few things went wrong on this first time staging a major event. For one thing, Lt Gov. John Garamendi was a mysterious no-show after promising to be there as the main speaker, so the wonderfully entertaining Eric Bauman, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, was recruited at the last minute and proceeded to put on quite a show, with the help of Air America radio host, Stephanie Miller, who provided laughs and pumped up the crowd. CA Controller John Chiang and CA Senate Majority leader Gloria Romero also gave rousing speeches. With the lessons learned, next year will be even better and grander.

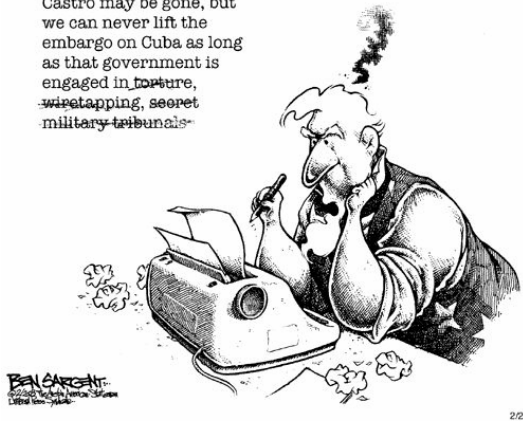
Oh yes, there will be a next year – Vote Blue has plans to make it an annual event. And the planning has already started! The Vote Blue committee is actively recruiting volunteers to help with the planning -- call Kate McDermott if you would like to be part of the Dinner, or to volunteer for Vote Blue's campaign organizing and get-out-the-vote efforts.

The Democratic Club of Camarillo had a most respectable showing at this inaugural event, with some 40 people attending. We also got enough people to contribute on top of the ticket price to be \$1,000 sponsors, so we can say we did our part to help Vote Blue help Ventura County turn even more blue in this year's elections.

It may be time put away the party clothes for now, but isn't it great that we know how to have a high-class good time together while we are working towards the election victory in November.

Our own Hardy Hayes echoed what many people felt: he commented that he "was proud to see how many Democrats were willing to put out \$150.00/couple for a fundraiser in this county," and he "felt the evening had a kind of vital electricity to it; you could feel it, it was palpable... it was a great night and I really hope it won't be the last of its kind." Amen to that.

Castro may be gone, but we can never lift the embargo on Cuba as long as that government is engaged in torture, wiretapping, secret military tribunals



\$10 donation is requested to help defray event expenses.

Please make checks payable to:

Stonewall Democrats of Ventura County
(FPPC# 1283558)
2419 E. Harbor Blvd. #174
Ventura, CA 93001

Please mark your calendars for our April meeting on April 3, 2008. Our special guest speaker will be Wade Sanders, Senior Advisor on Military and Veterans Affairs in the office of LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI

The Ventura County Democratic Central Committee & Stonewall Democrats of Ventura County are proud to welcome former Democratic Presidential Candidate and Massachusetts Governor

Michael Dukakis

to a discussion about the power of grassroots organizing for local elections and building a permanent base of supporters in VC.

A preview of the AdvoKit PrecinctCaptains.org software will also be presented at the event.

All activists and candidates, including Democrats running for "non-partisan" local offices, are encouraged to join us!

Date: Saturday, March 08, 2008
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Terrific Greek food and refreshments provided!

*The Greek At The Harbor Restaurant
Ventura Harbor
1583 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 101
Ventura, California 93001*

Space is limited to 75 – please RSVP to Ron Suckle by March 6 at:

vtstonewalldems@aol.com

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.

www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com

805-504-3749

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.

More details to follow in the April Newsletter.

Here are some thought provoking questions to ponder:

- 1) Leaders on the religious right often say that America is a "Christian Nation." Do you agree with this statement?
- 2) Do you think Houses of Worship should be allowed to endorse political candidates and retain their tax exempt status?
- 3) Do you think public schools should sponsor school prayer or, as a parent, should this choice be left to me?
- 4) Would you support a law that mandates teaching creationism in my child's public school science classes?
- 5) Do you think my pharmacist should be allowed to deny me doctor-prescribed medications based on his or her religious beliefs?
- 6) Will you respect the rights of those in our diverse communities of faith who deem same-gender marriage to be consistent with their religious creed?
- 7) Should "faith-based" charities that receive public funds be allowed to discriminate against employees or applicants based on religious beliefs?
- 8) Do you think one's right to disbelieve in God is protected by the same laws that protect someone else's right to believe?
- 9) Do you think everyone's religious freedom needs to be protected by what Thomas Jefferson called "a wall of separation" between church and state?

10) What should guide our policies on public health and medical research: science or religion?

DCC Vice President gets published in the Star 2-29-08

Twisting Democrats' views

Re: Terry Paulson's Feb. 18 essay, "Dream earned, not given": It's hard to know exactly how to answer Paulson's fuzzy, pro-Republican, anti-Democrat jeremiad, but I'll give it a try. I'll keep it short:

For his big pro-right boost, he lists glossy ideals that have been stomped to smithereens in the past seven years of George Bush's presidency, which Republicans have wholeheartedly supported. Instead of listening to what Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney say, Paulson should look closely at what they do. The two really don't match at all.

Paulson talks of the basic freedom to pursue happiness, but have Bush's policies of war first, business interests trumping environmental health, anti-intellectualism, suspension of habeas corpus and no compromise really increased Americans' ability to chase that dream? And does having that freedom and working hard always bring success and happiness? When it doesn't, or when tragedy enters the picture, I presume Paulson just turns away and offers no help.

As Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh and the other far-right toadies often do, Paulson builds a straw man of twisted, through-the-looking-glass, neoconservative statements of what they all want the public to think the left represents, then he easily knocks it down as impractical. He should do a little research — for example, Google the words "Democratic Party ideals" — and see the kinds of things liberals really do think about: fairness, equality, education, opportunity and, yes, some safety nets for the very unfortunate. It'll be an eye-opener.

Meanwhile, aren't there other choices for The Star for right-wing points of view than cartoonish O'Reilly and our own local but somewhat limited Paulson? How about George Will, Peggy Noonan, P.J. O'Rourke or Andrew Sullivan? There are right-wing writers out there who bring something interesting to the discussion.

— **Bob Rust, Camarillo**

www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com

805-504-3749

Q&A on how your Tax Rebate will be calculated:

Who gets a rebate?

Anyone who pays taxes or earns at least \$3,000, including through Social Security or veterans' disability benefits. Singles with Incomes of more than \$75,000 and couples with more that \$150,000 get only partial rebates.

Who does not get a rebate?

People who earn less than \$3,000, illegal immigrants, anyone who does not file a tax return, singles with incomes exceeding \$87,000 and couples with incomes exceeding \$174,000.

What do you have to do to get the rebate?

Eligible people must file a 2007 tax return with a Social Security number for each person listed.

How much is the rebate?

Single taxpayers get a rebate of at least \$300, couples receive at least \$600. The rebate will equal the taxes they paid, up to \$600 for singles and \$1,200 for couples, plus an additional \$300 per child. That amount will be reduced by \$50 for every \$1,000 above the income limits of \$75,000 for singles and \$150,000 for couples. People who earn at least \$3,000 but too little to pay taxes, including elderly people whose only income is from Social Security and veterans who live on disability payments will get \$300 if single or \$600 if a couple.

How are the rebates calculated?

Rebates are calculated on the basis of taxpayers' 2007 adjusted gross income which includes salaries and wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, taxable pensions, royalties and farm or rental income. It does not count contributions to individual retirement accounts, 401(K) retirement plans, tax free health savings accounts or student-loan interest payments. Rebates for low-income people who don't pay taxes, including the elderly and disabled veterans, will be a flat \$300 for singles and \$600 for couples.

When will the rebates arrive?

The Treasury Department says the IRS will begin sending out rebates in May.

Will the rebates be deducted from taxpayers' regular tax refunds?

No, the rebates are on top of any tax refunds.

Where does the money come from?

THE GOVERNMENT WILL BORROW THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THE REBATES, WHICH IS PROJECTED TO COST ABOUT \$117 BILLION OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, ADDING TO THE FEDERAL DEFICIT!!!

Dick Cheney and George W. Bush are having breakfast at the White House.

The attractive waitress asks Cheney what he would like, and he replies, 'I'd like a bowl of oatmeal and some fruit.'

'And what can I get for you, Mr. President?'

George W. looks up from his menu and replies with his trademark wink and slight grin, 'How about a quickie this morning?'

'Why, Mr. President!' the waitress exclaims, 'How rude! You're starting to act like President Clinton', and the waitress storms away.

Cheney leans over to Bush and whispers. 'It's pronounced 'keesh'.'

This is a year when both Groundhog Day and the State of the Union address occurred in the same week. As has been pointed out, "It is an ironic juxtaposition of events: one involved a meaningless ritual in which we look to a creature of little intelligence for prognostication, while the other involves a groundhog."

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 Boloorch
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 Boloorch
Newsletter	Carolyn Crandall

Help us save postage,
ask to receive this Newsletter by email.
Just ask **Carolyn Crandall** at softails.togo@verizon.net

Democratic Club of Camarillo
830 Calle Los Gatos
Camarillo, CA 93010