



# DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



May 2007

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 3, 2007 7:00pm

Orchid Building, UFCW Hall  
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

\* **Signing Statements presentation by DCC member  
Debi Miller and the California State Democratic  
Convention review**

### 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).

#### **Presidents' Message for May '07**

Greetings to all, with a special welcome to new members, and a big thank-you to returning members!

We are able to write this greeting because of the spectacularly successful work of our Membership Committee, chaired jointly by Joan Adams and Lenna Reyes. Not too long back, our paid membership had dipped below 100. To rectify that, and get the numbers up, Joan Adams devised a two-part plan. The first stage involved sending a letter to former members, to remind them of our club's important work toward getting Democratic candidates elected. The second stage involved hand-carrying packages of information on the

club (including an invitation to last month's Pizza Night) to Democrats in Camarillo who'd recently moved to the area, or registered to vote. Many club members helped do this work, preparing mailings, and knocking on doors. The result: paid memberships are up by about fifty percent, to over 150. Wow! Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations on the success.

Continuing on the theme of outreach, we are pleased to announce that Bridget Frank is our new Voter Registration and Tabling Chair. As of this writing, Bridget has already organized two mornings of tabling at the Saturday Farmer's Market, with plans to return on as many Saturdays across the rest of the year (weather permitting) as can be staffed. Past stalwarts of this activity – Chris Robson, Phyllis and Jack Phillips, Eileen Mannion, among others – have helped Bridget get started by passing on information, carrying the table and canopy, and so on. It takes many people to make this activity work – thanks to all who've participated, or plan to.

Our next general meeting will be on Thursday May 3, at 7 p.m., in the UFCW building as usual. Our special speaker will be club member and DCC Executive Board alumnus Debi Miller, on the topic of Signing Statements. Debi has been our special guest before. In January of '06, she spoke on separation of church and state, and it was one of the best DCC nights ever. If you heard her then, you know what an engaging presence she is. Her presentation was excellent, and inspired a lively discussion following. We understand that she's researching her new topic specially for us, and it should provide a rare opportunity to learn about a critical process that has come into prominence in part because of King W's abuse of it. On that same night, we'll hear a report on the California State Democratic Convention from the several DCC members who will be attending as delegates, so it all adds up to one significant meeting. Hope to see you there.

Your Prezzes,  
Bob and Joan

P.S. Last month's Pizza Night was great fun. Thanks to all who participated, especially Lenna Reyes for the planning and organizing. Congratulations!

[www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com](http://www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com)

805-484-6601

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### **Special Scholarship Announcement**

**Donations to the scholarship fund have reached \$375 which means each of the three deserving winners will now receive a \$425 scholarship instead of usual \$300 funded from the club treasury. Our goal is to raise an additional \$225 from private donations so each student will receive \$500. Please help if you can.**

**If you can send a check please make it payable to DCC and write "scholarship fund" on the memo line and mail to Jack Phillips at 891 Skeel Dr., Camarillo, 93010.**

**On behalf of the students, thank you.**

### **DCC Members Speak Out!**

#### **Letters to the Editor – Ventura County Star**

"That's the methane gas emanating from the b.s."

Ron Speakman muttered these words to fellow school board members Thursday after earlier lecturing the crowd on the importance of treating others with respect (well, at least if the cameras have to be on). Mr. Speakman also proposed reversing the board's recent school closure decision. After all the pain and division their handling of this issue has caused, what's changed now?

Answer - the political winds have shifted once again. Unfortunately, the smell of b.s. is getting even stronger.

Let's see, just before the last election our district was in solid financial shape, solid enough to handle unification. Then, after the election, our district balance sheet was in dire need of budget-rescuing school closures. Now, it seems, that decision should be rescinded. All this in less than six months!

Sandra Berg contributed Thursday that her local Santa Rosa school should be left alone and not re-considered for closure for 'a long, long time'. How long? Apparently long enough to ensure her Santa Rosa neighbors continue to support her in the next election or her other future political aspirations. When Dr Moffett resigns in frustration shortly, we can expect this board to somehow blame him for their school closure debacle. We should also expect a replacement superintendent to try to spin our focus back to unification. All retired pro-unification friends of the board should apply immediately.

Our school board members have proven themselves to be either incredibly incompetent trustees, or incredibly incompetent politicians, or both. If we were talking about anything less important than our children's educations we might just be tempted to continue ignoring this.

If however, like me, you want to put an end to this train wreck now, I urge you to support the recall petition by emailing [PVRecall@gmail.com](mailto:PVRecall@gmail.com)

David Stephenson  
Camarillo Parent

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Re: your April 19 article, "Abortion foes win high court decision":

The Bush administration got its wish: control over women and doctors' decisions regarding a woman's personal health. Five men have decided for every woman in the United States, that if she is in a medical crisis any time after the first trimester of pregnancy, then she can just die. It doesn't even matter to them if she and the baby die, as long as she has no chance of survival. Anyone who believes that this is the end of the removal of women and doctors' rights is very wrong and misguided. This is just the beginning. And we're at war with Islamist extremists who denigrate their women?

Carolyn Crandall

[www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com](http://www.democraticclubofcamarillo.com)

805-484-6601

## DCC Dues Structure

At a general meeting earlier this year, a member raised the heartfelt concern that the club's dues structure may not be fair to all members, as it may discriminate against singles. Currently, the basic membership dues are \$20/year. A family/couples membership is \$30/year. The senior/student rate is \$15/year with a family/couples rate of \$20.

Ensuing discussion on that same night showed that there were other members who shared the concern, or were sympathetic to it, and that it's not just a matter of money (since the dues are so modest) but rather a matter of principle, a matter of fairness. In contrast, other members offered the concern that dues revenue might drop if couples and families didn't have the lower cost option, since the most interested member of a group might just elect to take a single rather than group membership.

A little history: the club's dues have been structured the same way since its beginning, with the initial thinking based on the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter. One newsletter printed for, and mailed to two or more members at one address costs less per person than one newsletter mailed to one person.

But jumping to the present, the electronic version of the newsletter complicates and changes this basis for yearly dues. Some of our members still receive their newsletters by "snail mail" but others now receive theirs electronically. (We've currently instated a method wherein the newsletter gets posted on the club's website, and members who've requested electronic delivery receive email notification when the newsletter is available for download.) The cost to the club of e-delivery is close to nil, whereas the cost of snail-mail delivery still uses up a good chunk of dues revenues.

So at this juncture, what makes for fair dues? Should a single person's dues be higher per person than a married person's dues? Is this wrong? One suggested solution: set the dues rate per person strictly, and drop the family/couples rate. But could this be problematic too? What about a one-income family made up of kids, a working parent and a stay-at-home parent? Would the per-person rate work for them? What about single-income couples, both of whom would like to be voting members of the club?

We'd like to hear your thoughts and opinions on this matter. Please email them to Carolyn Crandall, the Newsletter Editor, at [softails.togo@verizon.net](mailto:softails.togo@verizon.net). Or write to the Co-Presidents, Joan and Bob Rust, at [joan@rusts.net](mailto:joan@rusts.net) or [bob@rusts.net](mailto:bob@rusts.net).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A hearty welcome to our newest members who joined our club in March and April.

Dianne & Frank DePasquale  
Anna Bevins  
Beverly & Craig Silsbee  
Charlotte Gilliland  
Barbara Shufani  
Maurice (Ric) Rossini  
Toshiko Wilkerson  
Ann Hou  
Zelda Greentree

And a huge thank you to 43 people who had allowed their membership to lapse and have renewed their membership in March and April. Welcome back!

Some of our newest members came with a friend to one of our general meetings. Just think how our club would grow if everyone invited one friend to the meeting and that one friend joined our club! Think about it--we are going to need all the help we can muster in 2008. Let's start now!

Have a friend who needs a little encouragement? Call Membership co-chairs Joan Adams, 805-383-7430 or Lenna Reyes, 805-482-5642, perhaps we can encourage them to get involved with Camarillo Democrats!

**Don't forget to bring a friend to the next meeting.**

### More cruelty from right-wing crackpots

**While liberals debate whether it's OK to criticize the president on a day of mourning, wingnuts waste no time blaming Virginia Tech victims.**

**Joan Walsh – Salon.com**

Apr. 18, 2007

The difference between liberals and conservatives. While liberal Salon readers were debating the decorum of criticizing the president on a national day of mourning over the Virginia Tech massacre, conservative bomb throwers wasted no time criticizing ... the victims.

It's not just Mad John Derbyshire yesterday -- "Where was the spirit of self-defense here ... [W]hy didn't anyone rush the guy?" That was bad enough. Today the National Review's Mark Steyn blamed the "awful corrosive passivity" of Virginia Tech students for not defending themselves against Cho Seung-Hui. He even mocks the male students as somehow not quite being men. (I found this at Think Progress.)

"I'm not sure I'm ready to go the full Derb but I think he's closer to the reality of the situation than most. ... Point one: They're not 'children.' The students at Virginia Tech were grown women and - if you'll forgive the expression -- men.

"We do our children a disservice to raise them to entrust all to officialdom's security blanket. Geraldo-like 'protection' is a delusion: when something goes awry -- whether on a September morning flight out of Logan or on a peaceful college campus -- the state won't be there to protect you. You'll be the fellow on the scene who has to make the decision."

The hideous Michelle Malkin is even worse. "There's no polite way or time to say it: American colleges and universities have become coddle industries," she begins (as if she's ever thought about a polite time or way to say anything). She continues: "Instead of teaching students to defend their beliefs, American educators shield them from vigorous intellectual debate. Instead of

encouraging autonomy, our higher institutions of learning stoke passivity and conflict-avoidance.

"And as the erosion of intellectual self-defense goes, so goes the erosion of physical self-defense." Malkin then goes off on a predictable rant against the Virginia law that prevents guns on campus.

So let's sort this out: On a day when people of conscience and common sense are asking what makes a miserable young man turn to guns and violence, conservative provocateurs are insisting the answer is more guns and violence. Over three tragic days, I've found solace in the actions of two Virginia Tech professors: the courageous Holocaust survivor Liviu Librescu, who died blocking the door so his students could get away, and English department chair Lucinda Roy, who tutored Cho personally when other students were afraid to be in class with him; who tried to get him counseling, and even went to the police with her concerns about the dangerously depressed student. But Malkin and Steyn are telling me Librescu and Roy are actually part of the problem.

Of course, I'd rather be in the camp where people debate whether it's OK to criticize the president in a time of tragedy than in the camp where people blame the victims of the tragedy. I actually feel sorry for decent conservatives today, having to be soiled by association with such garbage. But if you ever find yourself wondering why liberals are so often out-shouted in the public sphere, even though most Americans agree with their politics, remember this moment. It isn't easy to compete with wingnuts who will say absolutely anything to make their points. When Ann Coulter's cracks about the 9/11 widows start to look tame by comparison, you know standards of public discourse are continuing to erode.

Heck of a job (Salon.com)

A lesson learned, or are some victims just maybe more important than others?

Number of days that passed between the shootings at Virginia Tech and George W. Bush's expected arrival for a convocation there: 1.

Number of days that passed between the levee breach in New Orleans and George W. Bush's arrival there for a series of photo opportunities: 4.

Number of presidential guitars played or birthday cakes served in the last 24 hours: 0.

A guy in a Prius was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on Main Street in Ventura the other day.

Suddenly the traffic light at the intersection turned yellow and so he did the right thing, stopping in the crosswalk even though he could've easily beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof - and the horn - screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she hears a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very stern faced police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, another policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate frame, the 'What Would Jesus DO?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

#### **Quote of the Day (Salon.com)**

**In a GQ interview, Wil S. Hylton asks John McCain why he supports a "surge" in Iraq when polls show that a majority of Americans don't. McCain's response: "Because I know what's best for the security of this nation."**

John the farmer was in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred young layers (hens), called "pullets", and ten roosters, whose job it was to fertilize the eggs (for you city folks).

The farmer kept records and any rooster that didn't perform went into the soup pot and was replaced. That took an awful lot of his time, so he bought a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone so John could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

The farmer's favorite rooster was old Butch, and a very fine specimen he was, too. But on this particular morning, John noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all! John went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing. The pullets hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover. But to Farmer John's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He would sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one. John was so proud of old Butch, he entered him in the Renfrew County Fair and he became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The result? The judges not only awarded old Butch the No Bell Piece Prize but they also awarded him the Pulletsurprise as well.

Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making: Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most highly coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention.....

## Setting the bar low

George W. Bush, Oct. 15, 2001: "Let me say a few words about important values we must demonstrate while all of us serve in government. First, we must always maintain the highest ethical standards. We must always ask ourself not only what is legal, but what is right. There is no goal of government worth accomplishing if it cannot be accomplished with integrity."

George W. Bush, April 23, 2007: "The attorney general went up [to Capitol Hill] and gave a very candid assessment and answered every question he could possibly answer, honestly answer, in a way that increased my confidence in his ability to do the job. One of the things that's important for the American people to understand is that the attorney general has a right to recommend to me to replace U.S. attorneys. U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the president. We have named them, and I have the right to replace them with somebody else. And as the investigation and the hearings went forward, it was clear that the attorney general broke no law, did no wrongdoing. Some senators didn't like his explanation, but he answered as honestly as he could. This is an honest and honorable man in whom I have confidence."



9-1-07 THE PHOENIX, ARIZONA: UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



9-17-07 THE PHOENIX, ARIZONA: UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



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**Veterans Corner**  
by Steve Crandall

**True Help or Just Another Money Maker?**

I was reading an article in the Sunday LA Times dated 4-22-07 about independent help for the troops with PTSD and their families.

My first thought was this is great! The military is finally seeking help with other groups to identify and help troops with PTSD. Then I started thinking about private contractors and the problems at the Walter Reed outpatient care facility. So I Googled Tri West Healthcare and found that it is an insurance company that has a DoD contract and is in 21 states, not just CA.

There was a link to Career Builder so I looked at the available jobs and requirements. Out of the 36 open positions I did not find one job for psychologists or requests for help from other veterans that might have experienced combat. There were 2 positions open for Registered Nurses. One of the requirements was 2 years experience in case management services. Other than that, the jobs listed were for people with marketing, statistical data management and administrative skills.

The job locations, other than the Arizona corporate headquarters, are in offices located on the bases (embedded). Of course this service is not free to the troops and their families.

First of all I am disappointed that there is a cost to the troops and their families and second I am skeptical of insurance companies out to make a profit on the health problems of our troops. This is probably the most privatized war ever and will continue to be privatized long after the war is over.



**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	Bob and Joan Rust
Vice President	Carolyn Crandall
Recording Secretary	Rose Obetz
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Wieland
Treasurer	Jack Phillips
Member-at-large	Linda McKenna
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	Hardy Hayes
Voter Registration	Bridget Frank
Fndrsing/Spcl.Events	Open
Scholarship	Pat Wieland
Newsletter	Carolyn Crandall

Help us save postage,  
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Just ask **Carolyn Crandall** at [softails.togo@verizon.net](mailto:softails.togo@verizon.net)

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