



CDP Interfaith Initiative Speakers at April DCCV Meeting

At the April 11th DCCV Meeting, Jerl Laws, Interfaith Outreach Director for the CDP, and Dr. Karin Quimby, liaison to the faith communities for Congresswoman Lois Capps will speak about religious integrity, ethics and returning the California Democratic Party to its core values.

The California Democratic Party and The Democratic National Committee present workshops and keynote presentations, conducted by experienced Democratic officials, on the most up-to-date information concerning the political overview of the country, state and local politics. The purpose of the presentations is to provide information and skills to use in the real world.

The Democratic Party has always been a big tent and represents many different opinions and values expressed in such a diverse group. The Religious Steward Program is a public outreach effort to promote collaboration between The California Democratic Party and California's Faith Leaders. Inspired by the ideal of the common good, the Religious Steward Program is grounded in standards guided by religious integrity and sustained by the ethics of California's Faith Community. Leaders of faith act as advisors to and representatives of the CDP.

Discussions are designed to close the gap between Democratic elected officials and California's Faith Community. Faith Leaders are invited to attend, voice their opinions, and hear the responses from public figures and elected officials concerning issues affecting their community.

Jerl Laws is the Interfaith Outreach Director for the California Democratic Party. Before beginning this position he was the regional organizer for the East Bay Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice and worked for Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

Dr. Karin Quimby is a former university professor in film and literature. She has worked on numerous social justice and political campaigns. Currently she is the vice-president of the Ojai Valley Democratic Club and works as the liaison to the faith communities for Congresswoman Lois Capps.

Wine for Winners

The *Wine for Winners* fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th, from 8-10 p.m. at the beautiful home of Seth & Karen Stevens in Dos Vientos. Wine Styles will pour and share their knowledge on a variety of California wines. Come to sample, sip and shop their delicious wines while enjoying the smooth jazz sounds of Susan Cohen and her band.



In addition to wine tasting, a variety of decadent desserts and flavored coffees will be served.

Bring a friend who is attending a DCCV event for the first time and you each receive a free raffle ticket.

Bring your checkbooks and/or credit cards. Raffle tickets will be sold for a variety of gifts, including tickets to the Garden Party in September. A portion of any wine purchased from Wine Styles will go to the DCCV. The money raised will be used to build a reserve for the 2008 election expenses.

Make your reservations early. Reservations are required for *Wine for Winners* and can be made online at www.conejodemocrats.com. The admission is \$40.00. If paid before May 15, reservations are \$30. For information about special rates for students and limited income, call Sandy at 805-675-8785. You may also mail your reservation to DCCV, P.O. Box 4421, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

Directions to the event will be mailed or emailed after payment is received.

If you would like to help with desserts, please contact Deb Kelner at drewdeb.kelner@verizon.net or Sandy Emberland, event coordinator, at 805-493-9122 or semlerland@verizon.net. Other members of the committee are Penne Letson, Ingrid van Eckert and Abbe Berns. Check www.conejodemocrats.com for up to date information.



DCCV Members Speak Out:

DA Firings Illustrate Administration's Preference For Loyalty Over Competence

By Richard Kolber

The more we learn about the dismissal of those eight district attorneys, the more craven we discover the Bush administration to be. Here we have the spectacle of a significant number of Republican-appointed prosecutors being fired in the middle of a Republican president's second term. This is unprecedented, so let us take a closer look.

First, there is the Bush administration's argument that it is his prerogative to hire and fire DA's as the President pleases. His defenders go on to argue that all 93 of his father's appointees were let go when Bill Clinton assumed office. However, there are significant shortcomings with this line of defense. First, it may be Bush's prerogative, but it surely is a violation of the public trust to fire a district attorney because he/she was either pursuing Republican office-holders or failing to go after Democrats. The DA's work for the Justice Department (which is proving to be an oxymoron with Bush hack Alberto Gonzales in charge). Just because they are hired by a Republican administration does not mean they should put politics above adherence to the rule of law.

As for the mass firings by Clinton, this is standard operating procedure. That is, when there is a change of party in the White House, all DA's are replaced by appointees of the new president. This was true of Clinton as well as Reagan and Carter. Exceptions are made on a short-term basis if replacing a DA will seriously compromise an ongoing investigation. What is unique is firing a great number of your own appointees in the middle of your term.

Let's consider a couple of these terminations. Carol Lam, who put the discredited ex-Congressman Duke Cunningham behind bars, was canned for allegedly not aggressively pursuing illegal immigration prosecutions. Now we learn that her immediate supervisor commended her for her work in that area. Her overall performance evaluation was superb. A White House email revealed concern about her ongoing investigations ("We have a problem in Carol Lam"). One of her possible targets was Republican Congressman Jerry Lewis.

Then we have the dismissal of David Iglesias in New Mexico. He had received calls last year from Rep. Heather Wilson and Sen. Pete Domenici, the latter while Iglesias was at home. Both were inquiring about possible investigations of Democratic office-holders before the November election. This is grossly improper. In

addition, a White House email described Domenici as "happy as a clam" when it was announced that Iglesias was being let go.

We now learn that the administration emails being used to justify the termination of these people for "performance-related" issues were written AFTER the firings. In other words, the Bushies are trying to retroactively rewrite history to cover their tracks. This just plain stinks, even worse than Katrina or Walter Reed in my opinion. The latter were about incompetence, but this latest scandal involves deliberate actions where political considerations trumped law enforcement.

Now we have Bush saying he will let aides testify in closed-door sessions but not under oath and without stenographers or recording devices. Does he really believe anyone will be fooled by his claims of executive privilege? Is there anybody out there outside of die-hard Bush apologists who still believe anything this administration has to say? This stand-off may require the Supreme Court to step in (and, remembering Bush vs Gore, I cannot say I am entirely confident about the outcome), but Democrats need to stand firm on this. The only hope of getting the truth out is to put these people under oath. Some are likely to emulate Scooter Libby and perjure themselves, but some will surely take that oath seriously. And Bush certainly understands this, so do not look for him to back down either.



"It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get to where we are today, but we have just begun. Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today." Barack Obama.



Meeting Locations

Here is the list of meeting locations for the next quarter. Monthly meetings start at 6:30 PM but reservation is 6 - 9 PM.

- 4/11: **TO** Library 6 - 9 PM - Monthly Meeting.
- 4/14: **TO** Library 10 AM - 1 PM - Co-sponsored Global Warming Rally.
- 5/9: **TO** Library 6 - 9 PM - Monthly Meeting.
- 6/13: **NP** Library 6 - 9 PM - Monthly Meeting.

Note: We also have the Summer Speaker Series with Congresswoman Lois Capps May 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Conejo Rec & Park, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks. For updates see www.conejodemocrats.com.



CONEJO VALLEY DAYS

"It's Fun, It's New and It's All For You!"

Conejo Valley Days 2007 is introducing a ton of new attractions and entertainment to the five day festival set for May 2 through 6, 2007 at Conejo Creek Park South (23 Freeway, Janss Road exit).

The **DCCV** will once again host a booth in the commercial tent. This year we have been guaranteed preferred placement, so we are hoping to be in the busiest section of the tent. Last year, not only were we competing against the Republican Party but Elton Gallegly also had his own booth.

This is one of the best opportunities for our club to register new voters. We will also sign up new club members, add to our mailing list and recruit volunteers.

Available Volunteer Shifts

May 2, Wednesday	5 to 8 PM	8 to 10 PM	
May 3, Thursday	5 to 8 PM	8 to 10 PM	
May 4, Friday	5 to 8 PM	8 to 10 PM	10 to Midnight
May 5, Saturday	Noon to 2 PM	2 to 4 PM	4 to 6 PM
	6 to 8 PM	8 to 10 PM	10 to Midnight
May 6, Sunday	Noon to 2 PM	2 to 4 PM	4 to 6 PM
	6 to 8 PM	8 to 10 PM	10 to Midnight

Each shift needs 2 volunteers.

Please volunteer to help with this important event by contacting Jay Kapitz at j_kapitz@yahoo.com or 818-889-1039. Thanks in advance for your help!



EYE ON THE ISSUES: The April show will be a round-table discussion about The Iraq War (Occupation) featuring former Congressional Candidate Jill Martinez, Omar Masry, who served in Iraq from 2003-2004 and Jane Bright, whose son Evan Ashcraft was killed in the war in July 2003. This show will air every Tuesday night in April at 8:00 p.m. on Cable Channel 25.

EARTH DAY: Earth Day will be Saturday, April 21st at Conejo Creek Park (the park behind the TO Library and next to the 23 Freeway). There are two shifts from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call Sue at 805-499-7822 or email at suegunther@verizon.net. Sue Gunther



"The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion." -- *Molly Ivins*



Daytime Dems

WHEN: Wed. May 2 at 11:30 AM

WHERE: Agoura Bistro and Wine Bar; 30315 Canwood Street (Reyes Adobe Plaza); Agoura Hills

COST: \$17/person includes: Entree (Your choice: Salmon, Chicken Breast, or Cobb Salad); beverage; dessert; tax and gratuity

RSVP: April 30: 805-675-8785. Please provide name, phone number, number of people in your party and entree choice for each person.

Speaker to be announced.



Save the Date: VCDCC SPRING FLING will be held on June 2nd.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead



Wanted: Volunteers for **Conejo Valley Days**, May 2-6 2007, all shifts. We have a booth again this year, and need folks to staff the booth. Contact Jay Kapitz to volunteer, Jay Kapitz j_kapitz@yahoo.com.

Wanted: Volunteers for tabling at the Oaks Mall. To volunteer contact Jay Kapitz, j_kapitz@yahoo.com or Sean Richards, maysman24@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events

General DCCV Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Karin Quimby, & Jerl Laws, "Reaching Out to Faith-based Groups." Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 E. Janss Road.
Contact: www.conejodemocrats.com or 805-675-8785

April 11
6:30 p.m.

May 2
11:30 a.m.

Daytime Dems at Agoura Bistro, RSVP: Adrienne, 805-675-8785

Tuesdays
8:00 p.m.

Eye On The Issues
Cable 25

May
9
6:30 p.m.

General DCCV Meeting
Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 E. Janss Rd.. www.conejodemocrats.com

National Day of Climate

Action contact Dave at dettinger@horvitzLevy.com Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 E. Janss Road.
Contact: www.conejodemocrats.com or 805-675-8785

May 19
8 p.m.

Wine for Winners Fundraiser for 2008. \$40. Before May 15, \$30/person. Contact Sandy Emberland, semlerland@verizon.net

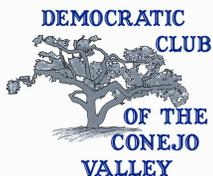
April 14
10:00 a.m. to
1:00 p.m.

April 21
11:00 a.m.

Earth Day
Contact: Sue Gunther at 805-499-7822 or suegunther@verizon.net.

May 29
2:00 p.m.

Summer Speaker Series, Congresswoman Lois Capps, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Conejo Rec & Park, TO. Contact: www.conejodemocrats.com



Democratic Club of Conejo Valley

P.O. Box 4421
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
www.conejodemocrats.com
805-675-8785

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DCCV Officers for 2006

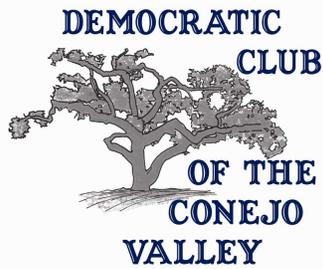
Tom Mullens, **President**
Shelley Austin, **Exec. Vice President**
Kara Altshuler, **Admin. Vice President**
Sue Gunther, **Recording Secretary**
Jody Avery-Smith, **Corresponding Secretary**
Jerry Clein, **Treasurer**

Committee Chairpersons

Jay Kapitz, **Election Strategy**
Sandy Emberland, **Fundraising**
Susie Canfield & Judy Jordan, **Hospitality**
Jay Kapitz, **Membership Coordinator**
Susie Canfield, **Program Coordinator**
Jody Avery-Smith, **Public Relations**
Kara Altshuler, **Technology**
Sean Richards, **Youth Coordinator**
Heather Schmidt, **Young Progressive Democrats**

Time to renew your membership.





Yes, I'd like to support the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley!

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to the address below. If you'd like to pay via credit card, please go to our website at www.conejodemocrats.com

**DCCV
P.O. Box 4421
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359**

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I'm a registered Democrat I'm a new member Please renew my membership

Membership Type: (please note that memberships are for the calendar year)

Individual Membership \$20 Family Membership: \$30

Senior (65+): \$10 Student \$10

I wish to attend the **Wine for Winners Fundraiser, May 19 at 8:00 p.m.:**

\$40 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Before May 15, \$30 per person

(Senior and Student Admissions on request. Contact Sandy Emberland.)

I wish to make an additional donation of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

**Contributions are not tax deductible*

The following information is required by federal law. If you are a student, unemployed or retired, you can enter "none" for both fields.

Occupation _____ Employer _____

By completing this form, you are certifying the following: You are a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien. This contribution is not made from the general treasury funds of a corporation, labor organization or national bank. This contribution is not made from the treasury of an entity or person who is a federal contractor. The funds you are donating are not being provided to you by another person or entity for the purpose of making this contribution.