



Newsletter of the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley

January 2009

## Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Come recognize our hard-working volunteers on Friday, Jan. 30 at Naylor's Banquet Center at the Thousand Oaks Inn. Enjoy cocktails and a wonderful buffet dinner and honor volunteers from the various campaigns who worked so hard on this past election.

Reservations are required by Mon. Jan 26. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

Our keynote speaker is Matt Simon, Obama Regional Field Director & Camp Obama Trainer. He will speak on the importance of campaign volunteers and where we go from here.

This year's dinner will benefit\* *The Greater Contribution* a non-profit organization committed to making an impact on poverty by funding micro loans that help poor, mostly women, start small businesses. Karon Wright, Executive Director will tell us more about how micro loans change lives.

Volunteers will receive a gift of appreciation as well as a thank you from our local candidates.

We have 2 vacation destinations to auction this year. First is a week at your choice of condo locations from RCI. The second is a week on the beach near Puerto Vallarta. Both are valued at approx. \$1300. Bring your check books & plan to bid on one or both of these in our live auction.

\*\$5 of ea ticket & 40% of all proceeds benefit The Greater Contribution & are tax deductible.

For more information, check out our website: [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com) or call 805-675-8785.

**The DCCV is going green.** This will be our last printed monthly newsletter. In the future, we will only be mailing out special notices. The monthly newsletter will be sent via e-mail. If you would still like to receive a hardcopy, you must be a paid club member and let our corresponding secretary, Kara Altshuler, know so she can update the list. Kara's email: [ourjunk@roadrunner.com](mailto:ourjunk@roadrunner.com) or phone 805-480-4952.

## 37<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTIONS

The 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District will be holding its delegate elections on January 10, 2009 at the Newbury Park Library.

Registration will take place from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. All Democrats registered in the 37<sup>th</sup> A.D. are welcome and encouraged to vote for their representatives to the State Convention.

Please bring \$5.00 to help defray the cost of the election. We look forward to a large election turn out.

Visit [www.cadem.org/ADEM](http://www.cadem.org/ADEM) for a list of candidates who are running to be one of the 12 delegates from the 37th AD.



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Luncheon

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009 at 12 PM (Please note the date: The luncheon is NOT on Martin Luther King Day.)

**WHERE:** Thousand Oaks Inn; 75 West Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(Behind Dupar's)

**Cost:** \$12 Per Person (Pay at the door.) Includes tax, gratuity, lunch buffet.

**Speaker:** Russell Stockard, Jr., Associate at CLU



**Topic:** "The Life and Times of a Pioneering African-American Journalist: Russell Stockard, Sr."

RSVP by January 23, 2009. Call 805-675-8785. Please clearly say your name, phone number, e-mail address, and number of people in your party.



## National Day of Service – Jan. 19

The day before President-elect Obama is sworn in as our 44<sup>th</sup> President is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a holiday celebrated by a national day of community service, commemorating a man who lived his life in service to others.

The call will go to all Americans to organize service projects and join others at events in their communities. These can be events that orient people to your organization's work, engage people in direct service, or bring people together to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and how they can commit to becoming more engaged citizens.

Here in the Conejo Valley, plans are underway to organize a variety of activities which may include collecting food & helping at the Manna collection center, providing & serving food at a homeless shelter, assisting at the local animal shelter, restoration of wild habitat, etc. We will be working with volunteers from the Obama campaign and Community Organize who want to make a difference.

We have a great opportunity to set the tone for the next four years and I know you will rise to the challenge. Check out the latest at [CommunityOrganize.com](http://CommunityOrganize.com) to sign up and be of service

Hold on to your hats, ladies and gentlemen!

On Saturday, December 20, an AMAZING 1385 pounds of food and \$175 in cash was delivered to Manna, the food bank of the Conejo Valley!

The DCCV partners were ConejoObama, phone bank volunteers, and those who attended a Change Is Coming



house party. Thanks to all who contributed at the DCCV holiday potluck and meeting, as well as to those who collected food at their homes and drove cars and trucks to deliver it to Manna.

## DCCV JANUARY MEETING

The Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley is holding its monthly meeting on January 14, 2009 at the Thousand Oaks Library. The meeting will begin at 6:30.

A short business meeting will be followed by the swearing in of our new officers and then an informative talk by Joe O'Neill and Brian Leshon on the relationship between the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee and our Club. Time permitting, we will then hold an open forum for our membership to voice their opinions as to the direction we go as a club including suggestions for future speakers.

We are hoping to have a monthly charity that we contribute to as a Club. If you have a charity that you hold dear, please come to the meeting and tell us about it.

The Club is undergoing an urgent reorganization. We have many, many volunteer positions that need immediate filling.

Please consider working with one of the following committees:

**Hospitality:** Brings snacks to meetings. Greets new guests and gets their contact information. Works with Special Events.

**Special Events:** Helps coordinate events. Finds sites for events.

**Membership:** Runs membership table at meetings. Keeps an up to date membership roster. Prints membership cards. Coordinates with treasurer on new memberships and with special events to have membership materials at all events.

**Speakers' Bureau:** Gathers and maintains a directory of speakers. Finds and contacts speakers.

**Newsletter:** Publishes monthly newsletter.

**Phone bank:** Keeps a phone tree for immediate membership contact.

## You Can Do a Good Deed Right Now

Donate your old cell phones – whether they are just outdated or even broken. A collection box will be at the Jan. 14 club meeting. Start with your drawers, then check with your friends, relatives and neighbors.

Did you know that over 130 million cell phones & PDAs will be retired this year in the US, but fewer than 10% are likely to be recycled? Donate your old cell phone to help build women's skills, jobs and assets in your community.

Your old cell phones can help provide lasting solutions to poverty and climate change. Some will also be fixed up and reprogrammed as 911 phones for use by domestic violence survivors, the elderly and others at risk. Materials from broken and obsolete phones and accessories can be reclaimed and used to create other things.

This effort is coordinated by Women's Funding Network – [www.wfnet.org](http://www.wfnet.org) and Good Deed Foundation – [www.GoodDeedFoundation.org](http://www.GoodDeedFoundation.org). What better way to clear out your clutter & help someone at the same time.

# Our OBAMA Campaign

By Jay Kapitz

On election night I received this text message:

**"We just made history. All this happened because you gave your time, talent and passion to this campaign. All of this happened because of you. Thanks. Barack."**

This message went out to all the 1.6 million volunteers but for some of us it felt extra special. Beginning in 2003, I became actively involved as a Democratic grassroots organizer for local, state and national candidates and measures. I have worked incredibly hard on these campaigns in addition to working a full time job. My feelings regarding being part of the Obama campaign can hardly be explained in words. This was my greatest experience since my children were born.

The campaign highlights for me:

January 17, 2008 - Nevada caucuses – I attended a small rally, heard Barack and Michelle speak and got to shake hands with Barack. I knew at that moment I had met a man who was born to be our next president.

April 14, 2008 - Sandy Emberland and I were elected to be Obama pledged delegates to the Democratic National Convention. It was such an honor to have received the support of so many local Democrats on that special day.

Early Summer 2008 - Register for Change, Unite for Change and County Meetup for Change events were held and the participation was off the charts. This was so far beyond what we did in 2004 for Kerry that we all knew we were onto something extraordinary. We had 200 attendees at our first countywide meetup and multiple Unite for Change meetups in my own Oak Park. We had never had a political event in Oak Park before in any campaign! By GOTV weekend we had 60 callers working out of an Oak Park phone bank!

August 25 -28, 2008- The Convention. Michelle, Barack, Teddie and Dennis gave my favorite speeches. We danced non-stop during commercial breaks - what a party. This was such an open convention and Denver was so energized. We were able to get all of our non-delegate friends into Invesco for the big speeches!

September 2008 - Camp Obama. This was an amazing weekend of powerful presentations and orientation. We organized our cities into groups Our Oak Park/Westlake/ Malibu Lake group was so awesome. I love you guys!

October 2008 – Four weekends in Las Vegas canvassing door to door including 4 days of GOTV. This was the highlight. So many apartment stairs, even three stories. So hard on the ankles but so uplifting for the spirit. The enthusiasm on the faces of the first time voters cannot be described. Made me cry...even now to think about it. Our leaders in Nevada were all early 20s, so smart, so organized. Our future is bright.

November 4, 2008 began at 5 AM and didn't end for 24 hours after so much celebrating in Las Vegas. I still can't believe we won!!

This victory thing doesn't get old at all. I know there are such difficult challenges ahead. I know I will be involved in these challenges, but for now I am just savoring this victory. To all my great friends, old and new, who worked so hard – amazing job and what a thrill working with you on the best campaign ever!!!

## Fired Up – Ready to Party!!

### Inauguration Celebration Dinner

Want to celebrate the Inauguration of President Barack Obama, but not travel to Washington, DC? Join the Ventura County Democratic Party's 2009 Obama Presidential Inauguration Celebration Dinner on Tues, Jan 20 in Ventura. The party starts at 6:00 pm at My Florist Winecafe & Bakery, 76 S. Oak St. Ventura.

There will be a full dinner, music, dancing & a few short speeches. Semi-formal attire is requested, but not required. Be sure to wear your dancin' shoes. You won't want to miss this exciting event – space is limited, so please reserve your spot NOW.

During the event President Obama's Inauguration speech will be re-broadcast, as well as the parades & party coverage on a large screen. Join the celebration.

Ticket prices are \$40 for club members, \$50 for non-members, and a special \$55 ticket that includes a 2009 club membership.

Visit [www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com](http://www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com) for information & to purchase event tickets. Or you may call 805-641-2400 for assistance.





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](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$25.00       Family Membership: \$35.00

Senior (65+): \$15.00       Student \$15.00

I wish to become a Sustaining Member at the following level:

\$50       \$100       \$250       \$500       \$1,000       Other, Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*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 donation are not being provided to you by another person or entity for the purpose of making this contribution.

# **2009 Obama Presidential Inauguration Celebration Dinner**

Join Democrats, Progressives and Independents to celebrate the historic election of Barack Hussein Obama as President of the United States of America

Date: January 20, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Location: My Florist Winecafe and Bakery

Address: 76 S. Oak St. Ventura, CA 93001-2702

Information and Tickets:

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



During the event we will broadcast President Obama's Inauguration speech, as well as the parades and party coverage on a large screen. There will also be live music, dancing and some short speeches.

The dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, full dinner with several entre options, dessert and a beverage – you may choose to eat at any time. There will be a no-host bar. There is room for 150 guests, so please order your tickets early as this will be a sold-out event.

Ticket Prices:

Members of Ventura County Democratic Clubs: \$40

Non-Members: \$50

Ticket and 2009 Club Membership: \$55

**Please visit [www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com](http://www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com) for more information and to purchase event tickets.**

**If you do not have internet access call 805-641-2400.**

Semi-formal attire requested. But wear your dancin' shoes!

# Calendar of Events

Thursdays  
New 1 hour format  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

**Eye on the issues**  
**New Day and time**  
Timewarner Cable  
Channel 25

Saturday  
Jan. 10  
12:00 noon

**37th Assembly District**  
**Delegate Election**  
Newbury Park Library  
Borchard Rd., NP  
12:00 Registratiion  
2:00 Speeches & Voting

Wednesday  
Jan. 14  
6:30 pm

**January Meeting**  
Thousand Oaks Library  
Swearing in of Officers  
Special guest: Joe O'Neil,  
VCDCC Chair

Monday  
Jan. 19

**National Day of Service**  
Various events & locations  
Sign up at  
[www.communityorganize.com](http://www.communityorganize.com)

Tuesday  
Jan. 20  
6:00 — 11:00

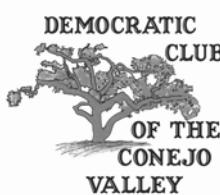
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Inauguration Celebration  
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My Florist Winecafe & Bakery  
76 S. Oak St. Ventura  
[www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com](http://www.VenturaCountyDemocrats.com)

Tuesday  
Jan. 27  
12:00 noon

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
Celebration Luncheon  
Speaker: Russell Stockard, Jr.  
TO Inn, \$12 per person

Friday  
Jan. 30  
6:30

**Volunteer Recognition Dinner  
Benefiting  
The Greater Contribution**  
TO Inn  
Reservations Required—\$25.00  
Thank you gift to volunteers  
Live auction for 2 vacation weeks



**Democratic Club of Conejo Valley**  
P.O. Box 4421  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359  
[www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)  
805-675-8785

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## DCCV Officers for 2008

Debbie Birenbaum, **President**  
Sandy Emberland, **Exec. Vice President**  
Carol Keavney, **Admin. Vice President**  
Sue Gunther, **Recording Secretary**  
Kara Altshuler, **Corresponding Secretary**  
Cleo Navarro, **Treasurer**

### Committee Chairpersons

**Membership:** Mary Freed  
**Hospitality:** Sylvia Navarro

