



June Primary Approaches; 24th CD candidates to Speak at May Meeting

We will have our final candidates' forum as we close in on the June 3 Primary election. Jill Martinez and Mary Pallant are the remaining Democratic candidates for the 24th Congressional District seat currently held by Elton Gallegly. They will appear to present their platforms and take questions. As has been the custom, both candidates will answer each question in turn.

We will also be hearing from Roberto Arellano, candidate for Judge of the Ventura County Superior Court-Office No. 5. Both candidates in the race are Republicans. However the Executive Board felt that since Superior Court judges are so important and the candidates so often obscure, we would honor Mr. Arellano's request to speak to the club. The other candidate for the office did not request to speak to the club.

Jill Martinez: Raised on the Central Coast of California, Jill Martinez does not limit her dedication to just "state," or "homeland." She has whole-heartedly committed her life to service in the public arena, to improve living standards of generations of hard working, low income and middle class families. Future generations, locally, regionally and around the world, will benefit from the work she has participated in. As Congresswoman, Martinez will continue to bring opportunities in education, health care, housing and economic development. She will work, immediately, to support the efforts to end the war in Iraq and bring those funds home to provide for families here. She will facilitate cooperative efforts in transportation and address global warming by prioritizing research and development in renewable energy sources by using skills she has developed over three decades.

Mary Pallant: Growing up middle-class in San Diego, with four younger brothers, she was inspired by her grandfather who taught her that learning is a life long experience. She learned to listen to people in all walks of life. This instilled working class and middle-class values; the values that are the bedrock of America. She has learned, through her work, volunteering, civic and

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DAYTIME DEMS SPRING LUNCHEON

On Friday, May 16, 2008, at 11:30 a.m., the DCCV will commemorate the 75th anniversary of FDR's Fireside Chats with a luncheon held at Agoura Bistro and Wine Bar, 30315 Canwood Street, Agoura Hills.

In the midst of the Great Depression, on March 12, 1933, Roosevelt gave his first radio-broadcast *Fireside Chat*. In a calm and reassuring voice, the President explained how the nation was going to recover from its economic troubles. From that evening until June 1944, Roosevelt gave 31 Fireside Chats that covered many issues, including the policies of the New Deal and the country's role in World War II.

Our speaker, Dr. Jose Marichal, Professor of Political Science at California Lutheran University, will talk about these historic addresses and relate them to current times. His presentation, *Fireside Chats Come Full Circle: YouTube and the End of the Soundbyte Era?* will look at the emergence, decline and possible resurgence of political information presented at the presidential level. He will draw parallels between FDR's Fireside Chats and new forms of political communication, including *YouTube* and *Facebook*. Both media, early radio and the internet, have allowed users to get information in full context - free from media gatekeepers. Dr. Marichal will discuss the implications of this new form of communication on political participation and knowledge.

The cost of the luncheon is \$17 per person (pay at the door, cash or check) and includes tax, gratuity, beverage, dessert and one of the following entrees: Cobb Salad, Lemon Chicken Lunch, or Atlantic Salmon Lunch. (Sorry no substitutions.) Reservations are a must! Call 805-675-8785 by May 14. Clearly state your name, phone number, e-mail address, the number of people in your party, and entrée choice(s). If there is a cancellation, please let us know by May 14.



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June Primary Approaches;

political roles, to collaborate, formulate and develop the ideas and policies that are necessary to achieving good schools, safe communities and an active citizenry. Her education was fundamental to building her political foundation. The academics at Antioch University are not all typical, traditional collegiate courses. The curriculum combines excellent education with community/work experience while actively encouraging students to participate in social change and justice and instilling core values of critical thinking and leadership.

Tom Mullens, President, DCCV,
president@conejodemocrats.com



(Editor's Note: The views expressed in this column are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.)

The GOP Civil War

By Richard Kolber

There has been a lot of attention focused on the conflict in the Democratic race for the nomination between senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. We keep hearing about how the victor is going to be a sitting duck for the well-rested John McCain and the united GOP. It is certainly possible that Democratic division will cause McCain to triumph, though I personally find it difficult to see a candidate so dedicated to the Iraq War winning and ushering in a third Bush term on so many key issues, given the incredible unpopularity of both the war in general and this president in particular.

But what has increasingly caught my attention is the civil war right here in California between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislators and activists within the GOP. Personally, I have little use for this governor. He has slashed spending on education, refused to consider any form of tax increase (except, of course, in the way of higher fees for college students attending public universities in this state), vetoed single-payer health care which would have given us universal coverage, and even, not entirely unsurprisingly, vetoed a bill to allow gay marriage in this state.

But today's Republican Party wants only purists, and Arnold flunks the test on several counts. He is an environmentalist, believes the threat of global warming is real, is pro-choice, is opposed to job discrimination against gays, and is often willing to work with Democrats in Sacramento to achieve something. In fact, former Democratic Assemblywoman Fran Pavley said that Schwarzenegger signed more of her bills into law than did his predecessor, Gray Davis. So the Governor

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appears on balance to be a moderate, adhering to conservative orthodoxy on some issues and being more flexible on others.

The chairman of the ultra right-wing California Republican Assembly, Mike Spence, believes that Arnold has abandoned the GOP and even urged delegates to the state convention a couple of years ago to not endorse his reelection bid. Spence and his followers do not consider Schwarzenegger a true Republican. One such Republican, a radio host named Al Rantel, even joked following one of Arnold's State of the State messages that he was still waiting for the Republican response to his speech.

As a Democrat, I regard this as good news. When folks like Spence say that Arnold has ruined the Republican Party in this state, I have to chuckle. In fact, the last Republican prior to Schwarzenegger to win two statewide elections was Pete Wilson, and that's going all the way back to 1994. The political landscape in this state has changed considerably since then, to put it mildly. I do not see how a rock-ribbed right-winger can win a statewide election in California today. Even the politically wounded Gray Davis was able to fend off a challenge by arch-conservative Bill Simon back in 2002. It was no secret even then that the more moderate former LA mayor Richard Riordan would have presented a far more difficult challenge. I remember how Republicans complained that Davis was interfering with their primary when he made statements designed to weaken Riordan.

So let me go on record here as wishing Mr. Spence and his minions' great success in cleansing the GOP of dissenters. Let them continue the bashing of undocumented workers too, while they're at it, since Latinos are the fastest growing demographic in this state. If the GOP has this urge to commit political suicide, Democrats should stand aside and wish its rival all the luck in the world in doing so. Those 55 electoral votes sure are a nice base. And it would be nice to regain the governorship when Arnold is termed out in a couple of years.



**General Meeting, May 14, 6:30 p.m. at
Main Library, 1401 Janss Road, TO.
Congressional District 24 Candidates and
Judge to Speak.**



Wanted: Person or Persons to edit and produce a monthly Democratic newsletter. Editing skills, computer skills, knowledge of Word and Email. Contact Jim, *Gikumac@gmail.com*

California Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres on April 13 Caucus Turnout

Since I became Chair of our great Party in 1996, I have never seen such an incredible outpouring of Democratic activists at congressional district-level delegate selection caucuses. More than 23,000 Democrats showed up Sunday afternoon to support more than 2,500 candidates vying for 241 slots. We should be proud of California Democrats for recognizing what is at stake for our state, our nation and our world in this Presidential election.

Not everyone can attend the Democratic National Convention this year, but everyone can participate from now until Election Day on November 4, 2008 to help elect a Democratic President. My thanks to the great staff of the CDP, who handled this very difficult process – first helping potential delegates with their applications, making sure they were completed correctly; helping the campaigns find appropriate caucus sites – and then working the phones all day Sunday to make sure that these elections went smoothly; and of course to the conveners of each of the caucuses and their volunteers who helped coordinate these historic events. I also extend my gratitude to the local, state and national staff of both the Clinton and Obama campaigns. Now the work begins anew and Democrats are ready to win back the White House in 2008!

Club Members Selected as Pledged Delegates

The Obama caucus was held in Ventura, with nearly 200 in attendance and 30 new Democratic voters registered. Nearly 100 Clinton supporters gathered in Newbury Park and five new democrats were registered. Both caucuses drew reporters and photographers from the Ventura County Star, which covered it in the Monday, April 14 edition of the paper.

Three DCCV club members will be attending the Democratic National Convention in Denver as pledged delegates for their candidates from the 24th Congressional District. Jay Kapitz and Sandy Emberland were elected to represent Senator Obama and Rick Gunther was elected as an alternate for Senator Clinton. Karin Quimby, Ojai, Judith Katzburg, Oak Park and Eric Bender, Newbury Park, are Clinton delegates from the 24th Congressional District.

The February 5 Presidential Primary determined that the 24th Congressional District would have two Obama delegates – one woman and one man.

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Senator Clinton was allocated three delegates, two women, one man and one alternate (man). The California State Party made this determination.

The next step for the delegates is a meeting of all California Pledged Delegates in Sacramento on May 18 at which time the 81 at-large delegates will be determined.

A special thanks to all of the DCCV members who made the effort to attend the caucuses and vote.



Vote For Change Kickoff

On May 10, **Obama For America** will launch **Vote for Change**, an unprecedented 50-state voter registration and mobilization drive. Through these events thousands of Obama for America volunteers across the country, building on our work in the primaries, will drive the process of expanding and changing the face of the electorate in America. We have the chance to ensure that more voters than ever take an active stake in our country's future. This is an event of historic proportions and an opportunity to work together for a new kind of politics.

Ventura County recently turned "blue," due to the hard work of our local democratic clubs and Vote Blue. The county has 3,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans. There are many more enthusiastic young people to be registered, including all who will be 18 by November 7th, 2008. Please join us to kick off this event in Ventura County.

The Eastern Ventura County Voter Registration Drive will be staged from the Cameron Center located at 288 Greenmeadow Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320. After brief training sessions volunteers will disperse to various voter registration sites in the area. The event begins at 10:00 a.m.

More volunteers are needed to staff this event. Please sign up at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/43f7>. Volunteers are still needed. For more information, contact Roni Flowers, Event Coordinator at roniflowers@msn.com 805-279-3770.



EYE ON THE ISSUES

Our viewer audience continues to grow. Constance Starkey, *Eye on the Issues* host, was on the train going to work one morning when a man came up to her and asked, "Aren't you the one that has that talk show on cable?" When she answered in the affirmative, he sat down next to her and began telling her ideas he had for the show. She didn't ask for his input, but it was encouraging that he had seen the show and was supportive.

Hannah-Beth Jackson, candidate for 19th State Senatorial District seat for parts of Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties, will be the featured guest for May. Be sure to tune in and hear Jackson, educator and former Assemblymember, speak on the very serious challenges that we face here in the South Coast. She addresses budget crisis, healthcare, clean air and water, excellence in schools, and a quality of life we have enjoyed for decades – all issues that concern us now and in the future. Hannah-Beth advocates simple talk with respect across partisan lines. For more about Hannah-Beth Jackson and her campaign, see www.jackson4senate.com. *Eye on the Issues* airs Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. throughout May. Jody Avery-Smith, Director, jody.AS@verizon.net.



Membership Update

We now have 212 Paid members and three more names to add to the sustaining wall bringing the total sustaining members to ten. (* next to the names donates new additions to the wall).

The Sustaining Wall

* Leo Bialis	*Helene Bialis
*Tracey Wyman	Gayle MacLeod
Melanie Ashen	Ron Block
Arlene Clein	Jerry Clein
Bruce Gardner	Penne Letson



DEM WOMEN TO HOLD MOTHER'S DAY TEA & FASHION SHOW

The Democratic Women's Council will hold their second annual Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 12 noon to 3 P.M. Fashions from Coldwater Creek will be featured and there will be Mother's Day gifts, jewelry and bags as well as a raffle and door prizes.

The event will be held in Westlake Village on the island, overlooking the lake. For reservations and directions call 805-495-1515 by May 7th. The donation is \$20. www.democraticwomenscouncil.com

Cluster Bomb Ban: Paul McCartney Calling

"Cluster bomblets, like anti-personnel mines, are unacceptable when they kill and injure civilians including children. I call upon individuals, organisations, and politicians to do all they can to remove and reduce the impact of these weapons for future generations."

~ Paul McCartney, April 19, 2008

Urge your senators to add their names to the growing list of elected leaders from both parties who have cosponsored the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act (S. 594).



Club Cookbook Fundraiser

Wanted: Recipes for Democratic fundraiser cookbook. We need recipes from at least 75 people to make this a viable fundraiser. Thanks to you who have submitted recipes for inclusion in the Club cookbook. Please call Sharon Thomas at 805- 499-2423, sharonannethomas@roadrunner.com



DCCV to Poll Sit November 4

DCCV to Adopt-a-Poll for the General Election November 4. The club will earn \$475.00 for the day. This is a very long day, but it will be divided into two to three hour shifts. To volunteer for this exciting fundraiser, contact Debbie Birenbaum ginso350@roadrunner.com.



Democrats Out-Register Republicans in Ventura County – Thousand Oaks Dems' Voter Registration Lags

The latest registration numbers are in from the Secretary of State's office. There are now more than 3,000 more Democrats than Republicans in Ventura County. We continue to register over twice as many Democrats as Republicans in the Conejo Valley.

However the 19th State Senate District is still red, though the gap between Democrats and Republicans is less than 2.5%. Hannah-Beth Jackson needs your help more than ever to get elected. She has her website up and you can sign up to volunteer.

www.jackson4senate.com/

Calendar of Events

May 3

TRES DE MAYO FUNDRAISER for Conejo Dems. Contact Debbie Birenbaum ginso350@roadrunner.com.

May 16
11:30 a.m.

DAYTIME DEMS FDR Luncheon, Speaker, Jose Marichal, Ph.D. Reservations are a must! Call 805-675-8785 by May 14.

May 10
Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Dem Women Annual Mother's Day Fundraiser
RSVP: AdminVP@DWCCV.org

May
2:00 p.m. to
4:00 p.m.

TABLING
Contact Sean Richards
maysman24@yahoo.com 818-309-9408.

May 10
10:00 a.m. to
4:00 p.m.

OBAMA VOTER REGISTRATION
Meet at Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Drive, TO

June 3

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY

Wednesday
at
7:30 p.m.

New Day & Time
Eye on the Issues,
Time/Warner Cable, Channel 25.

June 11
6:30 p.m.

DCCV General Meeting.
Candidates for the 24th CD. Main Library, 1401 Janss Road, TO. Contact: 805-675-8785 or www.conejodemocrats.com

May 14
6:30 p.m.

DCCV General Meeting.
Candidates for 24th Congressional District. Main Library, 1401 Janss Road, TO. Contact: 805-675-8785 or www.conejodemocrats.com

June 14
12:00 noon
to 3:30 p.m.

SPRING FLING, Democrats in Education, Keynote Speaker, Jack O'Connell, Sponsored by VCDCC. Contact Gary Tuttle, 805-252-2327 or gt10k2826@earthlink.net



Democratic Club of Conejo Valley
P.O. Box 4421
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
www.conejodemocrats.com
805-675-8785

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