



## **Joey Green to Speak to DCCV August 8 on the Crisis in Darfur**

**J**oey Green from Jewish World Watch will speak about the Crisis in Darfur general meeting of DCCV, August 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The Darfur Crisis is taking place in the oil-rich region of western Sudan. The Sudanese government and Janjaweed attacks upon the non-Baggara civilian populace have resulted in a major humanitarian crisis. Over 200,000 have died in Darfur as the United States has stood idly by. The Darfur Crisis remains a complex political and international situation. China's has oil interests in Darfur, which further complicates this already tragic situation. Sudan strongly objects to UN forces in the region and sees them as foreign invaders.

Last week, Senators Joseph Biden and Richard Lugar introduced a new congressional resolution on the crisis in Darfur. Diane Feinstein co-sponsored the bill. The resolution calls for the UN Security Council to authorize immediate deployment of a strong UN/AU peacekeeping mission with a tough mandate to protect civilians. By passing this resolution, the United States can increase pressure on other members of the UN Security Council to get serious about peacekeeping in Darfur.

Jewish World Watch is committed to protecting refugee women and girls from rape and other forms of violence, and helping them to rebuild their lives. Women and girls fleeing the genocide in Darfur, Sudan are placed in extreme jeopardy when undertaking the simple, but vital, task of collecting firewood for cooking fuel. JWW is reducing the vulnerability of these women by providing the Iridimi and Touloum refugee camps in Chad with solar cookers, reducing their need to collect firewood. Their project protects these women and provides them with income opportunities that include: manufacturing solar cookers, training others to use the cookers and making carrying bags to increase the life span of the cookers. JWW is also developing other companion projects aimed to keep the women inside the relative safety of the camp.

For information: 805-675-8785 or [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com).

## **Congressman Waxman Will Speak to DCCV & the General Public**

**T**he appearance of Congressman Henry Waxman may strike fear in the hearts of some Republican "evil-doers" these days, but the Democrats in Conejo Valley welcome his visit on Sunday September 16 with great anticipation.

This special event will start at 10:30 a.m. in the Conejo Rec. & Park Community Room, 403 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks. A limited question and answer session will follow Rep. Waxman's presentation.

Rep. Waxman has been a leader on health and environmental issues, including universal health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid coverage, tobacco, AIDS, air and water quality standards, pesticides, nursing home quality standards, women's health research and reproductive rights, the availability and cost of prescription drugs, and the right of communities to know about pollution levels.

Time Magazine says "In the altered landscape that is Washington, there's a new contender for the title of Scariest Guy in Town. He stands 5 ft. 5, speaks softly and has all the panache of your parents' dentist. But when it comes to putting powerful people on the hot seat, there's no one tougher and more tenacious than veteran California Congressman Henry Waxman."

Refreshments and beverages will be served. This event is free and open to the public. Political swag and voter registration forms will be available.

Please invite your friends to attend this important event. Contact Jay Kapitz at [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com).



# The Bush Administration is Hostile to Science — Redux

By Kara Altshuler

Anyone who has read Chris Mooney's *The Republican War on Science* or who has actually made a living as a scientist in the US over the last 6 years is well aware of the lengths to which the Bush administration has gone to quash productive scientific debate. From stem cell research to global warming to endangered species to medical marijuana, there hasn't been one issue in the country that hasn't been muddied by the involvement of Bush's political cronies. So the recent testimony of former Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform came as no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention. Let's be clear, the position of Surgeon General is relatively powerless in the Cabinet and most people could not tell you the name of the current office holder unless the person had notoriety over a controversial issue (remember Joycelyn Elders and the condoms in schools issue?). Nevertheless, previous Surgeons General have generally been given the freedom to pursue issues that they felt were important and relevant to public health. Not with this administration.

Carmona testified that his work was continually edited by political appointees in the administration, that he was blocked from speaking out on public health matters and that his views were ignored, particularly if they conflicted with accepted political ideology. He was blocked from speaking on stem cell research, on the importance of educating people in the use of condoms as effective in preventing unwanted pregnancy, and his attempts at educating administration officials in the science of global warming resulted in his not being invited back to key meetings. "Anything that doesn't fit into the political appointees' ideological, theological or political agenda is often ignored, marginalized or simply buried," he said as reported by the Washington Post. "The problem with this approach is that in public health, as in a democracy, there is nothing worse than ignoring science or marginalizing the voice of science for reasons driven by changing political winds."

As a scientist myself, I am baffled by those who choose to disbelieve scientific discoveries, as if their denying the verity of a scientific claim were

enough to disprove it. Many on the right claim a disbelief of global warming, as if they will be untouched by the myriad adverse effects that are predicted to occur by an ever-growing number of climatologists. A significant minority claim that evolution is untrue, as if a human's infinitesimally short 70 year or so lifespan could be significant in the history of life on the planet. The problem is, this approach is setting this country back decades in its ability to deal with scientific challenges, including keeping Americans safe from food-borne illness, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring there is adequate clean water and air for all. Fundamentally though, why is Bush uncomfortable with science? He certainly enjoyed its benefits when he was told he doesn't have colon cancer. No, he uses science when it suits him and disregards it when it doesn't; as Carmona said, there is nothing worse.



## Oaks Mall Tabling Begins In September

Beginning in September, we will be tabling at the Oaks Mall to gather registrations and reach out to new members and volunteers. Our schedule is September 8, 15 and 22; October 6, 13 and 20; and December 1, 21 and 23. (In August the Mall is undergoing renovations and we will not be able to table.) Please contact Sean Richards to volunteer for this important activity or for more information: [maysman24@yahoo.com](mailto:maysman24@yahoo.com) or 818-309-9405.



## Precinct Walking & Phone Banking

We will continue our traditional precinct walking and phone banking to reach local Democrats. This is in addition to our efforts to re-register newly moved voters in coordination with Vote Blue of the Central Coast. The precinct walking and phone banking consists of visiting or calling Democrats in your own neighborhood, introducing them to DCCV, handing out informative materials and recruiting volunteers. In the past this has been very rewarding. We find that our neighborhood Democrats are more than happy to meet us and often quite surprised to find that other Democrats are around and active in their area.

Please contact Jay Kapitz at [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com) or 818-889-1039 to get voter lists for your neighborhoods or for more information.

## Voter Registration Weekend Huge Success

Thanks to everyone who attended our kickoff pancake breakfast and who went out to register new voters this weekend. The roundup evening at Kara's was relaxing and gave us a chance to see what we had accomplished. By Sandy's calculations, 11 new voters were registered. Good job!

We had fun, ate delicious food, put some \$\$ in the treasury & registered new voters. I'd call that a successful event!! Thanks again for your enthusiasm.

Jay would like to keep track of our registration efforts. Please send him the following information on a weekly basis. (How about every Sunday night?)

**Number of hours worked –**  
**Attempts (doors knocked on) –**  
**Contacts (people who answered) –**  
**Forms handed to occupants –**  
**Voters registered –**

**This is my report for the week ending \_\_\_\_.**

If you leave a voter registration form, ask if you can pick up the completed form at a specific date/time to check that it is filled in properly and to get it mailed. We are encouraging Permanent Absentee voting – or as we now call it – vote by mail. They must mark the box on line 11 and initial.

Be sure you sign on line 12 (d) and date on line 13. Tear off the tab on the bottom and give it to the voter as a receipt. For each voter registered, transfer the last name, Registration number (i.e. 56ZE705074) under AFFNUM and Party affiliation to the barcode precinct list. Hold onto the precinct lists until they are completed, and then turn them into Jay.

You can either copy the registration form for Jay/Sandy, then mail the original, or send the original forms to Jay/Sandy. If you mail them, fold them in half first. Remember, completed forms must be mailed within three days of the date they were signed, so please get them in the mail or to Jay/Sandy promptly.

Jay has more precincts when you're ready for another list. Contact Sandy Emberland, [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net) or Jay Kapitz, [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com).



## EYE ON THE ISSUES

The August show will feature a round table discussion about the Healthcare Crisis. Our special guests will be Patricia Fajardo, the VP of Clinical Services for Planned Parenthood in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties; Emily Gold, aide to State Senator Sheila Kuehl; and Penny Strowger, Ventura County Director of the Healthcare for All - One Care Now organization. Sue Gunther, [sue.gunther@verizon.net](mailto:sue.gunther@verizon.net).

## 5TH ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The annual Garden Party has been set for Sunday, September 30 at the lovely Los Robles Banquet Center in Thousand Oaks. We are pleased to announce our guest speaker will be Christine Pelosi, daughter of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and a Democratic leader in her own right.

Volunteers are needed! It is our largest fundraiser of the year and the proceeds will be used for campaign 2008 expenses. Fundraising chair Sandy Emberland will be calling a planning meeting soon for everyone who is interested in helping. Contact her at [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net) or 805-493-9122 for more information.



From left to right Penne Letson, Valarie and Riley Neel, Susie Canfield and Tom Mullens (flipping pancakes).



From left to right Sandy Emberland, Helen Conley, Ingrid van Eckert, Jerry Clein in background, Mike Daley, Sean Richards.

## Calendar of Events

**August 8**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**DCCV General Meeting, T.O.**  
**Speaker:** Joey Green, Crisis in Darfur. Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 Janss Road. 805-675-8785 or [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)

**August 11**  
**HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**  
**ONE CARE NOW EVENT** in Los Angeles. For carpools, contact: Penny Strowger ([pen1@verizon.net](mailto:pen1@verizon.net))

**September 12**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**DCCV General Meeting, T.O.**  
**Speaker:** Nancy Gardner, Beyond Iraq: Unrest in the Middle East. Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 Janss Road. 805-675-8785 or [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)

**September 3**  
**11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**VCDCC Annual Labor Day**  
County Dem. fundraiser and picnic.  
[www.venturacountydemocrats.com](http://www.venturacountydemocrats.com)

**September 15**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Baseball for SIDS:** YPD vs. Ventura Cty. Dems. Fundraiser for YPD and SIDS. For more info contact Heather Schmidt ([hchristenas@gmail.com](mailto:hchristenas@gmail.com))

**September 16**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Congressman Waxman Appearance, 403 W. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, Free and Open to the Public.** 805-675-8785 or [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)

**Tuesday Evenings**

**Eye On The Issues**  
Cable 25, 8:00 p.m.

**September 30**  
**Noon to 3:00 p.m.**

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY**  
**SPEAKER: CHRISTINE PELOSI,**  
LOS ROBLES Banquet Center 805-675-8785 or [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)



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