



DCCV Hosts Professor Rose McDermott at February General Meeting, February 14, 6:30 p.m.

Professor Rose McDermott's definition of history includes the study of the health of great men and women, not just stories of their lives. As professor of social science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she has been researching the link between the health of US presidents and their decision-making.

"What I suggest is that when people are under stress of whatever sort - and illness is one of those kinds of stress - they tend to revert to what Walter Mischel would call their 'preferred mode of behavior,'" McDermott says. "He posits that there are three basic modes. One is pro-social - you go out and gather friends around you. The second is to stand and fight. The third is to withdraw. Part of my contention is that under the stress of illness, you see people - presidents - reverting to one of these styles of action."

How is an intelligent voter population to factor in health issues when they vote? "The electorate must decide whether they would rather have a leader who is not entirely physically well if they believe that that person standing for office is still in some regard more capable than a healthy person who is not as wise or as skilled or as smart, or whatever."

"But I think that it's important for them to be apprised of serious health problems that might compromise particular candidates because they can compromise not just the quality of the leadership but the lifespan of the leader."

Professor McDermott's research revolves around political psychology in international relations. Currently, she is working on a new book project on the impact of pandemic disease on international security issues. McDermott has recently completed a manuscript on the impact of medical and psychological illness on foreign policy decision-making, *Sick and Tired: The Impact of Medical and Psychological Illness on Foreign Policy Decision Making*, Princeton University Press.

2007 DCCV Special Events Calendar

Mark your Calendars. Stay tuned for updates, and volunteer opportunities.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 21 | Arbor Earth Day
Contact: Sue Gunther, suegunther@verizon.net |
| May 2 to May 6 | Conejo Valley Days
Contact: Jay Kapitz, jay_kapitz@yahoo.com |
| August 1 to August 12 | Ventura County Fair
Contact: Kara Altshuler, kdba@adelphia.net |
| October 14 | TO Street Fair
Executive Board, www.conejodemocrats.com |
| Ongoing | Tabling at the Oaks Mall
Contact: Sean Richards, maysman24@yahoo.com |

Conejo Club Fundraisers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September
(date TBA) | Garden Party
Executive Board, www.conejodemocrats.com |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Special Project Fundraisers to be announced.

Ventura County Democratic Central Committee Events

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April
(TBA) | Spring Event
www.venturacountydemocrats.com |
| September 3 | Labor Day Picnic
www.venturacountydemocrats.com |

Sunday Speaker Series: to be held May, June, July and August, dates and locations to be announced.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 27, 2 - 4:30 p.m. | Congresswoman Lois Capps
Contact: Jay Kapitz, jay_kapitz@yahoo.com |
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Note: Meeting Location Confirmed

DCCV February General Meeting, February 14, is to be held at the Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. Contact: www.conejodemocrats.com or 805-675-8785.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS AND ALLOCATES RESPONSIBILITIES

The DCCV Executive Board met for the first time in 2007 on January 7 to organize for the coming year. Executive Board members volunteered to serve as Acting Committee Chairs until full-time chairs can be found, and some committee duties were divided among the Executive Board members and other volunteers:

President	Tom Mullens
Executive VP	Shelly Austin
Administrative VP	Kara Altshuler
Record. Secretary	Sue Gunther
Corres. Secretary	Jody Avery-Smith
Treasurer	Jerry Clein
Election Strategy	Jay Kapitz
Ways and Means	<i>Executive Board</i>
Fundraising	Sandy Emberland
Membership	<i>Shelly Austin</i>
List Master	Steve Kane
Tabling	Sean Richards
Hospitality	Susie Canfield, Judy Jordon
Phone Banking	Judy Jordon
Youth Coordinator	Sean Richards
Daytime Dems	Adrienne Anderson
Public Relations	<i>Jody Avery-Smith</i>
E-Mail Blasts	Tom Mullens
Website	Christine Mutell
Newsletter	Penne Letson
Publicity	Jody Avery-Smith
Eye On the Issues	Sue Gunther, Producer; Jody Avery-Smith, Director; Constance Starkey, Host; Teri Smolarski, Associate Producer
Programs	<i>Executive Board</i>
Special DCCV Events	<i>Executive Board</i>

There are numerous ways to become active with DCCV. We need both Committee Chairs and members to prepare the club for what we know will be a busy and exciting 2008. Call or e-mail me today to get involved. Thanks to all the above who have so generously volunteered their time. Jay Kapitz, j_kapitz@yahoo.com, 818-889-1039



Letter Writing Campaign

DCCV begins an organized letter-writing campaign at the February DCCV meeting; we will provide multiple copies of prepared letters that lay out Democratic opposition to the war in Iraq. Each copy will have room for all interested members to add their own comments and a signature. We will mail these to our Senators, Congressmen, and the chairpersons and ranking members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

This effort is not intended to replace the letters written by individual members to Congress, our local papers, and other elected leaders.

Please write as many letters as you can. Letters to our Representatives and Senators count for as many as 20 voters, so they are given more weight than an email or phone call. Kara Altshuler



DCCV Member organizes the Sunday Speakers Series

Inspired by the success of last summer's Sunday appearance of Congressman Henry Waxman, Jay Kapitz is organizing the Sunday Speaker Series. He is working on getting notable Southern Californian political figures to come to Thousand Oaks and speak to the DCCV membership. These meetings will be open to the public and in addition to the regular general meeting on the second Wednesday of the month.

Congresswoman Lois Capps, 23rd Congressional District will kick-off the Sunday Speaker Series on May 27 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Conejo Recreation and Park District.

Jay has invited Julia Brownley, Assembly District 41, among others. Proposed topics include Senate Bill 840, an alternative health care program to the governor's proposal.

Jay will keep us updated with the program as speakers and venues are confirmed. Jay invites anyone with connections to experts in healthcare to environmental issues to contact him. Jay Kapitz, j_kapitz@yahoo.com, 818-889-1039

DCCV Members Speak Out:

Bush's Unwillingness to Admit Mistakes and Its Consequences

By Richard Kolber

George Bush has decided to increase our troop commitment in Iraq. He is calling it a "surge" rather than what it really is -- an expansion of the war, engulfing the United States further into a quagmire of Bush's own making.

While there are a handful of military commanders who support this action, it flies in the face of the recommendations of the majority and can only mean more American and Iraqi casualties. Bush's decision also goes directly against the advice of the Iraq Study Group, hardly a liberal hot bed (longtime GHW Bush aide James Baker was co-chair and Reagan's attorney general Edwin Meese was another member). Even the leading Dem, former Rep. Lee Hamilton, is quite moderate. But these men understand that one talks with one's enemies and that the solution to Iraq must be political, not military, in nature. This is a subtlety that appears beyond this president's capability to grasp.

I have read in columns and heard on political talk programs that Bush will not reverse course in Iraq because he sees the outcome there as his legacy, and withdrawal would be an admission that he will go down in history as a failed president. But if this is true (and it certainly strikes me as more than plausible), then he is putting his place in history ahead of the lives of our troops, not to mention innocent Iraqi civilians. Well, excuse me. Maybe something is wrong with my priorities, but I think wasting lives in a desperate move to salvage one's place in history is a pathetically misguided sense of priorities.

Another problem in trying to resolve the situation in Iraq is the way this administration chooses to deal (or should I say not deal) with Iran and Syria, countries with whom we do not have friendly relations. For example, the Bush position on Iran is that we will be willing to talk with them when they agree not to develop nuclear capabilities. What Bush is really saying is, "Surrender on our terms, and we can talk." Can you guess what his reaction would be if Iran replied, "Sure, we'll give up developing our nuclear capability in exchange for you doing the same?" As the aforementioned Jim

Baker has said, it is easy to talk to one's allies. It is talking to one's foes that provide the challenge for someone truly interested in diplomacy. Obviously, that does not include the current crowd at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

I am sure that everyone's heard Bush's admirers praise him for sticking to his guns in spite of a tidal wave of public opposition. But should one really admire blind stubbornness? How many of you would want to work with someone incapable of owning up to an error in judgment? Note that Bush was overwhelmingly voted by Europeans as the greatest threat to world peace, garnering something like 70% of the vote. The day following the 2004 election, one British newspaper (and not anywhere near its most liberal one) carried the headline, "How can 60 million Americans be so dumb?" Personally, I'm not proud that, since Bush assumed office, America has become a laughing-stock around the world, not to mention the world's most hated nation. Washington and Lincoln must be rolling over in their graves.

Because it is clear this president is not educable, it becomes the direct responsibility of the new Democratic Congress and the indirect collective responsibility of this nation's citizens (through correspondence, protests, etc) to do all we can to end the madness in Iraq. I never dreamed we would have a second Vietnam in my lifetime, but neither did I ever believe we would ever have a president as simultaneously ignorant and arrogant as this one.



Update: Eye on the Issues

We tape the February show on the 27th of January. Claudia Bill de la Peña from the Thousand Oaks City Council is the guest. She will discuss several issues and problems in this community but primarily focus her discussion on slow growth.

The panel this time consists of Steve Kane, DCCV member, Carol Kearney, Democratic Women's Club member and Curt Brown, Young Dem, Senior at TO High School and City Hall intern. The next segment will be shown every Tuesday in February at 8:00 p.m. on Time-Warner Cable Channel 25. Should be good! Jody Avery-Smith, Director.

Calendar of Events

February
14
6:30 p.m.

General DCCV Meeting
Speaker, Professor Rose McDermott, Ph.D.
Thousand Oaks Main Library, 1401 E. Janss
Road. Contact www.conejodemocrats.com or
805-675-8785

February
Tuesdays
8:00 p.m.

Eye On The Issues - Featuring
Claudia Bill de la Peña of Thousand Oaks,
City Council. **Cable 25**

March
14
6:30 p.m.

General DCCV Meeting
Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Dr., T.O.
Contact www.conejodemocrats.com or 805-675-
8785

Time to renew your membership.



The Executive Board made a decision to change delivery of the newsletter from postal to electronic delivery. (The option of receiving a printed newsletter will be available to members who still wish to receive it that way.) Please let Shelly Austin know if you wish to receive your monthly newsletter electronically. The monthly newsletter is currently available online at www.conejodemocrats.com. Shelly Austin, shellyforpeace@yahoo.com or 805-675-8785.



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

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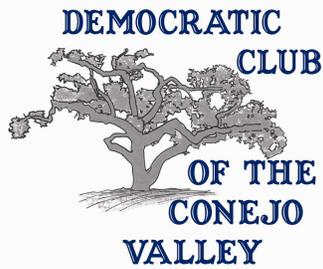
DCCV Officers for 2006

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, **Hospitality**
Jay Kapitz, **Membership Coordinator**
Susie Canfield, **Program Coordinator**
Jody Avery-Smith, **Public Relations**
Christine Mutell, **Technology**
Sean Richards, **Youth Coordinator**
Heather Schmidt, **Young Progressive Democrats**





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 _____

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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 do not wish to become a member, or would like 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.

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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.