



CLUB COOKBOOK TAKES SHAPE

Recipes have started coming in for the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley Cookbook, and they all sound *sooo* delicious. But we need more! More! We know you have some favorite recipes that you're famous for, so share them with us and help create something of value for our community, something that will make money to further the objectives of the club.

The cookbook will be divided into sections: Appetizers, Beverages & Dips, Soups & Salads, Breads & Rolls, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes & Meats, Cookies & Candies, Desserts, and Miscellaneous. We need many more recipes in all of these categories to make our cookbook an important resource and valuable gift for ourselves, our families and our friends.

For each recipe submitted, please include a **recipe title** and your **name** as you would like it in the book. If you have a brief **introduction** or history for the recipe, that would be great, but it's not required. **Ingredients** should be listed with quantities using *c.* for cup; *tsp.* for teaspoon; *T.* for tablespoon; *lb.* for pound; *oz.* for ounce; *pkg.* for package; *pt.* for pint and *qt.* for quart. Then conclude with clear, thorough and concise **directions** and an idea as to how many **servings** the recipe makes. Feel free to submit as many recipes as you like.

Do take care and make sure your recipes are totally accurate and complete, as we will not have the resources to test all the contributions...your name is on it so make this something to be proud of. We look forward to sharing your culinary gems and making you even more famous in this wonderful new book. Take the time to get us your recipes now before the holiday time crunch takes over your life.

Please send your recipes to the cookbook coordinator, Sharon Thomas, at sharonannethomas@roadrunner.com. The recipe submission form is included here. Call with questions: 805 499-2423.



November Topic: The Environment

It's been a little more than a year since "An Inconvenient Truth" was released. Since then the movie was awarded an Academy Award, Al Gore was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and the world's awareness of the dangers of global warming has risen to unprecedented levels. The DCCV has held and supported local events to raise awareness in the Conejo Valley.

So, what can we do besides put pressure on politicians and polluters to change their ways? At our November meeting we'll have people speaking on ideas and tangible actions we can take to reduce global warming in our community and in our homes. Come join us for an informative and entertaining evening.

DCCV will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, at the Goebel Senior Center, 1385 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA. For more information about the meeting visit our website, www.conejodemocrats.com or call 805-675-8785.



Claudia Bill de la Peña to Speak at Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Democratic Club of Conejo Valley will celebrate the holiday season with a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday evening, December 12. Claudia Bill de la Peña, Thousand Oaks City Council, will be the guest speaker; our honorary guests will be the Hospice of Conejo Valley.

All volunteers will receive special recognition and new officers for 2008 will be introduced. To nominate club members for volunteer recognition, please submit names to Penne Letson at penn2draw@earthlink.net.

The event will be held at the Thousand Oaks Inn. Tickets will be priced at \$25.00. Forty percent of the ticket price will be tax-deductible with the proceeds benefiting the Hospice of the Conejo Valley. Contact: Sandy Emberland, seemberland@verizon.net.

Priorities

A few weeks ago there were two stories side-by-side on the front page of the LA Times. In the first story, President Bush was threatening to veto a bill (which he ultimately did) to provide insurance for poor children (the SCHIP program) because about 3% of those who would be covered are middle class (the children of parents who have been laid off). Bush's rationale? He wanted to "protect" this nation from socialized medicine. To the immediate right of this article was a story about how Bush was requesting \$190B for fiscal 2008 for the costs of the Iraq War.

What I find positively criminal is that the kind of money being spent on Iraq is enough to insure every American currently without coverage (over 45 million). In other words, this president is more interested in trying to justify what everyone now knows was a bad decision to invade Iraq at the cost of leaving almost a sixth of the population without health insurance. Perhaps worse still, a majority of Congressional Republicans agree with him.

Another example of Bush (and Republican) priorities that I find utterly appalling is in weighing the trade-offs of protecting the environment versus the interests of corporate America. It is not clear whether the Bush administration does not believe in global warming or whether they think it is not a big enough problem to justify signing on to the Kyoto treaty, supporting tougher auto emission standards, cracking down on polluters, etc. Personally, I think it's the latter, but does it really matter? Regardless of the motivation, the air we breathe and the water we drink will continue to deteriorate in quality as long as this gang has its way.

Then there is the matter of reproductive services. The Bushies refuse to provide any financial aid for family planning to any group that is pro-choice or preaches anything other than an abstinence-only policy (for example, one that distributes birth control devices). The reality is that kids are not going to abstain from sex simply because condoms or birth control pills are not made available, and this means more unwanted pregnancies. In other words, the Bush policy amounts to cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. These people do not even begin to consider the consequences of bringing unwanted children into the world. In the words of one Letter to the Editor in the LA Times, for Bush and his supporters, respect for human life begins at conception and ends at birth.

Finally, there is the matter of fiscal responsibility. Vice-President Cheney is quoted by former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill as saying, "Reagan proved deficits don't matter." As a result, we have massive deficit spending with the amount penciled in for the Iraq War being taken "off budget." Asked about a Democratic

proposal for a tax increase to cover the costs for this war, a Bush press spokesman said this would be "fiscally irresponsible." As columnist Tom Friedman (a staunch war supporter) put it, this is truly Alice in Wonderland thinking where up is down and down is up. What kind of warped thinking is it to push the bill onto future generations rather than actually pay for your own spending? In fact, this is the first war the United States has ever fought where the general public has not been asked to make any kind of sacrifice. And don't be fooled by the Republican argument that the tax cuts are working because the deficit is now projected to be lower than originally thought. The fact is that this gang inherited the largest surplus in US history and converted it into our largest mountain of red ink. Lest you think this is because of 9/11 and the War on Terrorism, even the then Republican-controlled Congressional Budget Office attributed only 36% of the shortfall to that. In round numbers, we've gone from a \$240B surplus to a \$200B deficit. That means about \$280B can be attributed to other causes such as the Bush tax cut for the top tier.

I think the difference in priorities can be summed up in one word: **values**. The Far Right thinks one way, and the rest of us have a very different view of what's important. Hopefully, the pundits are right that the Democrats will have a big year in 2008 as independents overwhelmingly favor our priorities over those of the GOP. *By Richard Kolber*



Organized letter-writing campaign

The Simi Valley-Moorpark Democratic Club has invited the Democratic Club of Conejo Valley to join in an organized letter-writing campaign.

This campaign is designed to mobilize several letter writers to respond to articles, editorials, or letters in the Ventura County Star, The Acorn, or other newspapers that push a Republican agenda or that spread untruths about Democratic politicians, members of the Democratic party, or Democratic ideals and positions. Although members of all local Democratic clubs have been motivated letter writers for years, this effort is designed to really show the local media how passionate Democrats feel about these issues.

The goal is to ensure that several letters are sent to the media on a particular subject, rather than a scattered response. Please join us if this sounds like just your cup of tea—we'd love to have you. DCCV contact person is Kara Altshuler @ kara.altshuler@gmail.com or 805-480-4952.

No Child Left Behind Up for Reauthorization

The fundamental federal law governing K-12 education, ESEA/NCLB (Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind), is up for reauthorization this year. Bills may be voted on in the next few weeks.

The California Democratic Party platform states that “California’s children must have access to free, individually appropriate, high-quality public education from preschool through grade 12. Education must provide a well-rounded curriculum including the arts, music, and physical education. Teachers, as the stewards of our future, should be well paid and work in safe learning environments with up-to-date curriculum and learning tools.”

We, as California Democrats, support public education and economic justice for all, particularly children, women, and labor. Now is the time to speak up on behalf of California’s children and teachers, primarily women, in support of the type of public education described in the platform, because ESEA/NCLB is not working.

The National Education Association (NEA), which represents teachers like me across the country, strongly supports the stated goals of the law - to raise student learning, close achievement gaps, and ensure that every child is taught by a highly qualified teacher – and it supports 111 bills that would improve it.

Besides asking for adequate funding to implement the law, NEA is asking Congress to make three fundamental changes to ESEA/NCLB:

1. Use more than test scores to measure student learning and school performance.
2. Reduce class size to help students learn.
3. Increase the number of highly qualified teachers in our schools.

Congress is considering linking educator pay to student test scores as part of the reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB. We do not have a plan or the resources for supporting and assessing student performance in a way that truly represents the type of achievement we want from our children. Linking educator pay to standardized student test scores will shift good teachers away from the neediest children and from the profession all together. In effect, it will work against the stated goals of the law.

We should be inviting teachers to work with the most demanding students, not penalizing them for doing it.

NEA will not compromise on any of the following 3 principles regarding teacher pay:

1. Nothing in any ESEA/NCLB plan should undermine educators’ current collective bargaining rights.
2. Use of test scores/learning gains must not be a required or mandatory element of any program.

3. Any program that rates educators and/or affects their compensation must be agreed to through bargaining, or where bargaining doesn’t exist, through a 75 percent majority vote of teachers in the district.

It is in everyone’s best interest to educate every child in our community, and as public school teachers we have stepped up to the plate to do just that. But don’t base our salaries on standardized test scores, which depend on so much more than whether or not we are good teachers.

Please urge as many people as possible to stand behind teachers in *taking the time to get the bill right* for the sake of our children, our teachers, and our public education system.

Anyone can phone their member of Congress using the CTA Take Action hotline: (888) 268-4334, or email him or her by following the “email your Congress” link on the Take Action section of CTA’s website (www.cta.org). They record this feedback and do listen to those who take the time to contact them. They know that if you’ll take the time to make the contact, you are highly likely to vote in the next election. Please take a minute to do this today.

By Kim Marra Stephenson, PhD, Delegate, AD37, Teacher, Conejo Valley Unified School District

By the way...at www.nea.org/lac/reportcard, the NEA gives Congress people grades...Elton Gallegly has an F; Lois Capps has an A.

The National Education Association (NEA) Legislative Report Card measures Members of Congress' support for public education and educators, with each Member receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. Letter grades are based on their voting records on *selected votes* and on five additional criteria:

- **Co-sponsorship** of bills critical to advancing NEA's identified legislative priorities;
- **Behind-the-scenes-work** to advance or impede NEA priority issues;
- **Work** on committees in support of or against NEA priorities;
- **Accessibility** of the Member and staff in Washington, DC to NEA staff and leaders; and
- **Accessibility and education advocacy** in the Member's home state or district.



EYE ON THE ISSUES

November's *EYE ON THE ISSUES* will feature KPFFK radio host, Shawn Casey O'Brien, Motivational Speaker, Carol Leish, and Carmen Fraser, director of vocational services at Goodwill Industries. The topic will be helping the Disabled in our Society. Our Host is Constance Starkey. We air every Tuesday night at 8:00p.m. on Cable Channel 25. *Sue Gunther, producer*

Calendar of Events

November
14
6:30 p.m.

DCCV General Meeting, T.O.

Goebel Senior Center, 1385 E. Janss Road.
805-675-8785 or www.conejodemocrats.com

Tuesdays
at
5:00 p.m.

Protest the War in Iraq from Malibu! at PCH and Webb Way. Bring Signs. **Contact**, Karen Peters kempeters@gmail.com, 818-735-0987

November 8
7:00 p.m.

Democratic Book Club, *Assault on Reason* by Al Gore, Border's Bookstore, W. TO Blvd. Contact Susan Brauner at braunersus@aol.com.

December 8
1:00 p.m. to
5:00 p.m.

Dem Women's Holiday Open House, Boutique and Fundraiser.
RSVP Kathy Smiley, 805-390-9323

Tuesdays
at
8:00 p.m.

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

December
12
6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Appreciation & DCCV Meeting Benefiting Hospice of the Conejo.

Reservations required. \$25.00
Contact Sandy Emberland at seemberland@verizon.net

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is forming to select officers for 2008. As we all know 2008 will hold lots of activity for the club as it includes three elections -- 2 primaries and the general election. If you want to be part of the team to select the leadership for this crucial election year, please contact Tom Mullens, president@conejodemocrats.com.

Tabling at the Oaks Mall to Resume

Sean Richards is looking for volunteers to talk to people and register voters at the Oaks Mall. Tabling dates in December are 1, 21, and 23. If you are interested in political outreach, please contact Sean Richards, maysman24@yahoo.com or Jay Kapitz, j_kapitz@yahoo.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**
Shelly 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**
Shelly Austin, **Membership Coordinator**
Susie Canfield, **Program Coordinator**
Jody Avery-Smith, **Public Relations**
Kara Altshuler, **Technology**
Sean Richards, **Youth Coordinator**
Heather Schmidt, **Young Progressive Democrats**

