



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY LUNCHEON

On Monday, January 21, 2008, at noon the DCCV will celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a luncheon held at Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery located in the Paseo Market Place, 3635 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Westlake Village..

We are fortunate to have three wonderful speakers: Elda and Ron Soderquist and Colonel Wallace Dailey (ret.).

The Soderquists' presentation, "Carrying Coffins to the Capitol Steps in Montgomery, Alabama, 1965" will describe their experiences during the Civil Rights Movement – particularly when they joined the walk on Montgomery. The organizers prepared ten black-draped coffins to symbolize the murders of civil rights workers and the four young girls who died when a bomb exploded at their church. The Soderquists and others accompanied the coffins to Montgomery and laid them on the steps of the Capitol.

To some, slavery is ancient history. But it isn't many generations ago that slavery existed in our country. Colonel Dailey's grandfather was born a slave and had many conversations with his grandson about that time. Colonel Dailey will share those memories in his talk "Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Impact on Our Lives." As a member of King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial steering committee, Colonel Dailey will also give us an update on the Memorial.

The cost is \$12.00 per person (pay at the door) and includes a beverage, tax, gratuity and one of the following: Lemon Chicken Luncheon, Roast Turkey on Ciabatta with Fresh Coleslaw and Chicken Caesar Salad. Please make your reservations from January 7 – 18, 2008 by calling 805-675-8785. Remember to leave your name, phone number and e-mail address.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER BENEFITS HOSPICE OF THE CONEJO VALLEY

The DCCV's Volunteer Recognition Dinner on December 12 benefited the Hospice of the Conejo in the amount of \$1,555. About 100 members and guests gathered to recognize volunteers, enjoy musical entertainment and hear Claudia Bill-de la Peña, keynote speaker and Maria Prescott, executive director of Hospice of the Conejo.

The event at the Thousand Oaks Inn included cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner. The evening started with musical memories by club members Charles and Marilyn Davis, and their daughter, Maripat sang. They were accompanied by Bob Erickson on piano. A DVD covering Hospice's 30 years in the Conejo Valley was shown during dinner.



Presenting a check to Maria Prescott, (right) Executive Director of Hospice of the Conejo is Tom MULLens, (center) President of the Democratic Club of Conejo Valley with Jerry Clein, (left) Treasurer of the club assisting.

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President Tom Mullins MC'd the event and introduced our special guests. Sandy Emberland spoke on the importance of volunteers in our club and the many organizations that depend on volunteers, such as Hospice of the Conejo Valley. Don and Rickey Katz, long-time members, received special recognition. All members who helped with club events this year were presented with a donkey "volunteer" pin to wear proudly in their future endeavors. In all, 45 members were recognized.

Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Thousand Oaks City Council member, spoke on the importance of volunteering in the city and how much of a financial impact it has on the city budget. We greatly appreciate her joining us.

Maria Prescott, joined by a dozen Hospice Volunteers, showed some projects that volunteers had developed and shared. Being a volunteer hospice means that they must raise money through donations to fund their activities. Tom Mullens and Jerry Clein, treasurer, presented a check to Maria. In total, the evening netted hospice about \$1,555.

Between speakers, Penny Strowger and her committee drew raffle winners for a 50/50 raffle, won by Kathy Smiley, and for a variety of raffle baskets. Kathy generously donated her half of the raffle to Hospice.

Jim McIntyre conducted a live auction of a one week vacation on the Mexican Riviera near Puerto Vallarta, donated by Ingrid Van Eckert. After lively bidding, the week was won by the Gunther family.

This was the first volunteer recognition event sponsored by the club, and by all accounts was a big success. We will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer next year, which is a three election year.



Marilyn and Maripat Davis singing during dinner.

Volunteer Recognition

By Sandy Emberland

No organization runs without its volunteers, and the DCCV honored those club members who have done so much to keep our club going at a Volunteer Recognition Dinner benefiting Hospice of the Conejo.

We have had a busy year – precinct walking, tabling at various events and The Oaks Mall, a Wine for Winners wine tasting fundraiser, a pancake breakfast to kick off our voter registration drive, followed by a registration roundup barbeque, our 5th annual Garden Party, and our first Volunteer Recognition Dinner benefiting the Hospice of the Conejo Valley. I think it is appropriate that we teamed with Hospice because they are another organization that runs because of its volunteers.

Don and Rickey Katz, long-time active members of the DCCV, were brought to the stage and singled out for their volunteer efforts. Nearly 10 years ago when I attended my first meeting, with a handful of people, I first met Don and Rickey. Don is a past president of the club, a member of the central committee for 10 years, a member of the state Democratic party's executive board, the State's veterans' caucus, Ventura County transportation advisory council, ACLU and a strong supporter of the Separation of Church and State. Don also volunteers as a docent at the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Camarillo. In spite of bouts of ill health, Don continues to find interesting speakers and entertainment for our meetings and stays involved. And wherever Don goes, Rickey is by his side, supporting him and keeping him on track.

When I asked Don what he felt was the biggest problem in politics today he said it was that religion is too involved. He also thinks we should all know more about the Preamble to the Constitution. If you ask him, he can recite it for you without hesitation.

This year **Jody Avery-Smith** has been our corresponding secretary, Director of our TV-show, Eye on the Issues and worked at the Conejo Valley Days booth and at the Ventura County Fair booth. She also helped coordinate the Recognition dinner.

Penne Letson is the editor of our monthly newsletter, hosts the folding and mailing of the newsletter and gets them in the mail. She makes the most incredible sourdough pancakes which we enjoyed at the club's Pancake Breakfast which kicked off our voter registration drive. Penne is an invaluable volunteer.

We thank the following volunteers for their hard work in 2007:

Miriam Albert	Kara Altshuler
Adrienne Anderson	Melanie Ashen
Shelly Austin	Debbie Birenbaum
Linda Brown	Susie Canfield
Arlene & Jerry Clein	Liz & Alfred Cohn
Michael Daly	George Corbin
Mary Kay Donahoe	Charles & Marilyn Davis
Dave Ettinger	Sandy Emberland
Mary Freed	Gerda Fadden
Bruce Gardner	Mark Gage
Elinor Gustafson	Rick & Sue Gunther
Judy Jordon	Elaine Herzog
Jay & Linda Kapitz	Steve Kane
Deb Kelner	Don & Rickey Katz
Jared Lawson	Richard Kolber
Jim McIntyre	Gene Marks
Sylvia & Cleo Navarro	Tom Mullens
Sean Richards	Millie Reina
Rochelle Sechooler	Suzy Seal
Teri Smolarski	Kathy Smiley
Karen & Seth Stevens	Constance Starkey
Sharon Thomas	Penny Strowger
Mary Wallin	Ingrid Van Eckert
Walt Wilke	Loretta Walsh

DAPPER SERVERS



Thank you to our servers – Roy Emberland, Bruce Gardner and Jim McIntyre. They looked dashing in their tuxedo shirts and helped by serving salads for our recognition dinner. Bill Solomon not pictured.

RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is time to RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP for 2008. Join up and help us get this nation back on the right track. Please follow the simple directions on the membership form and send it in or, better yet, bring it with you to the next meeting! 2008 is going to be an exciting and essential year for our club, our party and our country. Debbie Birenbaum, ginso350@roadrunner.com. You can pay your dues online at www.conejodemocrats.com.

Do you have neighbors or friends who are Democrats and would like to join the most active and progressive club in the valley?



EYE ON THE ISSUES

Eye on the Issues is now airing on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m on Channel 25. The subject discussed in December is Women in the Military, a shocking and informative program. For January we are rerunning the Dennis Kucinich show in order to give all the volunteers who make this program possible, the month of December off. The volunteers include: Constance Starkey, Host and writer of all the scripts, Teri Smolarsky, Asst. Producer, Sue Gunther, Producer and Jody Avery-Smith, Director. The new year promises to be slanted more to our politicians as we move toward the election.



Club Cookbook Continues

Wow! We have some good cooks among the members of the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley. Many, many thanks to those of you who have submitted recipes for inclusion in the club cookbook. But we haven't heard from all of you, and know there are more members who have intended to be included, but just haven't found the time. So we have postponed publishing and are continuing to take recipes with plans to put the book together in spring. Please call Sharon Thomas at 805 499-2423 with questions, or e-mail her at sharonannethomas@roadrunner.com if you need the submission form.



GRASSROOTS GROWS ON VOLUNTEERS

As we've pointed out before, the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley runs on volunteers. Much of the volunteer work is the basic work of any grassroots political organization: registering voters, working at a table at an event or elsewhere to spread the word about the club and Democratic candidates, walking precincts at election time, phone banking. But we also need people to take leadership positions to do the planning and secure the resources so we can make sure it will all happen. For the club that leadership is provided by the Executive Board. The DCCV Executive Board consists of the elected officers and the Chairs of our committees. While we know who our officers will be for the upcoming year, we still need help from you in finding leaders for some of the Committee Chair positions.

We need a chair for the Public Relations committee to help the DCCV deliver a consistent message in all of contact with the public and our members. The tasks include overseeing our relations with the media, coordinating our membership outreach through the newsletter and e-mail blasts, reviewing content on the website and collaborating with the Eye On the Issues team.

We need a chair for our Events and Fundraising committee. The primary task is to help the Executive Board and the club plan and promote our appearance at various community events such as Conejo Valley Days and Arbor/Earth Day, and help the Executive Board plan and promote fundraisers such as our annual Garden Party and smaller events such as last year's Wine for Winners.

We need a Program chair, who will work with the Executive Board to plan monthly meetings and locate appropriate speakers and themes.

We will have leadership opportunities available throughout the year in other areas as well, so please let me know at president@conejodemocrats.com if you're interested in joining us to continue moving the DCCV forward.



FIRST DCCV GENERAL MEETING OF 2008

The first meeting of 2008 will be on January 9 at 6:30 PM at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road in Thousand Oaks. During our business meeting we'll be swearing in our newly elected officers, and then we're going to hear from representatives of the presidential campaigns. We'll allow them 5 minutes or so to present the case for their candidate, let them take a few questions, and then at the end of the presentation we'll hold a straw poll of those in attendance.

We've contacted the southern California offices of each of the campaigns and asked them to send their best representative for their candidate. We won't know for another week or so who the individuals will be, but we'll let you know through our e-mail blast as they become available.



35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 22, 2008 marks the 35th anniversary of the landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*. As a way to commemorate the anniversary the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network will publish its annual signature advertisement in the Ventura County Star. Last year's advertisement included over 140 names of community supporters and local organizations.

As the pro-choice majority, protecting the health and safety of all women must continue to be our priority. We can't stand back NOW and let our human rights be further compromised. In show of solidarity, sign on to our ad and let's show our community and elected officials that we are unified in our goal to restore respect, dignity and autonomy to women. The ad deadline is January 11th and the cost is \$35.00. Checks can be sent to the VCRRN, PO Box 6601, Ventura CA 93006. Your \$35.00 includes your name/organization in the advertisement and a free ticket to our Roe v. Wade Anniversary event on Saturday, January 26th.

On Sat. January 26th, the VCRRN will screen a film titled "Leona's Sister Gerri." This film uncovers the story behind the photograph of a woman who died from an illegal abortion and how the image became a symbol for the pro-choice movement. The event will be held at the Thousand Oaks Library from 2 to 4pm.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Monica H. Welch, Public Affairs & Online Communications Manager. Planned Parenthood, 166 North Moorpark Road, Suite 104, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, (805) 777-3841 x 106, www.ppsbvsl.org

Calendar of Events

**January 9
6:30 p.m.**

DCCV General Meeting.

Program: Democratic Presidential Candidate Primary Forum. Main Library, 1401 Janss Road, TO. Contact: 805-675-8785 or www.conejodemocrats.com

**Wednesday
at
7:30 p.m.**

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

MLK Day Luncheon. Speakers: Colonel Wallace Dailey (ret.), Elda and Ron Soderquist: Working in the Civil Rights Movement. Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery in Westlake. \$12.00/person RSVP: 805-675-8785

**January 21
12:00
Noon**

Roe v. Wade Anniversary Event

VCRRN will screen a film titled "Leona's Sister Gerri." Cost \$35.00 by January 11. Contact: Monica H. Welch, Planned Parenthood, (805) 777-3841 x 106

**January 26
2:00 to 4:00
p.m.**

Tabling at the Oaks

Contact Mary Freed at 805-495-3887 or Sean Richards, maysman24@yahoo.com.

Saturdays

**January 12
8:00 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.**

Democratic Leadership Training -- CDC and Dem, Party of Ventura County

E. P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Cost \$10.00 per person, lunch included. **RSVP** to training@cdc-ca.org or 800-446-9709

Happy New Year



**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**
Jim McIntyre, **Exec. Vice President**
Debbie Birenbaum, **Admin. Vice President**
Mary Wallin, **Recording Secretary**
Jody Avery-Smith, **Corresponding Secretary**
Jerry Clein, **Treasurer**

Committee Chairpersons

Open, **Election Strategy**
Open **Fundraising**
Susie Canfield & Judy Jordan, **Hospitality**
Open, **Membership Coordinator**
Open, **Program Coordinator**
Open, **Public Relations**
Kara Altshuler, **Technology**
Sean Richards, **Youth Coordinator**



