



## Immigrant Seeks Shelter; Church Fined

The United Church of Christ in Simi Valley was fined \$39,307 by the city recently for provoking anti-immigration protests by the group Save Our State and for the resulting counter-protests.

Mayor Paul Miller said that the church incurred the fine because it acted irresponsibly in harboring an illegal immigrant, who is identified only as Liliana, and for announcing its actions, thereby drawing the attention of demonstrators.

Miller argued that the church should have to pay for the cost of police protection as a result of the protests.

The church said it was sheltering Liliana and her infant son because she faced deportation. The church is a part of the New Sanctuary movement, a nationwide effort to keep the families of illegal immigrants together.

Liliana, who is originally from the Mexico, is married to an Oxnard man, an American citizen. She has lived in the United States for nine years. The couple has three children, all of whom are American citizens.

Legal scholars doubt that The City is on firm legal footing. The American Civil Liberties Union demanded that the city withdraw the fine.

Eugene Volokh, a professor at the UCLA School of Law, said in an interview with the *Ventura County Star* that the city's legal argument is "so very weak, they are likely to lose."

Congressman Elton Gallegly (CA-24) said that he supports the city. "Clearly the city is in the right to go in and take whatever is necessary," he said. By Mark Gage, [conejovalleydemocrat@gmail.com](mailto:conejovalleydemocrat@gmail.com).

## Dr. Sechooler to Speak to DCCV at October Meeting

Rochelle Sechooler, Ph.D. will speak to the general meeting of DCCV on October 10 at 6:30 p.m. The club will meet at Goebel's Senior Center at 1385 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

Dr. Rochelle Sechooler is a Professor of Psychology and Chairperson of the Psychology Department at Los Angeles City College. She developed the award winning program: *Critical Thinking: Problem Solving, Decision Making, and Creativity* for Los Angeles County and has educated over 700 of their employees since the beginning of the program in 2000. In 2005 she was invited to New Zealand to make a presentation on the *Implications for the Transferability of Critical Thinking Skills to the New Economy* at the SARMAC (Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition) Conference.

In addition to teaching the critical thinking course, Dr. Sechooler teaches courses on biological psychology and stress management. She was the lead investigator on a research team, which examined distant trauma and stress as a result of Hurricane Katrina. She was invited to present the research paper, *Demographic and Psychological Consequences of Hurricane Katrina* at the 2006 Western Psychological Association Annual Convention.

Dr. Sechooler has always enjoyed sharing her love of psychology with the community. She was the keynote speaker for the Human Relations Forum of Torrance speaking on the topic, *The Influence of Memory, Thought, and Experience, on Prejudice*. Most recently she spoke on *Political Persuasion* at the Westlake Yacht Club. She is a regular political message analyst at the monthly meetings of the Democratic Women's Council of the Conejo Valley

Dr. Sechooler earned her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from UCLA.



## **Senate Floor Statement from Sen. Kuehl, Re: Assembly Bill 8, 9/10/07**

**Mr. President and Colleagues:** As you know, I have been working to secure real healthcare reform in California for a number of years now. Along with my continuing authorship of SB 840, the single payer universal health care bill, I've also actively participated with other authors trying to craft incremental attempts to reform the health insurance market.

This year, as the chair of the Senate Health Committee, I've seen my mission as making certain that everything got appropriately vetted and discussed, while at the same time, continuing to build support for 840. Activists, supporters, organizations, and the panoply of more than 700 organizations, those that the press refers to as the "grassroots," have done a magnificent job in building support for single payer.

This year, as I watched leadership and the administration try to craft a plan different from SB 840, an alternative health reform plan that might expand coverage this year, while preserving the role of insurance companies, the experience taught me why health reform has actually been so difficult to do over the past few years, and why every proposed solution just seems to bring out new and often even bigger problems.

The attempts fail because, until we squarely face the fact that premiums imposed by the insurance companies are rising 3-4 times faster than wages every year, all the reforms that keep those insurance companies firmly in place are doomed to failure. The same is true of AB 8, which we are considering today.

As currently drafted, it doesn't pencil out in terms of money, it doesn't pencil out in terms of who's paying what, and, frankly, it definitely doesn't pencil out for consumers.

Our failing health care system has often been compared to the Titanic, and I've said in the past that attempts at reform are nothing but attempts to rearrange the deck chairs. AB 8, for a change, is actually trying to turn the boat. But some of you may know that, in fact, had the Titanic faced the iceberg head on, it would have survived, at least long enough to save most of its passengers. Turning the ship only partially was actually its downfall. It's clear to me that that is also the problem with AB 8.

Our health insurance company driven system has responded to runaway health care spending by dismantling the entire system. The only questions they ask are "How many people can we turn away; how many of our clients can we kick out, how many people can we underinsure?" Rather than working to contain spending in a patient centered manner, they've created huge profits for themselves by raising premiums, cutting benefits, and limiting access in countless ways.

So the governor was quite correct to say "Let's have a year of health reform." Unfortunately, however, it became more of a Year of Magical Thinking, with apologies to Joan Didion for stealing her title. All the Governor has really done is to say, "I am sure we can solve this in nine months. Let's hurry up and do it."

To the credit of the authors of AB 8, they have worked and worked to try to do a good bill within the context of keeping the insurance companies in place.

They have said we will cap what employers have to pay and we will cap what employees have to pay. What remains uncapped are the premiums that the companies can charge for all this reform.

We have been told there is no individual mandate in this bill, but that is incorrect. If an employer pays into the pool, as their choice of how to spend their 7.5% of payroll contribution, then their employees must buy insurance from the pool. Only if the healthcare costs of those same employees would exceed 5% of their gross income can these employees be let out of the requirement to buy it, and what happens then? They are simply either uninsured or they can "choose" to pay the inflated premiums that might be heaped on them. For those employees whose employer puts 7.5% of payroll into insurance for his or her own employees, those employees are then required to "take up" the employer's insurance offer.

And again, if "accepting" the employer's insurance plan will cost them more than 5% of their wages, they don't have to take up the offer which means they're not going to be insured either if they can't afford the higher premiums.

The bill has come a long way, even since it went through the health committee, and I can understand why many of the unions are now in support of the bill because of the affordability provisions added to the bill.

But there are still also major problems with the coverage provisions. Your employer might offer you a plan that costs you a little bit less than 5% of your gross income for the year, and you would have to buy it, but it might not cover what you need. It might be a minimal plan, a catastrophic plan. It might not have the drugs that you need for the condition you have - for cancer, for AIDS, etc. As we've seen in the last few months, it might not even cover pregnancy.

AB 8 also has an entirely separate insurance pool for an undefined group of people with "serious" conditions. We don't know if that's chronic conditions, we don't know who will be in that pool. And frankly there's no protection for them in terms of what they might have to pay.

So I see a number of real flaws in this much improved bill. (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

I continue to believe that the movement that's been building for single payer, a movement that has seen support for a single payer universal healthcare system more than double over the last six months alone, will continue to build in '08 in '09 in 2010. Then, with a new governor, perhaps there might finally be a chance to get a signature on the bill that is actually the best solution for businesses, for employees, and for all the people in California. Because if you take the insurance companies out of the system, and they are the only entity that adds no value at all to the provision of healthcare, the overall costs for healthcare in California drop \$19 billion in the first year alone, simply because we're finally not paying their inflated overhead and profit.

So I am a no vote on this bill.

I praise those who have been working on this bill for trying. But I encourage those who believe this bill is deeply flawed to join me in voting no. I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have problems different from my own and will not vote for it. For those who will vote for it on my side, I understand you are voting your hopes. Many of you also have told me you know that 840 is the only real solution. So I'm also asking you to stay with me on SB 840; it's not going to the Governor for a veto. Next year we'll continue to develop it, hold it up as the right standard for California, and work with everyone we can, until the day when we understand that facing the iceberg head on is the only way we are going to save everyone on the ship.



## Precinct Walking and Outreach

As we continue to reach out to Democrats and Decline-to-State voters in our neighborhoods, we extend the opportunity for volunteers to walk their own or a nearby neighborhood. The goal is to educate voters about the Democratic Party get Conejo Valley residents involved with the political process or at least get them out to vote.

Vote Blue is an organization that we work with to re-register recently-moved voters. Outreach parties could be organized to thank those who have participated in the past and recruit new volunteers for the future. We also encourage volunteers to outreach by telephone if this method is more comfortable for them. Outreach activities are customized for each volunteer based on their own preference. Please contact Jay Kapitz at [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com) or 818-889-1039 to sign up for these activities.

## EYE ON THE ISSUES

On our October show we are proud to present Presidential Candidate Dennis Kucinich and his very articulate wife, Elizabeth, who sit down for an in depth interview with our host, Constance Starkey. Other October guests are song-writer and singer Stephen Longfellow Fiske who performs the "Earth Anthem" and political organizer Cindy Piester. The show will air every Tuesday night throughout October at 8:00 p.m. on Time Warner Cable channel 25. Sue Gunther, [suegunther@verizon.net](mailto:suegunther@verizon.net).



## Women's Council to Host Author, Elizabeth de la Vega

On October 20, 9:30 to 11:30, DWCCV will host a Brunch and Book Signing at Boccaccio's Restaurant in Westlake Village on the lake at the Landing for noted writer Elizabeth de la Vega. She is the author of *United States versus George W. Bush et. al.* She is a former Federal Prosecutor. The "defendants" are George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell. The crime is tricking the nation into war, or, in legal terms, conspiracy to defraud the United States. The cost is \$39, which includes brunch, tip and a rare opportunity to meet this dynamic writer. Contact: Mary Kay Donahoe, 805-495-1515



## Cookbook Fundraiser Underway

The Club is gathering recipes for a fundraiser cookbook of recipes from members and Democratic leaders. The thought was to include recipes for dishes brought to fundraisers and pot lucks along with photos from those events.

Members have already signed up to contribute recipes. The goal is to have it ready by December 2007. It will be a great gift for the holidays and help us continue our campaign work for a blue 2008.

If you would like to be contribute a recipe, please contact member and cookbook coordinator Sharon Thomas at [sharonannethomas@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharonannethomas@roadrunner.com) or Sandy Emberland at 805-493-9122 or [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net).

## Tabling at the Oaks Mall to Resume

Sean Richards is looking for volunteers to talk to people and register voters at the Oaks Mall throughout the fall. Tabling continues three Saturdays during October and various days of the week in December from 12 to 4 PM. No tabling will occur in November due to mall renovations. Our schedule is October 6, 13, 20 and December 1, 21, 23. If you are interested in political outreach, please contact Sean Richards, [maysman24@yahoo.com](mailto:maysman24@yahoo.com) or Jay Kapitz, [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com).



## MINORITY OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM III

“No longer waiting for the World to Change” is initiating a conversation about new strategies to engage minority communities in all facets of society. The discussion will cover Building City-wide Coalitions, Developing Ongoing Communications, and Relationships Strengthening Awareness of our Cultural Similarities. The symposium will be held at California State University, Northridge, California Sunday, October 14, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A reception will follow. The program and reception are open to the public at no charge.

Program guests include Mr. Ron Andrade, Sheriff Lee Baca, Mr. Ken Barrow, Mr. Eric Bauman, Rev. Zedar Broadous, Honorable Judy Chu, Mrs. Maria Elena Durazo, Dr. Nazir Khaja, Rabbi Steven Jacobs, Honorable Lloyd Levine, and Rev. Cecil “Chip” Murray. Honorary Chairs and Advisors are Rabbi Steven Jacobs, Rev. Cecil “Chip” Murray, Senator Art Torres and Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Please contact Tom Mullens, [president@conejodemocrats.com](mailto:president@conejodemocrats.com).



## BOOK CLUB FORMS

Democratic book club read *Assault on Reason* by Al Gore as its September selection. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the home of Susan Brauner in Newbury Park. The October selection is to be announced. For more information contact Heather Schmidt, [hchristenas@gmail.com](mailto:hchristenas@gmail.com).

## SAVE THE DATE

The Democratic Club of Conejo Valley will celebrate the holiday season with a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday evening, December 12. The dinner will be preceded with a no host bar. Volunteers will receive special recognition and new officers for 2008 will be introduced. Our special guests will be the people from the Hospice of Conejo Valley and proceeds from the dinner will be shared with them to further the work they do. The event will be held at the Thousand Oaks Inn. Contact: Sandy Emberland, [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net)



## Halloween Fest to Fund “Eye On the Issues” for a Second Year!

The Media Committee will host a Halloween Party Fundraiser to celebrate being on the air for our first year. It will be Saturday, October 27th at 7:00 p.m. All ghouls and goblins are invited (except Dick Cheney!) Costumes are encouraged.

Please mark this date on your calendar for an entertaining and scary evening. The party will be at the haunted home of Debbie Birenbaum. The suggested Donation of \$20 for adults and \$10 for students will include refreshments and entertainment.

Please RSVP to Debbie at 498-7151 or Sue at 499-7822.



## Nominating Committee Forms

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. The club election is in November. 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](mailto:president@conejodemocrats.com).

## Calendar of Events

<p><b>September 30</b> Noon to 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY</b></p> <p><b>SPEAKER: CHRISTINE PELOSI, LOS ROBLES Banquet Center</b> 805-675-8785 or <a href="http://www.conejodemocrats.com">www.conejodemocrats.com</a></p>	<p><b>October 20</b> 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>DWCCV Brunch and Book Signing: <i>Elizabeth de la Vega, "United States versus George W. Bush et. al."</i> at Boccaccio's Restaurant, Westlake Village noted writer <b>\$39</b>. Contact: Mary Kay Donahoe, 805 495 1515.</p>
<p><b>October 10</b> 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>DCCV General Meeting, T.O. Speaker: Rochelle Sechooler, Ph.D.</b> Goebel's Senior Center, 1385 E. Janss Road. 805-675-8785 or <a href="http://www.conejodemocrats.com">www.conejodemocrats.com</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday Evenings</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eye On The Issues</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Featuring <i>Presidential Candidate Dennis Kucinich</i> beginning Oct 2 Cable 25, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>October 13</b> 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGION 10 MEETING</b></p> <p>Democratic Headquarters, 402 E. Gutierrez St., Santa Barbara. Contact: Bob Handy, 805-962-9082</p>	<p><b>October 27</b> 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Halloween Media Fundraiser – 1-Year Anniversary Party</b> Contact Sue Gunther @suegunther@verizon.net</p>
<p><b>October 14</b> 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>MINORITY OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM III - "NO LONGER WAITING FOR THE WORLD TO CHANGE," California State University, Northridge (Reception to follow.) Contact: Tom Mullens <a href="mailto:president@conejodemocrats.com">president@conejodemocrats.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>November 14</b> 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>DCCV General Meeting, T.O.</b> Goebel's Senior Center, 1385 E. Janss Road. 805-675-8785 or <a href="http://www.conejodemocrats.com">www.conejodemocrats.com</a></p>
<p><b>October 21</b> 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thousand Oaks Street Fair</b></p> <p>Volunteers Needed. Contact: Shelly Austin, <a href="mailto:executive_vice-president@conejodemocrats.com">executive_vice-president@conejodemocrats.com</a></p>	<p><b>December 12</b> 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Volunteer Appreciation &amp; DCCV Meeting Benefiting Hospice of the Conejo.</b></p> <p>Contact Sandy Emberland at <a href="mailto:seemberland@verizon.net">seemberland@verizon.net</a></p>



**Democratic Club of Conejo Valley**  
P.O. Box 4421  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359  
[www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)  
805-675-8785

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Thousand Oaks, CA  
Permit No. 177

### 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**

