

# Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley

## November 2009 Newsletter

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## Next DCCV Meeting Thursday November 12, 2009

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PLEASE NOTE: Our monthly meeting is on Thursday this month - not Wednesday as usual.

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The DCCV General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12 at the Thousand Oaks Library on Janss Road, just east of the 23 Freeway. Please plan on arriving early. We will begin the meeting promptly at 6:30.

Our speaker will be Lisa Brach Safaeinili, Executive Director of the Westminster Free Clinic, located in Thousand Oaks and Westlake. Ms. Safaeinili will discuss the needs of the uninsured locally, why people are falling through the cracks of the healthcare safety net and the increase in uninsured in the East Ventura County area.

She has been the Executive Director of the Clinic for the past eight years. She has a Masters in Public Health from UC Berkeley and has worked in the field of health and safety for over 20 years.

We will also be discussing club business, collecting both monetary donations for Special Olympics and food donations for Manna as well as welcoming new members.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Join our list**

Join Our Mailing List!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Join Ferial Masry**

at

California Lutheran University  
Center for Equality and Justice  
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

**It's time to get ready to show the 37th Assembly District that we have what it takes! I've missed you all, and am excited to gear-up my campaign for 2010.**

**Cal Lutheran University's Center for Equality and Justice invited me to speak on Thursday, November 5, and I would love to see you there. The event will run from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at California Lutheran University's Roth Nelson Room, during which I will discuss my experiences with democracy throughout my life. I have attached the event summary for you below. You can also register at <http://ferialmasryatclu.eventbrite.com>.**

**I also want to use this first email to thank you for your enduring support. Together we have made an indelible mark on the political landscape of the 37th, and come historically close to beating Republicans in their own backyard. This year will be the final step in our fight to turn the 37th blue, and with your help I know we have what it takes.**

**So, join me on November 5 at Cal Lutheran to catch-up, gear-up, and finish the amazing work that we've started. I can't wait to see you there!**

**Hope to see you soon,**

**Ferial**

**Cal Lutheran University presents**

**"Ferial Masry: A Saudi Woman's Perspectives on Democracy"**

**Drawing from her experience as a global citizen, Ferial Masry discusses global and personal perspectives on democracy.**

**Ferial is the first Saudi-born woman to run for American political office. She has experienced society and politics on four continents, and brings her perspectives, both as a global observer and active political participant, to bear on the evolving role of women in democracies at home and abroad.**

Please join Ferial for this engaging discussion from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Thursday, November 5 at California Lutheran's Roth Nelson Room. For further information, feel free to contact Nick Koffroth at (310) 564-6425.

**Debra Bowen**  
**California Secretary of State**  
**Campaign Kick-off**  
**2010**

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Debbie Birenbaum and Tom Mullens  
cordially invite you to a House Party  
in support of  
**Debra Bowen**  
California Secretary of State

•

Help Debra kick-off her reelection campaign, and  
learn more about what the Debra is doing to ensure  
California's elections are fair, secure and accurate!

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Secretary Bowen will be addressing the state-wide house parties via live  
conference call at 3:00 PM

Saturday, November 7, 2-4 PM

1005 Meadowcrest  
Newbury Park 91320

Contributions are welcomed, but not necessary for attendance.

Contribute at

<http://www.actblue.com/page/conejofordebra>

Checks made out to Debra Bowen for Secretary of State 2010  
will be accepted at the event

**Debra Bowen was elected California's Secretary of State in 2006, while the debacles of Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004 were still fresh wounds to the electoral process. Debra has quietly, but firmly, guided the California electoral process since then. While other jurisdictions, including some California counties, were buying electronic voting machines with the lowest bid being the only criteria she insisted that every device used to cast a vote in California be tested. Those that could not guarantee the integrity of the electoral process were not allowed to be used. There have been no hanging chads or mysterious and unexplained vote totals on her watch.**

**Debra is running for reelection and needs your support. A single candidate surpassed her in fundraising this summer: Audra Strickland. While Debra Bowen came to the Secretary of State's office recognized as a leader in the State Senate and an expert on the election process, Audra brings what can be described, with great generosity, as a lackluster record in the Assembly. As a resident of the 37th Assembly**

District or the surrounding area, you know how well you've been represented the last 6 years. Please join us in making sure that your vote, and the vote of every Californian, counts for the next 4 years and help reelect Debra Bowen as California's Secretary of State.

Tom Mullens

## **Team Up With Special Olympics and Manna for November DemsCare**

### **- SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

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Special Olympics Ventura County (SOVC) is the focus of the October DemsCare Project. Donations will be collected during the monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 17, at 6:30 PM at the Thousand Oaks Library on Janss Road.

Serving as an adaptive recreation program for Special Olympic athletes for over the past 20 years, SOVC is a grassroots organization whose funding comes from and remains in Ventura County. Donations are used to support more than 750 Ventura County athletes, ages 8 and up, in 11 different year-round sports programs at over 20 different county-wide training sites. All programs are provided at no cost to the athletes.

DemsCares donations will help support SOVC with the following needs: Transportation costs (transporting S.O. Athletes to "away" tournaments) can run anywhere between \$12,000 and \$17,000 per year. These include van & bus rentals, plus gas to refuel when returned and filling volunteers' gas tanks.

Hosting approximately 4 to 5 tournaments each year. SOVC provides lunches to all athletes (home and visiting) and volunteers. These costs range from \$700 to \$1000 per tournament.

Athlete fees charged by the Chapter office (Special Olympics Southern California) are \$75 to \$100 per athlete (fees vary for Summer and Fall Games). This year's Summer Games fees were a little under \$5,000. Unexpected equipment and uniform replacement usually runs \$500 to \$1000 per year.

Bowling alley "lane fees" and facility fees at some Recreation & Parks Districts during the Special Olympics training season and other sports practices. This year, these fees are expected to approach \$2,000.

Please make your tax-deductible donation checks to Special Olympics Ventura County. SOVC also accepts MasterCard, VISA, Discover and American Express.

In addition to monetary donations, SOVC welcomes volunteers.

**Volunteer Skills Required:**

- A desire to help individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the ability to laugh and have fun all the while. What ever you give, you will get back 100 fold from our athletes!
- Office volunteers with Microsoft Office and/or other computer database skill.

Carol Keavney

**MANNA**

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In July Manna, the food bank of the ConejoValley, was our designated charity. We donated a whopping 230 pounds of food, plus 23 empty egg cartons and \$32 in cash. The volunteer who handles placing eggs into cartons practically snatched them from my hands in gratitude, as that day she had already filled every single one that she had.

John (JC) Gorham, Executive Director, was full of apologies for not attending our meeting. He'd received a call regarding the sudden impending death of his step-father, so he dashed out of town, leaving his phone numbers at home. In this economy, the needs in our community continue to increase, so John is delighted that we have "adopted" Manna every three or four months. He wanted to be sure that I would pass along a big "THANK YOU" to our members and let us know that he would like to be invited to a future meeting so he can say that in person.

Since we are asking for donations for Manna again this month, John plans to be at our meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12. He will fill us in on the increased need for these services in the ConejoValley due to the economy. As a result, he has formed a new organization to deal with non-food needs, Conejo Cares. Keep in mind that Manna always needs staples: paper products like TP, packaged food like mac and cheese, canned goods like chili and tuna, as well as those necessary egg cartons.

Websites: [www.mannaconejo.org](http://www.mannaconejo.org) and [www.ConejoCares.org](http://www.ConejoCares.org)

TUNA; GROUND BEEF; LUNCH MEATS  
YOGURT; CANNED PASTA; CANNED MEATS  
WHOLE CHICKENS; CHEESE; CHILI ;  
PASTA SAUCE; DIAPERS ; PASTA ;  
BABY WIPES; PAPER TOWELS; TOILET PAPER;  
SHAMPOO; CONDITIONER; RAZORS;  
TOOTH BRUSHES; TOOTHPASTE; JELLIES & JAMS;  
SUGAR (1 LB BOXES); RICE-A-RONI ; HAMBURGER HELPER;  
MAC N' CHEESE; JUICES; CANNED FRUITS;  
CANNED VEGETABLES; SOUPS; COFFEE;

CEREAL; INSTANT OATMEAL; COOKING OIL;  
CONDIMENTS; SNACK FOODS; INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

For a complete list please go to Manna's website.

Penny Strowger

## The Democratic Media Committee Halloween Party

The Democratic Media Committee has lots of exciting news for November.

First, we just had our annual Halloween Fundraiser at Debbie Birenbaum's house and raised \$350 to add to the media fund to help pay for the show. We all want to thank Debbie for putting on such a great party every year, also special thanks to Teri Smolarski for bringing the cake and salad, and our special guests, Ferial Masry and Marie Panec. I would like to also thank David Atkins, Jody Avery-Smith and Ray Freeman for contributing so much to the show all year.

Sue Gunther

## Public Welcome for Tim Allison for Congress in Oak Park Thursday, November 5, 2009, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Kapitz Home, 6481 Smoketree Ave., Oak Park CA 91377.

I hope you had a great summer and you and your families are well.

My good friend and fellow Obama delegate Tim Allison is running for Congress in the 24th Congressional District. He hopes to unseat Elton Gallegly in 2010. The 24th Congressional District has improved from 12% to only a 6% deficit for Democrats. Encouragingly Obama won the district by 3%. I believe Tim is a great candidate with an excellent chance of winning. Check out his website at <http://www.timallison.com/>. Tim has previously worked as a political strategist and has directed five out of five winning campaigns in Southern California. He also directed a very successful Obama campaign in Santa Barbara.

Tim asked me to put together a house party so he could introduce himself to residents of Oak Park, the Conejo Valley and Ventura County. Based on friends I have contacted we already have about 20 attendees committed.

Please contact me at [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com) or 818-889-1039 to let me know the number of attendees you will be bringing so I can plan accordingly. There is no expectation to do anything but listen and we will have wine, cheese,

refreshments and snacks.

Hope to see you there!

Jay Kapitz

## **Eye On The Issues: November Show**

The November EYE ON THE ISSUES features Host David Atkins interviewing two pioneers for Women's rights and equality, Lilly Ledbetter and Gloria Allred. Lilly Ledbetter is famous for her lawsuit against Goodyear Tire Company for equal pay that went all the way to the Supreme Court. Famed attorney, Gloria Allred has championed women's rights and won many discrimination cases in court. The show can be seen every Thursday night in November on Cable Channel 25, at 6:00 p.m. and also on Youtube, on the eyeontheissues channel.

Sue Gunther

## **Tabling at The Oaks Mall**

Tabling at the mall is always an adventure. Our next tabling date at the Oaks Mall is Saturday, November 14 between 12 and 4 p.m. Registering people to vote is a civics reaffirming opportunity. Interested volunteers please contact Debbie at (805)498-7151.

Mary Freed

## **VIEWPOINT**

### **President's Message**

November is already here and Thanksgiving is almost upon us. In this newsletter, I'd like to take the time to reflect on some things for which I'm thankful.

I'm very thankful that this is the first full year in nine long years that I am not living in anger and fear. I'm thankful that due to the hard work of so many of you, we have a President who has raised our national discussion to healthcare, the economy, education and our role in the changing world in meaningful, if difficult, ways. We now have a President who is forcing us to take a good, long look at ourselves so that we can decide what kind of nation we want to be rather than a president who encourages us

to simply go shopping so that he can engage in war, nation building and the corporate looting of our national treasury. While we need to be thankful, we also need to be vigilant, encouraging and demanding.

I am thankful for all the friends I've made this year and all I've learned from knowing you. Its been amazing learning of all the good work there is out there to be done and that there are people doing it. Collectively, you are amazingly well-educated, kind-hearted, intelligent and caring.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be president of this club. Its given me a platform to express some of my opinions and concerns. I was very unsure of myself at this time last year, but I've sincerely tried to do a good job. We've had several successful fundraisers this year so we now have a nice nest egg in our account for next year's election work. We've built up our membership. We've gone green with our newsletter. We've become more charitable through our monthly DemsCare activities. All in all, it was a great year.

The year ahead is full of possibilities. We have a chance to get more Democrats elected locally as well as to defend seats now held by Democrats but being challenged. During this election year, we have a chance as a club to grow our active membership and to engage those young and minority voters in our area. So, I am thankful (in anticipation) of all of you who will step up and find your voice through the DCCV whether in running for club leadership positions or in volunteering to phone bank, precinct walk, table, and do mailings. Believe me, you get back benefits in far greater proportion than the effort you expend.

Thank you for a great year.

