



## RECOGNIZE OUR VOLUNTEERS

The DCCV depends on volunteers for everything we do. So much of the time these hard-working people go unrecognized for the hours of time and miles of ground they cover in support of our cause. It's time to change that.

Please contact Penne Letson with the name of anyone (and everyone) you would like to recognize for volunteering during the past year. Include a sentence of what they have done – such as “walked three precincts to register new voters” or “flipped pancakes at our Pancake Breakfast Kick-off.”

Everyone who was a paid member last year is eligible and will be recognized with a token of our appreciation at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Wednesday December 12. 40% of ALL proceeds go to Hospice of Conejo Valley. You do not want to miss the fun and being able to support Hospice of Conejo Valley.



Penne is compiling the volunteer recognition list. Please contact her at 805-375-4222 or [penn2draw@earthlink.net](mailto:penn2draw@earthlink.net).

## Claudia Bill-de La Pena\* Keynote Speaker at Volunteer Recognition Dinner

It is time to say “Thank You” to the backbone of our Democratic club -- to all the volunteers who walk precincts, plan events, sell raffle tickets, man phone banks, create and mail the newsletter, etc. On Wednesday, December 12 we will replace our regularly scheduled meeting with a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to thank our volunteers, be entertained and support the community by supporting Hospice of the Conejo Valley.

The club is honored to have Thousand Oaks Councilperson and former mayor, Claudia Bill-de la Pena,\* speak on the importance of volunteering at our Volunteer Recognition Dinner Benefiting Hospice of the Conejo Valley. Maria Prescott, Executive Director, will speak about the Hospice of the Conejo Valley organization and present a short DVD. Talented club members Marilyn and Charlie Davis, along with their daughter Maripat Davis and pianist Bob Erickson will entertain us with Musical Memories. Daniel Yem will share a protest song he has written with us.

A fabulous week on the Mexican Riviera near Puerto Vallarta, generously donated by Ingrid Van Eckert, will be auctioned by Jim McIntyre. Check it out at <http://sayulitalife.com/canudos>. We will also have a Raffle Bazaar with themed baskets and a 50/50 Raffle available. Bring your checkbooks and charge cards.

Naylor's Banquet Center is preparing a special dinner for us preceded by no-host cocktails and hot hors d'oeuvres in the Library at Naylor's Banquet Center starting at 6:30 p.m. Naylor's has given us very special pricing of \$25, and remember \$10 of that goes to Hospice.

Please make your reservations by December 6. Don't miss this opportunity to say Thank You to our volunteers, and if you are one of them, to be recognized for all that you do.

Contact Sandy Emberland at 493-9122 or [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net) if you have questions. Otherwise, send your checks to DCCV, P.O. Box 4421, TO, 91359 or make reservations online at [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com). See you on the twelfth!

\*Claudia's appearance does not constitute an endorsement of the Democratic Party.

## **GOP Should Rename Itself Me, Me, Me**

The fiscal insanity of Republicans in general and the Bush administration in particular never ceases to amaze. For example, we continue to throw hundreds of billions at the war in Iraq. Lest the reader thinks I am exaggerating, the Bush administration is requesting \$200B in 2008 alone for the war. Even for the US government, that's real money. So what do the Bushies propose to offset this and past expenditures? Absolutely nothing. Instead, we keep hearing about how we will "grow our way out of debt." Yes, the supply-siders would have us believe that we can continue to fund this misbegotten adventure at record levels and yet demand not a whit of sacrifice from the American people. Asked about a Democratic proposal for a tax increase to pay for the increased spending on the war, Bush's press spokesperson proclaimed that would be "fiscally irresponsible." Even New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, a devout supporter of the war, called this Alice in Wonderland thinking. That is, how can it be fiscally irresponsible to pay one's bills?

Republicans want to have it both ways. That is, they want to continue to throw money indiscriminately at the Pentagon and yet not pay for it, preferring to palm the debt off on their children, grandchildren, and future generations. This is the height of selfishness, immaturity, irresponsibility, and self-indulgence. Would any of these war supporters advocate not paying their personal bills and sticking their kids with the debt when they pass on?

Then there is the tired bromide that lower taxes will yield more revenue and so we really do not have to pay for this spending because ultimately that additional revenue will do the trick. There is only one problem: history shows that it does not work. In fact, using supply-side logic, we should do away with taxes altogether since that would cause federal income to peak.

Years ago a Republican on a public internet board said, "Federal revenues doubled during the 1980's as Reagan cut taxes. Name me another decade where revenues doubled." My first reaction was to wonder if maybe it was true and I was missing something. So I decided to do a little research. I found that it was true that federal revenues doubled during the 1980's. However, I also discovered that the rate of revenue growth was even higher in the preceding four decades. One had to go clear back to the Depression-ridden 1930's to find a decade where the rate of increase was lower than during Reagan's reign of error.

When Bill Clinton was sworn in, one of his first acts was to propose higher taxes, primarily on the top tier. I can still remember Republicans such as Newt Gingrich, Dick Armey, and Tom Delay predicting economic

disaster when Clinton's budget passed by a single vote in both houses of Congress. So what happened? Arguably the greatest single economic run in the nation's history. In eight years we went from a then record deficit under the elder Bush to the largest surplus in history by the time Clinton left office. In fact, in all eight of Clinton's years in office, the deficit shrank, then disappeared, and then the surplus grew. Yet in just a few short years under the current Bush, the surplus was wiped out, and we are again dealing with record red ink.

Republicans will tell us that this was not Clinton's doing, that the dot com boom is the reason behind the economy's success in the 1990's. Then they will claim that 9/11 is the reason for our current predicament. There is only one small problem with these arguments: they do not hold up when one considers the empirical data. As far as the dot com explanation for our surplus, allow me to offer an offsetting fact. For all of the economic problems when Jimmy Carter was president, he inherited a \$74B deficit and left office four years later with one the same size. But when Reagan stepped down eight years later, the deficit had grown to \$155B, more than double what he inherited. There was certainly no dot com boom under Carter and stagflation was rampant, so how does one explain his keeping the deficit stable and supply-side having the exact opposite effect? As for the argument that Bush did not squander the surplus and that 9/11 is to blame, the then Republican-controlled Congressional Budget Office attributed 36% of the red ink to that catastrophic event. So, even if we agree that Bush is not to blame for 36% of the debt, but what about the other 64%? If lowering taxes fixes the problem, why are we still looking at mountains of deficits? The Bushies tell us that the tax cuts are working because the deficit is now projected to be less than originally estimated, but it is still near an all time high. In other words, they set the bar so low that they could not help but clear it.

Finally, remember Republicans in Congress complaining about Clinton's budget and talking about huge deficits as far as the eye can see, even arguing for a balanced budget amendment? Obviously, that talk died away with the 90's boom, but how come they didn't offer the same remedy when the problem resurfaced under a Republican president? Because their concern is scoring political points rather than addressing the fiscal health of this nation.

If I can reconfigure one of Bush's 2000 campaign promises, he made good on his pledge to remove the stain of the Clinton surpluses. And it's going to take years if not decades to get that "stain" back. *By Richard Kolber*



## RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

HAPPY NEW YEAR! December is nearly here and, with it, the end of your annual membership in the most progressively exciting club in the Conejo Valley. And so, it is time to RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. 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. Join up and help us get this nation back on the right track. Debbie Birenbaum, [ginso350@roadrunner.com](mailto:ginso350@roadrunner.com)



## 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; and at least get them out to vote.

We 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

We taped the 16th Eye on the Issues show November 17 and it will run every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. on Channel 25. Christie and Dennis Davis present their work-in-progress film, *Women at War: Forgotten Female Veterans of Operation Desert Storm*. Our other Guest is Maricela Guzman, a veteran and co-founder of SWAN, the Service Women Action Network. We urge everyone to watch this show, a very revealing look at what our women in service go through both during service and as veterans. Media Committee report.



## DemWomen Host Holiday Open House

The Democratic Women's Council of the Conejo Valley invites you their Holiday Open House & Boutique. Shop the vendors and goodies from A – Z; enjoy Wine and Munchies; and support the Dem Women. Saturday, December 8, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at 2328 Hillsbury Road, Westlake Village, 91361. RSVP: Kathy Smiley, 805-497-1003 or [kdsmls@msn.com](mailto:kdsmls@msn.com).

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee formed to select officers for 2008. 2008 holds many activities for the Club as it includes three elections -- two primaries and the general election.

Currently, there is one candidate for each elected position. Nominations from the floor will be entertained at the December 12 meeting.

The rules to vote in the Club election are as follows: anyone who joins the Club by December 3rd or whose membership is received at the Club P.O. Box by 4 p.m. on December 4 is eligible to vote. You may join DCCV on line at [www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com).

If there are no nominations from the floor, and the candidates for office remain unopposed, allowed by article IV of the Club Bylaws, they will be confirmed by acclamation.

To be considered as a candidate for one of the elected officer's positions, contact, Tom Mullens [thommullens@yahoo.com](mailto:thommullens@yahoo.com), Jay Kapitz at [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com) or Sue Gunther at [suegunther@verizon.net](mailto:suegunther@verizon.net).

## Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley Ballot for Officers for 2008

### PRESIDENT:

Tom Mullens

### EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jim McIntyre

### ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Debbie Birenbaum

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Jody Avery Smith

### RECORDING SECRETARY:

Mary Wallin

### TREASURER:

Jerry Clein



## Tabling at the Oaks 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. Interested in political outreach? Contact Jay Kapitz, [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com), Sean Richards, [maysman24@yahoo.com](mailto:maysman24@yahoo.com) or Mary Freed at 805-495-3887.

## Calendar of Events

December  
12  
6:30 p.m.

### **Volunteer Recognition Dinner & DCCV Meeting Benefiting Hospice of the Conejo.**

Reservations required. \$25.00 Contact  
Sandy Emberland at [seemberland@verizon.net](mailto:seemberland@verizon.net)

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](mailto:kempeters@gmail.com), 818-735-0987

December  
1, 21, 23  
Noon to  
4 p.m.

### **Tabling at the Oaks Mall.**

Interested in political outreach?  
Contact Jay Kapitz, [j\\_kapitz@yahoo.com](mailto:j_kapitz@yahoo.com),  
Sean Richards, [maysman24@yahoo.com](mailto:maysman24@yahoo.com) or  
Mary Freed at 805-495-3887.

## Happy New Year

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.**

January 9  
6:30 p.m.

**DCCV General Meeting.**  
**Program:** Democratic Candidate  
Primary Forum. Location to be  
announced. Contact: 805-675-8785 or  
[www.conejodemocrats.com](http://www.conejodemocrats.com)

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

Martin Luther King Day Luncheon.  
**Speakers:** Elda and Ron Sonderquist:  
Working in the Civil Rights Movement.  
Marie Callendar's Restaurant & Bakery  
in Westlake Village. \$12.00/person

January 21  
12:00



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

