



Town & Country Democrat

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Long-time T&C Member Kenneth Burt to Address Jan. 9 Meeting About California Latino Politics



Have you ever wondered how Latinos emerged as a political force in California? Or what state politics will look like in the future?

Come and gain new insights from Kenneth Burt, who will talk about his new book, *The Search for a Civic Voice: California Latino Politics*, at the Jan. 9 club meeting.

Burt is the state political director of the California Federation of Teachers. He became a T&C member while in high school in the late 1970s, joining at the suggestion of mentor and former club president Rita Hodgkins. She helped him with the book by setting up an interview with Senator Alan Cranston. Cranston began working with the Latino community as part of the Roosevelt administration during World War II, and continued in the fifties as the founding president of CDC. This is just one of the many stories in the book, which is based on 200 interviews and emphasizes coalition politics.

“This book provides inspiration and insight into better understanding both of the past seventy years and ongoing political developments. Finally, this is a powerful tribute to the sacrifices, struggles and successes of women and men who were often unsung heroes,” writes Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in the foreword. The Center for California Studies at Sac State describes the book as “a compelling historical walk-through of the political empowerment strategies used by Latinos in the 1940s through the 1990s and the present.” The Sacramento News and Review reports that Burt’s “analysis of the debates over strategies and tactics of the emerging Latino civil rights movement sparkles with insight.”

Burt is a graduate of UC Berkeley and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has worked for Congressman Robert Matsui, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

As an activist and an historian, Burt is unique among state labor and Democratic Party leaders. His interest in the grassroots and in elected officials, politics and policy, is reflected in the well-researched and engaging book. UFW cofounder Dolores Huerta states: “Kenneth Burt understands the convergence of social movements and partisan politics.”

For more information, go to www.KennethBurt.com.

Also at the Meeting: Club elections, new Obama Headquarters, Central Committee update, Voter Registration, and more!

From the President...



I hope you are all off to a great start in the New Year.

This year is shaping up to be a really exciting year for Democrats. We've never had so many terrific candidates, and this year it looks like it is the Republicans who are shooting themselves in the feet.

We expect to see more in the way of Headquarters this year. Arnie has been working ceaselessly for a NE Headquarters, which we will help sponsor, and we will likely see candidates staking out territory in our fair city. Right now, the Obama campaign has created their own local office:

From the Sacbee, article by Marcos Breton, <http://www.sacbee.com/breton/story/612813.html>:

The political magic of Sen. Barack Obama is alive and thriving in a cramped office in midtown, on Q Street between 20th and 21st.

Right there between a Mexican diner and a dive bar are clues to how a black candidate from Chicago could triumph at the Iowa caucus – winning a historical victory among largely white, rural voters.

There is a clear sense of how Obama is neutralizing Sen. Hillary Clinton – making the first viable, female presidential contender seem tired and establishment.

It's not a miracle, fluke or spontaneous accident. History is being sought by reaching undecided voters on a visceral level.

On Friday, a giddy day after Obama's Iowa victory, it was plainly visible when one of my colleagues asked an Obama supporter why she chose Obama rather than Clinton.

Kim Mack had planned to vote for Clinton, until her son's Army unit was deployed to Iraq – a war she opposed and Clinton initially supported. A vote for Obama became a vote for her son's life, words that put a human face on the often mundane nature of politics.

While heartfelt, Mack was trained to deliver her testimonial for effect at "Camp Obama," a workshop she attended last summer.

"I worked on some campaigns in the 1990s and we would talk about health care but that's not what voters want to hear now," said Mack, a 44-year-old county worker whose son Robert is now on leave from Iraq. "It's much more powerful when I tell people I support Barack because of my son."

PS You may have noticed that this newsletter is shorter than usual. This is because I received fewer contributions than usual! Please send me any material you'd like to see here!

Margie Metzler, President, Town & Country Democrats
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Kuehl's is only real universal bill

(Letter to the Editor Published Monday, Jan. 7, 2008)

Re "Assembly bill would help cover state's uninsured," Jan. 2:

Republicans and health insurers aren't the only ones opposing Assembly Bill X1 1. Gray Panthers are proud to stand with doctors, advocates and patients, California nurses and the League of Women Voters. We all oppose a solution that continues to place the fiscal health of the insurance and pharmaceutical industries above the physical health of Californians.

Forcing everyone to buy health insurance for whatever premium companies decide to charge – for whatever benefits they choose to offer – does not make sense. Quality standards are absolutely vital for any fair plan.

The bill as it stands hints at penalties for those not purchasing insurance, but gives no real details. Would wages be garnished by the state? States that passed some similar employer mandate have not reached anything like universal coverage: Massachusetts' widely touted plan has seen uninsured numbers go up by roughly 150,000, while Oregon's uninsured numbers stagnate.

Don't call something "universal" unless it truly covers everyone. Like state Sen. Sheila Kuehl's Senate Bill 840! Californians need to understand their options. We may be voting life or death.

Joan Lee, Sacramento President, Gray Panthers

Margie Metzler, Sacramento Program Coordinator, Gray Panthers

<http://www.sacbee.com/326/story/611004.html>

2008 Elections

The Town and Country Nominating Committee, headed buy Arnie Godmintz, has come up with a slate of officers for 2008. The committee is composed of T&C stalwarts Leonard and Beverly Thomas, Joan Lee, John Bernier, and Arnie. The following is your Ballot. Please be aware you can always write in candidates of your own, or if anyone has interest in running next year, please contact Arnie or any officer of the club. We would love to have more member participation!

Please copy this or tear it out and mail to: P.O. Box 1286, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

President: Margie Metzler

Write-in: _____

Vice President: Warren Harding

Write-in: _____

Secretary: Laure Olson

Write-in: _____

Treasurer: James Nakata

Write-in: _____

Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Strengths/Experience _____

Please check one box and circle the correct membership below: NEW RENEWAL

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual \$30.00 Family
 \$20.00 Senior Individual \$25.00 Senior Family

Signature _____
 Club _____

Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic

Date _____

P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

The Calendar

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

2nd Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 127, 6 PM. Contact: (916) 442-0264 or www.sacdems.org.

Auburn Area Democratic Club

1st Thursday, Auburn Public Library, 250 Nevada St., Auburn, 7 PM; Contact: Trish Grenfell, (530) 887-8873, pgrenfell@yahoo.com

Davis Democratic Club

2nd Tuesday, Yolo County Library-Davis, 14th St & B, 7 PM
Contact: John Chendo, (530) 758-3331 or jac07@dcn.org

Folsom Democratic Club

Last Monday, 7 PM; Contact Tessa Janian, tessa.janian@comcast.net for location

JFK Democratic Club

1st Saturday, 10 AM at the Raley's at Hazel and Madison; Contact: Mike Dillon, (916) 967-3157, mikedillon2@comcast.net

Lincoln Democratic Club

1st Thursday, Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln Hills, 7 PM; Contact: Della Sharief, (916) 408-5028

Rocklin/Roseville Area Democrats

3rd Monday, Rocklin Library, 5460 Fifth St., Rocklin, 7 PM; Contact: Glenda Wertenberger, (916) 723-9930, paulindaw@yahoo.com.

Sacramento County Young Democrats

(35 and younger) 1st Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 317, Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact scyd@yahoogroups.com

Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

2nd Monday, Lambda Players Theater, 2427 17th Street, Sacramento, 6 PM; Contact: (916) 441-1787, info@sacstonewall.org or www.sacstonewall.org

Sun City Democratic Club

4th Tuesday, Sierra Pines Recreation Center, Whistlestop Way, Sun City, Roseville, 9 AM; Contact: Myra Schimke, (916) 772-4371, mschimke@surewest.net
Town & Country Democratic Club

2nd Wednesday, Deterding Park Clubhouse, 1415 Rushden Drive, 7 PM; Contact: Margie Metzler, (916) 921-5008, margiemetz@hotmail.com, website www.tcdems.org

Women Democrats of Sacramento

County, 3rd Monday, SCTA Office, 5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact: JoAnn Souvignier, (916) 971-9601, jossouvign@comcast.net, website www.wdsc.net

Other Progressive Clubs

Sacramento For Democracy

1st Wednesday, 7:00pm; Various locations. Contact: (916) 622-VOTE; r.hundrieser@comcast.net
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org

Gray Panthers of Sacramento

2nd Tuesday, 1:00pm, Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets, Sacramento; Contact: Joan Lee, (916) 332-5980, www.gpcal.org

Capital Area Progressives (CAP)

3rd Thursday, various locations; Cathlyn Daly, 479-5961; dalywood@comcast.net



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**January 9: Kenneth Burt, Obama, Central Committee Reports
Coming Soon: Joint Dem Clubs Candidates Forum**