



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRAT

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AUGUST 2006

T & C AWARDS DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

By Nancy Tronaas

Over 200 Town & Country Democratic Club members and supporters attended the 12th Annual Awards Dinner and 40th anniversary on July 26 at the Eskaton Village Ballroom in Carmichael.

We were joined by several current and former local and state officeholders, including Dave Jones, Darrell Steinberg, Roger Dickinson, Rick Launey, Larry Miles and last year's recipient of the Robert Matsui Award for Public Service, Anne Rudin.

Congressional candidates Charles Brown and Bill Durston, candidate for state assembly, Brandon Bell, along with several former T&C club presidents and past award recipients also attended this gala event.

T&C Club President Tiffany Craig Brown welcomed keynote speaker Bill Lockyer, California Attorney General and candidate for State Treasurer. Mr. Lockyer shared his thoughts on the roles and influences that personal heroes play in our

lives, as well as his accomplishments as Attorney General, including creating a Civil Rights unit and managing the state's resources to develop a premier forensics lab and DNA databank - currently the largest in the nation.

Darrell Steinberg presented the Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service to T & C member Joan Lee, who has been a passionate advocate for social causes since 1979. Speaking from personal

(Continued on page 2)

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

OFFICERS

TIFFANY
CRAIG BROWN
President

ARNIE GODMINTZ
Vice President

JIM NAKATA
Treasurer

LAURE OLSON
Secretary

KEVIN MURPHY
Immediate Past President

ARENA DISCUSSION FOCUS OF AUGUST 9 MEETING

Talk of constructing a new arena is being debated throughout the Sacramento region and Town & Country Democratic Club has been asked to weigh in on the issue.

County and City officials have entered a deal with Maloof Sports and Entertainment to build a new sports-entertainment-convention center complex in the downtown Sacramento rail yards.

To that end, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors recently voted

to add two measures to the November ballot.

The first asks county taxpayers to approve a quarter-cent sales tax increase aimed at raising \$1.2 billion over the next fifteen years. A companion advisory measure will ask voters to decide if they want the \$1.2 billion divided among the arena construction and community projects as determined by county officials.

In order for Town & Country members to make an informed decision, we

are hosting a debate/discussion at our August 9 membership meeting.

Representatives from both sides of the issue have been invited to present their views and take questions from the audience. County Supervisor Roger Dickinson will represent the pro-arena viewpoint, while either Assemblyman Dave Jones or a representative from People United for a Better Sacramento (founded by Jones) will represent the opposition.

All T & C members are encouraged to bring a friend

or two to the meeting and to come prepared to join in on the discussion/question-answer session.

Subsequently, we will hear from Patrick Kennedy, candidate for SMUD Board, Ward 6 and Lisa Kaplan who is running for re-election to the Natomas Unified School Board.

As always, we will meet at the Deterding Park Clubhouse (see map, page 10) and the business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.



**TOWN & COUNTRY
DEMOCRAT**

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**CONTRIBUTION
POLICY**

The opinions expressed in editorials or other contributions are not necessarily those of the Town & Country membership.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, space and liability.

Contributions are due by the 25th of the month preceding the next issue and should be sent to:

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AWARDS DINNER *(Continued from page 1)*

experience, Darrell reinforced Joan's reputation as a well-informed, tireless activist who is willing to walk the halls of the Capitol to discuss health care and senior issues with legislators.

T & C Vice-president Arnie Godmintz presented former T&C president Kevin Murphy with the Great Grassroots Award. With his customary dry humor, Kevin humbly accepted the award for his years of participation on the boards of local school and community districts, as well as the 5th Assembly District Democratic Committee, and six years in various offices with T&C.

The event also included a silent auction and raffle deftly organized by Betty Merle and her daughter, Belinda. Thank you to everyone who donated these fabulous items. The proceeds of the silent auction, along with the generous donations from our event sponsors, will be used to

help fund the Northeast Democratic Headquarters and support local Democratic candidates.

The evening concluded with a Town & Country 40th Anniversary slide show prepared by Lyn Stueve and Margie Metzler that highlighted the issues and political campaigns that T&C has actively participated in over the years.

Our special thanks to Bill Anderson, Jim Harris, and Billy Menz for providing the evening's music, and to T&C member Pat Pratt for the sparkling table decorations. Last, but certainly not least, our thanks to the following T & C volunteers who helped make the event a rousing success: John Bernier, Tiffany Brown, Ralph Cyfers, Bill Emerson, Arnie Godmintz, Peggy Gorman, Wendy and Don Harper, Barbara Krings, Joan Lee, Betty Merle, Perry Metzger, Margie Metzler, Jim Nakata, Laure Olson, Jo Souvignier, Lyn Stueve, Leonard and Beverly Thomas, Nancy Tronaas and Belinda White.

DOOLITTLE'S SHAMEFUL ELECTIONEERING

By John Bernier

Congressman John Doolittle is on a crusade to prevent illegal immigrants from voting in U.S. elections, which makes about as much sense as President Bush claiming that he is a "Compassionate Conservative." (There's no question about the conservative part, but there's certainly plenty of doubt about the compassionate part.)

The *Sacramento Bee* reported that Doolittle is conducting a so-called poll asking voters in his district: "Should illegal immigrants be allowed to vote in our elections?" The Bee described this action by the congressman as "Truly Shameful." and is "nothing but scare-mongering and electioneering. This question is silly and Doolittle knows it."

What it comes down to is that locating an illegal immigrant who voted in a U.S. election would be like trying to find the proverbial "needle in a haystack." It

appears the Republican congressman from Rocklin is trying to stir up anti-immigrant sentiment in hopes it will be to his benefit in the November election.

A local immigration attorney, with more than twenty-five years of dealing with illegal aliens, declared that he never saw the slightest indication there were any illegal immigrants voting in elections here. Voting by illegal immigrants, he added, sounds like the "figment of some one's imagination."

Since Doolittle is so concerned about the possibility of ineligible voters casting ballots, it seems that it would be logical to assume he also is greatly concerned about eligible voters being deprived of their right to vote. Not quite.

Doolittle was one of 33, out of 423 house members, who voted against the extension of the Voting Rights ACT.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're rapidly approaching the November 7 election. In less than 85 days, we hope to have a new California Governor, in addition to many new Democratic members of Congress and the State Legislature.

But, in order to make that happen, every single one of us has to spend the next couple of months working phone banks, walking precincts and participating in visibility events. Members of Town & Country frequently boast that we are the grassroots volunteers who can be counted on to get out the vote. Let's put our proverbial money where our mouths are!

There are many ways to get involved and many worthy candidates who need your help. Here's an example of what some of the campaigns are doing and how you can get involved:

ANGELIDES FOR GOVERNOR -
www.angelides.com - 916-448-1998
 Campaign HQ - 1331 21st Street; Sacramento

The Angelides campaign is always looking for volunteers for phone banking and other activities such as local visibility events. For more information, contact Kandice Richardson, Outreach Coordinator, at (916) 448-1998.

Supporters are also invited to attend the *Hot August Night* fundraiser on Wednesday, August 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 2101 28th Street (the corner of 28th & U). \$75 per person. To RSVP, call Sharon at 448-2881 or email sgerber@angelides.com.

DURSTON FOR CONGRESS -
www.durstonforcongress.org - 916-622-8683

The Durston campaign needs volunteers to man their phone banks at the Central Labor Council building through the end of August. The campaign will have space at the Northeast Democratic Headquarters and hopes to open an office in Elk Grove soon. To get involved with phone banking or other activities, complete the online volunteer form on the campaign website. Visit the website for upcoming events.

CHARLIE BROWN FOR CONGRESS -
www.charliebrowncongress.org - 916-782-7696
 Campaign HQ - 342 Lincoln St., Roseville

The Brown campaign will conduct *Volunteer Leader Training* at their Roseville HQ on Sunday, August 13 from 12- 2 p.m. These sessions will serve as an orientation for the campaign ahead and will describe the various ways that you can volunteer to help! Please call 782-7696 or email info@brown4congress.org to RSVP. If you can't attend the training but still want to help out, contact Nick Shepard or complete the online volunteer form on the website.

By Tiffany Craig Brown

Town & Country members will be phone banking at the Brown campaign headquarters on August 12 from 2-6 p.m. To volunteer, contact Don Harper at 489-5669.

BELL FOR ASSEMBLY -
www.bellforassembly.com - 916-673-1386 or 916-966-3598

Brandon Bell's Neighbor-to-Neighbor campaign promises volunteers a positive and rewarding experience for you and the community:

- *Volunteer training* Mondays, starting Monday, 8/21, 7 pm.
- *Precinct walking* starting Saturday, 9/2, and every other Saturday, 9:30, in comfortable weather.
- *Phone banking* Mondays and Thursdays starting 8/24, 6-8 p.m.
- *Phone banking* from targeted list from your home at your convenience.

JIM COOK FOR ASSEMBLY -
www.jimcook.org; jim@jimcook.org

See the website and complete the online form for volunteer opportunities

ROB HASWELL FOR ASSEMBLY -
www.robhaswellforassembly.com - 530-889-2278

Rob Haswell's Whistle Stop Bus Tour kicks off with a *Save It For the Kids* rally on Thursday, August 10, 5-7 p.m. at Boulder Ridge Park, Park Drive near Black Oak Place in Rocklin. The tour continues with a *Keep It Rural* rally in Loomis on Friday, August 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, August 12, 10 a.m. join them for a Get out the Vote rally & precinct walking at McBean Park in Lincoln. For more information, call 530-889-2278.

NE DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS
 Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - 916-961-8877
 4142 Sunrise Blvd.

Sam Catalano, Executive Director

Grand opening party - Saturday, Aug 12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Hear local Democratic candidates, including Bell, Brown, Cook, Durston and Haswell at 3 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities include staffing the office, phone banking, precinct walking, and voter registration.

VOTER REGISTRATION
ralphcyfers@comcast.net
 916-812-7225

In addition to the Democratic booth at the State Fair (8/11-9/4), volunteers are needed to register new voters every weekend and for new-citizen registrations each month. Contact Ralph Cyfers at the number listed above.

AMERICA'S BLINDERS

By Howard Zinn

Progressive Magazine, April 2006

Now that most Americans no longer believe in the war, now that they no longer trust Bush and his Administration, now that the evidence of deception has become overwhelming (so overwhelming that even the major media, always late, have begun to register indignation), we might ask: How come so many people were so easily fooled?

The question is important because it might help us understand why Americans -- members of the media as well as the ordinary citizen -- rushed to declare their support as the President was sending troops halfway around the world to Iraq.

A small example of the innocence (or obsequiousness, to be more exact) of the press is the way it reacted to Colin Powell's presentation in February 2003 to the Security Council, a month before the invasion, a speech which may have set a record for the number of falsehoods told in one talk. In it, Powell confidently rattled off his "evidence": satellite photographs, audio records, reports from informants, with precise statistics on how many gallons of this and that existed for chemical warfare. The *New York Times* was breathless with admiration. The *Washington Post* editorial was titled "Irrefutable" and declared that after Powell's talk "it is hard to imagine how anyone could doubt that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction."

It seems to me there are two reasons, which go deep into our national culture, and which help explain the vulnerability of the press and of the citizenry to outrageous lies whose consequences bring death to tens of thousands of people. If we can understand those reasons, we can guard ourselves better against being deceived.

One is in the dimension of time, that is, an absence of historical perspective. The other is in the dimension of space, that is, an inability to think outside the boundaries of nationalism. We are penned in by the arrogant idea that this country is the center of the universe, exceptionally virtuous, admirable, superior.

If we don't know history, then we are ready meat for carnivorous politicians and the intellectuals and journalists who supply the carving knives. I am not speaking of the history we learned in school, a history subservient to our political leaders, from the much-admired Founding Fathers to

the Presidents of recent years. I mean a history which is honest about the past. If we don't know that history, then any President can stand up to the battery of microphones, declare that we must go to war, and we will have no basis for challenging him. He will say that the nation is in danger, that democracy and liberty are at stake, and that we must therefore send ships and planes to destroy our new enemy, and we will have no reason to disbelieve him.

But if we know some history, if we know how many times Presidents have made similar declarations to the country, and how they turned out to be lies, we will not be fooled. Although some of us may pride ourselves that we were never fooled, we still might accept as our civic duty the responsibility to buttress our fellow citizens against the mendacity of our high officials.

We would remind whoever we can that President Polk lied to the nation about the reason for going to war with Mexico in 1846. It wasn't that Mexico "shed American blood upon the American soil," but that Polk, and the slave-owning aristocracy, coveted half of Mexico.

We would point out that President McKinley lied in 1898 about the reason for invading Cuba, saying we wanted to liberate the Cubans from Spanish control, but the truth is that we really wanted Spain out of Cuba so that the island could be open to United Fruit and other American corporations. He also lied about the reasons for our war in the Philippines, claiming we only wanted to "civilize" the Filipinos, while the real reason was to own a valuable piece of real estate in the far Pacific, even if we had to kill hundreds of thousands of Filipinos to accomplish that.

President Woodrow Wilson -- so often characterized in our history books as an "idealist" -- lied about the reasons for entering the First World War, saying it was a war to "make the world safe for democracy," when it was really a war to make the world safe for the Western imperial powers.

Harry Truman lied when he said the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima because it was "a military target."

Everyone lied about Vietnam -- Kennedy about the extent of our involvement, Johnson about the

Gulf of Tonkin, Nixon about the secret bombing of Cambodia, all of them claiming it was to keep South Vietnam free of communism, but really wanting to keep South Vietnam as an American outpost at the edge of the Asian continent.

Reagan lied about the invasion of Grenada, claiming falsely that it was a threat to the United States. The elder Bush lied about the invasion of Panama, leading to the death of thousands of ordinary citizens in that country. And he lied again about the reason for attacking Iraq in 1991 -- hardly to defend the integrity of Kuwait (can one imagine Bush heart-stricken over Iraq's taking of Kuwait?), rather to assert U.S. power in the oil-rich Middle East.

Given the overwhelming record of lies told to justify wars, how could anyone listening to the younger Bush believe him as he laid out the reasons for invading Iraq? Would we not instinctively rebel against the sacrifice of lives for oil?

A careful reading of history might give us another safeguard against being deceived. It would make clear that there has always been, and is today, a profound conflict of interest between the government and the people of the United States. This thought startles most people, because it goes against everything we have been taught.

We have been led to believe that, from the beginning, as our Founding Fathers put it in the Preamble to the Constitution, it was "we the people" who established the new government after the Revolution. When the eminent historian Charles Beard suggested, a hundred years ago, that the Constitution represented not the working people, not the slaves, but the slave-holders, the merchants, the bondholders, he became the object of an indignant editorial in the *New York Times*.

Our culture demands, in its very language, that we accept a commonality of interest binding all of us to one another. We mustn't talk about classes.

Only Marxists do that, although James Madison, "Father of the Constitution," said, thirty years before Marx was born that there was an inevitable conflict in society between those who had property and those who did not.

Our present leaders are not so candid. They bombard us with phrases like "national interest," "national security," and "national defense" as if all of these concepts applied equally to all of us, colored or white, rich or poor, as if General Motors and Halliburton have the same interests as the rest

of us, as if George Bush has the same interest as the young man or woman he sends to war.

Surely, in the history of lies told to the population, this is the biggest lie. In the history of secrets, withheld from the American people, this is the biggest secret: that there are classes with different interests in this country. To ignore that -- not to know that the history of our country is a history of slave-owner against slave, landlord against tenant, corporation against worker, rich against poor -- is to render us helpless before all the lesser lies told to us by people in power.

If we as citizens start out with an understanding that these people up there -- the President, the Congress, the Supreme Court, all those institutions pretending to be "checks and balances" -- do not have our interests at heart, we are on a course towards the truth. Not to know that is to make us helpless before determined liars.

The deeply ingrained belief -- no, not from birth but from the educational system and from our culture in general -- that the United States is an especially virtuous nation makes us especially vulnerable to government deception. It starts early, in the first grade, when we are compelled to "pledge allegiance" (before we even know what that means), forced to proclaim that we are a nation with "liberty and justice for all."

And then come the countless ceremonies, whether at the ballpark or elsewhere, where we are expected to stand and bow our heads during the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner," announcing that we are "the land of the free and the home of the brave." There is also the unofficial national anthem "God Bless America," and you are looked on with suspicion if you ask why we would expect God to single out this one nation -- just 5 percent of the world's population -- for his or her blessing.

If your starting point for evaluating the world around you is the firm belief that this nation is somehow endowed by Providence with unique qualities that make it morally superior to every other nation on Earth, then you are not likely to question the President when he says we are sending our troops here or there, or bombing this or that, in order to spread our values -- democracy, liberty, and let's not forget free enterprise -- to some God-forsaken (literally) place in the world. It becomes necessary then, if we are going to protect ourselves and our fellow citizens against policies

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Josh Eidelson from the Central Labor Council chats with candidates Steinberg and Brown before dinner



T & C President Tiffany Craig Brown acknowledges the club's 40th anniversary in her opening remarks



Attorney General Bill Lockyer moves the audience with his keynote address



Darrell Steinberg presents the Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service to Joan Lee



T & C Vice President Arnie Godmintz presents the Great Grassroots Award to Kevin Murphy



Kevin gets a congratulations hug from Tiffany



Bill Emerson and T & C Membership Committee Chair Nancy Tronaas bask in the moment



Diane Durston shares a laugh with husband Bill, Candidate for the third Congressional District



Congressional Candidate Charlie Brown and campaign staffer Laine Mervis enjoy the festivities



Jan Brown takes a well-deserved break from her husband's campaign activities

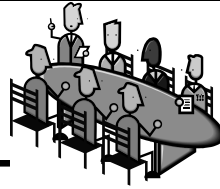


T & C Communications Committee Chair Lyn Stueve and Diana Madoshi appreciate the speeches



Assemblyman Dave Jones ponders the words of one of the evening's speakers

COMMITTEE



CORNER

YOUR TAXES AND THE ARENA QUESTION

By Joan Lee—Legislative Committee Chair

An unscientific poll seems to indicate that the largest number of Town & Country members who have lived in Sacramento for years are disappointed and concerned about the negotiations brokered with the Maloofs.

They are, it appears, truly disappointed by the outcome, which seems to lack an understanding or concern with the true concerns of Sacramentans. We realize that many sports aficionados support an arena, but this particular plan seems based on unrealistic expectations, at best.

Do we really believe that the arena is the beautiful and socially-worthy asset officials have called it, or just a monument to greed? Polls at this point show 75% disapprove of the plan.

We are not convinced that the arena will in truth revitalize activities, nor the appeal of our downtown. Downtown Sacramento will still be a place where the "sidewalks fold up" with the night commute, even if Arena parking lots are filled by those who can afford tickets.

Sacramento has a great asset in its two river waterfronts, which have yet to be developed fully for the general public.

Many outstanding cities such as Portland and Chicago have enriched their waterfronts by developing parks, walkways, even affordable housing, and small shops and eating establishments.

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COMMITTEE LOOKS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CANDIDATES

*By Lyn Stueve
Communications Committee Chair*

The Communications Committee enjoyed the annual Town & Country Awards Dinner held on July 26th. The hard work of the Committees and President Craig Brown made the evening a rousing success.

So what's next?

The committee continues to discuss new ways to raise awareness of Town & Country throughout the Sacramento area.

We've also been talking about an ice cream social, a picnic and a miniature golf tournament as ways to raise funds to support our Democratic candidates.

Are there any other ideas about ways we can help Town & Country Democratic Club raise money? If you have suggestions or questions please contact Lyn Stueve at 916-974-1960 or lynette.stueve@earthlink.net.

RAISING CLUB'S PROFILE AND INCREASING MEMBERSHIP IS KEY

*By Nancy Tronaas
Membership Committee Chair*

Town and Country's Membership Committee welcomes all ideas from our members to not both maintain and increase our club membership.

We'd like to "raise the profile" of Town & Country in the Sacramento region, through participation in local and regional events and by partnering with other Democratic clubs.

Feel free to contact the Membership Committee members—Perry Metzger, Andy Alderman, Laure Olson and Nancy Tronaas—with any suggestions you may have to increase our membership. We currently have over 140 members, and the committee encourages everyone to bring potential members to upcoming monthly meetings.

We'd also like to welcome two new members--Hazel Angell and Theresamary Johnson--to the Town and Country Democratic Club!

JULY, 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order to by President Tiffany Craig-Brown at 7:10 PM.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were officers *Arnie Godmintz, Jim Nakata and Laure Olson.*

The President welcomed both old and new members and visitors. A motion was asked for, seconded, and the motion was passed to postpone the vote to accept last month's minutes (MSMP).

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report – Jim Nakata, reports \$10,660.47 currently in the T & C bank account

Central Committee Report – Vice-president Arnie Godmintz reported on the 7/12 meeting. It was a lively, interesting discussion regarding the relevance or irrelevance of clubs in Sacramento. They agreed to form a task force around this issue. There was discussion of the Truman Club's \$20,000 commitment to a voter registration drive. They want the central committee to be the driving force. There was discussion about hiring paid voter registration workers. As an addendum, Arnie added that the state democratic party is conducting a free training session for grass roots people in Stockton 9-4 pm Sunday July 17. Arnie will be attending and offered to carpool.

The situation for a Northeast headquarters is looking good but was not finalized as of this date. There will be a meeting with the owner to firm the lease. They hope to have the headquarters opened by August 1 and operational by mid-August. Jan McDonald donated furniture, a copier and a refrigerator. Volunteers are needed. The office manager position, a paid temporary position, is open.

The Charlie Brown campaign asked the club to support a phone banking day/evening of the club's choosing. Bill Emerson moved the question, Andy Alderman seconded. Motion passed. Andy Alderman volunteered to coordinate the scheduling. Discussion ensued regarding NE headquarters phone bank.

Unfinished Business

State Fair Democratic Booth:

The *state fair booth* still needs staff for several shifts. Volunteers still needed for the following shifts on T& C's sponsored days: Sat, 8/19, 4-7pm and Sunday 8/20, 7-10pm. Members should contact Tiffany to volunteer.

Voter Registration:

Ralph Cyfers reported on current *voter registration* status, thanking people for all their help. He reports that a record number of people have been switching to the Democratic party. He also mentioned that the bounty program will be starting again.

Annual Awards Dinner:

Sponsorships - Nancy Tronaas reports \$5350 in cash and \$3750 promised.. A database has been established. RSVP's needed by 7/21. At least three members will be needed to work the registration tables at the event. A fourth person might be needed to man the cashbox.

Music – Arnie reports that the musical group will not be the Music Cats but a collection of other excellent musicians.

Other Entertainment – Lyn Stueve is compiling a slideshow highlighting the club's 40th anniversary to present at the dinner and asked for T&C members to provide pictures and other memorabilia from the "old days". Tiffany suggested a slideshow promoting our sponsors, to run throughout the event.

Silent Auction – Betty Merle presented an update. She had a list of the items donated and solicited volunteers to help with the effort.

Room Décor – Pat Pratt is creating the table centerpieces.

Room Layout – Tiffany & Nancy are meeting with Eskaton representative to discuss specifications.

Parking – Perry Metzger volunteered to investigate possible solutions to the parking situation, including renting a van to shuttle people.

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TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code : _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Committee Interest (check all that apply):

- Communications Fundraising/Events
- Legislative Membership

Other skills/interests _____

Annual Dues

- \$25 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Senior Individual
- \$25 Senior Family

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail checks to:

Town & Country Democratic Club
 P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611
www.tandconline.org

MINUTES (Continued from page 9)

ple back and forth from the outer parking area.

Awards – Tiffany has already picked them up.

Announcements:

Candidate for 3rd Congressional District, Bill Dursten and his wife Diane attended the meeting. Bill’s campaign raised over \$6000 during the 4th of July holiday bringing his total campaign chest to \$50,000. He’s appointed Cathlyn Daly as his campaign manager; the campaign has 700 volunteers. He’s looking forward to an upcoming debate with Dan Lungren. Other events and house parties are planned. For more information, visit durstanforcongress.org.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. MSMP.

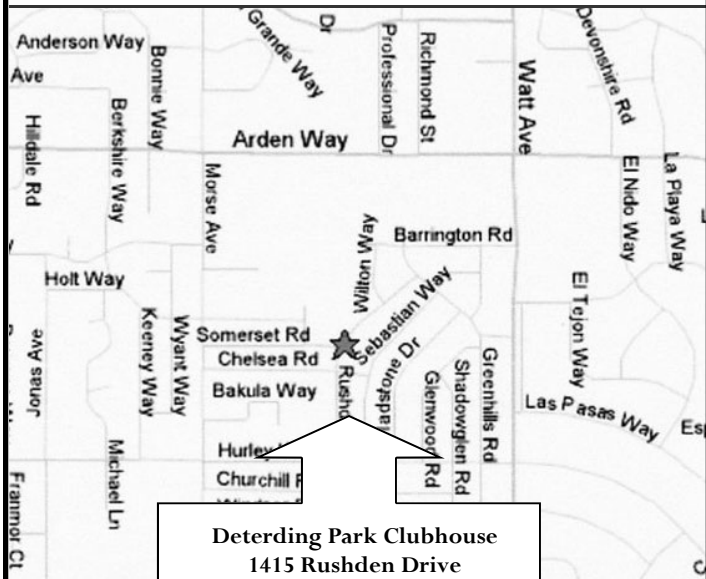
Respectfully submitted,
 Laure Olson,
 Secretary

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



JOIN US!

We meet the second Wednesday of each month
 7:00 p.m.
 Deterding Park Clubhouse



Deterding Park Clubhouse
 1415 Rushden Drive
 (Corner of Rushden & Somerset)
 Sacramento, CA 95864
 Parking along the street

BLINDERS (Continued from page 5)

that will be disastrous not only for other people but for Americans too, that we face some facts that disturb the idea of a uniquely virtuous nation.

These facts are embarrassing, but must be faced if we are to be honest. We must face our long history of ethnic cleansing, in which millions of Indians were driven off their land by means of massacres and forced evacuations.

And our long history, still not behind us, of slavery, segregation, and racism. We must face our record of imperial conquest, in the Caribbean and in the Pacific, our shameful wars against small countries a tenth our size: Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq. And the lingering memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is not a history of which we can be proud.

Our leaders have taken it for granted, and planted that belief in the minds of many people, that we are entitled, because of our moral superiority, to dominate the world.

At the end of World War II, Henry Luce, with an arrogance appropriate to the owner of *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune*, pronounced this "the American century," saying that victory in the war gave the United States the right "to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence, for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit."

Both the Republican and Democratic parties have embraced this notion.

George Bush, in his Inaugural Address on January 20, 2005, said that spreading liberty around the world was "the calling of our time."

Years before that, in 1993, President Bill Clinton, speaking at a West Point commencement, declared: "The values you learned here . . . will be able to spread throughout this country and throughout the world and give other people the opportunity to live as you have lived, to fulfill your God-given capacities."

What is the idea of our moral superiority based on? Surely not on our behavior toward people in other parts of the world.

Is it based on how well people in the United States live? The World Health Organization in 2000 ranked countries in terms of overall health performance, and the United States was thirty-seventh on the list, though it spends more per capita for health care than any other nation.

One of five children in this, the richest country in the world, is born in poverty. There are more than forty countries that have better records on infant mortality. Cuba does better.

And there is a sure sign of sickness in society when we lead the world in the number of people in prison -- more than two million.

A more honest estimate of ourselves as a nation would prepare us all for the next barrage of lies that will

accompany the next proposal to inflict our power on some other part of the world. It might also inspire us to create a different history for ourselves, by taking our country away from the liars and killers who govern it, and by rejecting nationalist arrogance, so that we can join the rest of the human race in the common cause of peace and justice.

— Howard Zinn is the co-author, with Anthony Arnove, of *Voices of a People's History of the United States.*

ARENA (Continued from page 8)

Arenas are not points of remarkable beauty, no matter who says they are.

Further, waiting for 7-10 years to distribute any "leftover crumbs" is unacceptable, especially with the caveat we have been told of that money would be distributed to geographic areas with big shopping malls and box stores.

It is also unacceptable that any overrun of building costs (projected to reach several hundred millions of dollars) will be our responsibility, when we actually believe that any sports complex should be built by private funds, as Giants Park and Chicago's arenas were.

We must find more acceptable ways to meet the needs for cross-town busing, neighborhood shuttles, better crosswalks for the disabled, and a handful of taxis dedicated to the disabled needs.

Then there is the issue of really affordable housing, seemingly lost in the blossoming of costly lofts in the downtown area.

Aren't we being asked to pay for the wealthier among us to be able to afford \$50-100 tickets and perks we can show off to tourists as a destination for their recreation?

If we must have a regressive sales tax, use it up front, not after the Maloof arena is a reality, overruns and all. How about levy protection; street lights and even tree plantings and street landscaping and upkeep; or libraries and homeless services? How about small ways we can cut down the ever-growing pollution of the area?

In the end, we simply do not believe that we want to give nearly \$300 per year per family to the Maloof cause.

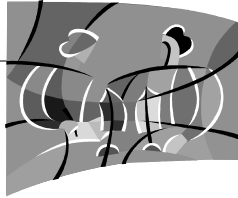
And finally the ultimate trickery—splitting the issue into two votes so we will agree we need more taxes and then agree to spend them on the arena.

Please give full consideration to voting against this scheme.

The Legislative Committee agrees with Assemblyman Dave Jones that this deal takes us down the wrong road.

MONTHLY

MEETINGS



SACRAMENTO FOR DEMOCRACY

Wed, August 2— 7:00 p.m.

Giga Bite Cafe
2427 Marconi Ave., Sacramento
Contact: Cathlyn Daly
President
dalywood@comcast.net
www.sacramentofordemocracy.org

GRAY PANTHERS

Tue, August 8— 1:00 p.m.

Hart Senior Center
27th & J Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
916-332-5980
joanblee78@lanset.com
www.graypanthersacramento.org

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Tue, August 8— 6:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chair
916-442-02640
Www.sacdems.org

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Wed, August 9— 7:00 p.m.

Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushdon Dr., Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com
916-419-4064
www.tandconline.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Mon, August 14— 6:30 p.m.

Lambda Players Theatre
2427 17th St., Sacramento
Contact: Dr. Darrick Lawson
President
info@sacstonewall.org
916-441-1787
www.sacstonewall.org

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Mon, August 21— 6:00 p.m.

Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento
Contact: Linda Tuttle
President
www.wdsc.net

5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Monday, August 23— 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Ann Wangberg
916-966-3590

TOWN & COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Wed, August 23— 7:00 p.m.

Home of Arnie Godmintz
5313 Fernwood Way., Sacramento
- All Members Welcome -
Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com
916-419-4064
www.tandconline.org



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. Box 1286
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95611-1286