



Town & Country Democrat

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On the Web: www.tcdems.org

April 2007

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Our April 11 Meeting

I first heard our April speaker, Commander Theodore "Ted" Robinson, last December. He spoke with great authority and affection about his time in the Navy commanding and befriending a very young John F. Kennedy. He has graciously agreed to share these harrowing and often touching World War II experiences with us at our meeting on April 11.

Sac Dems have a New Home!

The SCDCC is proud to announce that the SCDCC has a new office located at 2729 P Street (one house away from the corner of 28th St and across from Winn Park) near Mid-Town in Sacramento.

The office is scheduled to open starting this week. The plan is to have it open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm. This week we will be opening boxes, getting items set up, etc. If you have an hour or two to spare this week come on down and help or just check us out. The official Grand Opening will probably be later this month or next.

- **Phone numbers:** 916-739-6001 or 916-739-6002.
- **Address:** 2729 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-6403.
- **Email address:** SacDemsOffice@aol.com.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who would like to help. We have a dozen projects we are already working on that need only more volunteers.

Thanks for your support.

Sam Catalano, Executive Secretary

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From the President...



Well, unbelievably, it appears that the elections are heating up already, and we Democrats have a much better selection of candidates than usual... and particularly, much better than Giuliani, McCain, Gingrich et al! Last month, our club was visited by Kim Mack, Co-Chair of the nearly formed Sacramento for Obama '08 campaign. They can be reached at 916-524-1420, or SOC@sacramentoforobama.com, or you can go to their new website, www.sacramentoforobama.com.

I joined two friends and about 25 other people at a house party for John Edwards last week, which was terrific. Unbelievably, the only person we knew there was Peggy Gorman! We (and millions of others throughout the country) listened to a phone call from John Edwards and watched a very exciting DVD (we will have that at a meeting soon!) I had the opportunity to talk a bit about Town & Country, so we hope to see some of them at one of our meetings. Edwards' website is <http://johnedwards.com/>

Here are Websites for other Democratic candidates:

- Hillary Clinton: www.hillaryclinton.com/splash/
- Joe Biden: <http://www.joebiden.com/>
- Bill Richardson: www.richardsonforpresident.com/

My fervent hope is that we can all support the candidate of our choice and then together get behind the party's nominee in 2008. I think we have a good chance!

I also attended a meeting set up by Arnie Godmintz and Ann Wangberg to assemble all the Sacramento County Democratic club Presidents to discuss the relationship of the clubs with the Central Committee. Arnie gave us background information about the history of the relationship between Sacramento's Central Committee and the area clubs, which was essentially non-existent, in spite of the fact that it is the clubs that provide foot soldiers, financial support, etc. for Democratic candidates and campaigns. Arnie has talked to other Central committees and reports that many of them have a much more symbiotic relationship with their local clubs. He added that he is happy that the clubs

finally each have a representative at the Central Committee and we hope to improve on that relationship in the future. We hope this will be the first of many such meetings.

Sam Catalano happily reports that our Sacramento County Democratic headquarters is back in business, thanks to the Central Committee and space in the Harry Truman Club's offices. We Democrats are all grateful for the help and support from everyone who made this possible! See Page 1 of this newsletter for contact information and let's all get to work!

Arnie reports that we have a speaker for this year's fundraiser, Lt. Governor John Garamendi! Signing up our speaker means we can now establish the time, date, location and other details of the event. We'll announce further developments as we know them. Arnie will need all the help we can provide, so please contact him at 916-332-5980 or arniegod@sbcglobal.net .com.

Finally, the State Democratic Party has its convention April 25th, 26th and 27th, this time in San Diego. Several Town & Country members are delegates, and will either be going or will send proxies to vote for them. We will report on the activities after the convention.

*Margie Metzler
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Town and Country Activist of the Month

Gina Rowe

I have known Gina since we both ran as delegates in the 5th AD two years ago. Since that time, I seem to run into her at every march, demonstration, meeting or other political event I attend. And this is in addition to her having a husband, full-time job, and three children! Gina has been an active member of the Placer County Democrats and Sacramento for Democracy. We are delighted that she joined our Club this year. She is still new to Town & Country Democrats, though, so be sure to say Hi when you see her.

Gina has been a registered Democrat since she turned 18. She remembers her amazement in high-school government class at how our system was set up with checks and balances. She remembers that "it seemed so simple, and yet had endured for over 200 years. The Democratic party better represents my belief that society should provide opportunity and protection for all its members."

Gina notes that she is looking forward to the Convention in San Diego in April most of all! She attended her first Convention two years ago as a proxy, and last year as a volunteer. This will be her first Convention as an elected delegate. She looks forward to joining the Progressive Caucus and checking into a few others. Her mother, Glenda Wertenberger, is a delegate from Placer County and her son, TJ Gupton, is a new member of the California Young Democrats. All three generations will be going to San Diego.

After that, since California will be having its primary so early next year, she'll be working to help John Edwards get the Democratic nomination in '08. She also plans to help Town & Country with its annual fundraiser this year, and is also a member of the Steering Committee for Sacramento for Democracy. She notes, "So many activities, so few activists..."

As a Mother, Gina worries about the opportunities available for her three boys as they get older. Will a college education be within her means? Will a college education even allow them to really compete in a global marketplace? Her children are the main reason she is so active in politics, because she wants to have as much influence as possible on what their options will be, and she wants to be a role model for them so they'll feel they can make a difference as well.

Gina says one of her heroes is Jimmy Carter, because of his character, his drive, his diplomacy, and the way he leads by example. She added, "He has set a very high bar for post-presidencies. He has heart, which is what I see in John Edwards and what attracts me to his candidacy."

When asked which political issues affect Gina as a woman, Gina told us "The obvious answer would be abortion rights, but I don't see any issue as gender-specific. The right to choose, civil rights, the need for healthcare, ecological issues and global

warming, the need for educational opportunities, responsible foreign policies, a balanced budget - the list is almost endless. Things have shifted so dramatically in our country in recent years, and the trend is toward a government more responsive to the betterment of corporations than to its own citizens. I have no problem with people making money - even lots of it - but not to the detriment of others or to the planet. Many issues have greater impact on women because there are so many single moms, but the overall impact is greatest on our children. I want to leave the world better than I found it, and teach my children to do the same.

Gina has three wonderful boys, ages 17, 9 and 4. She and her husband teach them that they are each very special, and so is every other person they come in contact with. "I want them to think for themselves and question concepts that don't feel right to them," she adds. "I want them to have respect for others, and more importantly to have respect for themselves. I want them to understand they live under a representative form of government, which means you have to pay attention and make informed decisions on who you choose to represent you. I encourage them to take advantage of the wonderful things this country has to offer, to be proud of their country, and to be strong enough to speak against that government when its needed."

As noted before, John Edwards is far and away Gina's front-runner. "I'm looking forward to hearing the fantastic line-up that is scheduled for the Convention this year, and getting to see and hear the candidates in person. Right now though, John Edwards has the heart, the sincerity, the name recognition, and the experience that makes him my choice. I work full-time, am active in several organizations, and have a husband and children with active lives, so "free time" is hard to come by. I have to really believe in a candidate to spend time helping on a campaign rather than spending that time with my family."

Gina feels that ending the war is most important issue now, because it's done so much damage to American and Iraqi lives and to our country's reputation in the world, and the ongoing cost in dollars and numbers of dead and wounded is unconscionable. She took the two youngest boys to San Francisco for the Peace Rally on March 18th, and the older of the two was very proud to be involved. "At a local level," Gina adds, "I like to participate in activities that bring diverse communities together. The Democratic Party represents the interests of the majority of the population, and we are so much more effective when we join and work together."

Finally, Gina notes that she loves attending her boys' practices and games during baseball and soccer seasons, and teaching her oldest to drive. She is a member of a women's group, goes to movies, walks the dogs, spends time with her husband and boys, and "I generally try to keep our lives in order and our heads above water. It's a very, very busy life, and I'm lucky to have it."

Margie and Lyn

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

For the first time in this legislative session, the Town & Country Legislative Committee met. They discussed their role in the club and what they felt should be the focus of the committee's work.

As a result, watch for three programs: A program on the Single Payer Universal Health Care proposal of Senator Sheila Kuehl, the second on the "opposition" proposals from the Governor, Perata and Nunez and where they might take us, and the third a program on the term limits discussion and proposed proposition. We think these are issues you will find quite provocative, and all very relevant to your futures. As to the newsletter, expect to find information on two or three bills each month.

For starters this month, here is some good information for you:

In order to follow up on bills we may talk about, or to do some advocacy on your own, the best first source is the state legislative site: www.leginfo.ca.gov. After you get there you have a number of options. You can search out each of their links. But for specific bills, click on "bills", enter the number of the bill, or even the topic or legislator. The result will give you information about the bill, including a link called "status" where you can find out where the bill has been heard and where it is going next. Very timely info. The "Legislative Publications" link will give you a number of options, but the one that tells you about hearings is the "Daily File".

Another informative site is www.lao.ca.gov. This is the site where the Legislative Analyst offers their opinions, analysis of costs, etc. on bills. This also shows you, at the end of a bill, who are the sponsors of the bill. Very telling information which often gives one a real basis for judging the "intent" of a bill.

So start your adventure into the world of advocacy. You may find it is just as interesting as the political junkie world, maybe even more enlightening?!?

Joan Lee, Legislative Chair

(916) 332-5980 or joanblee@sbcglobal.net

Bush: Great Equalizer?

President Bush likes to describe himself as a "uniter not a "divider." Certainly that is debatable; however, he could be classified as an "equalizer." Bush earned this title as the ranks of Americans without health insurance have been equalized under his administration: the nation's poor and unemployed no longer hold a near monopoly on the uninsured category.

Since the year 2000, the number of the uninsured has increased by almost seven million, and surprisingly a sizable number of this group comes from the middle class and fully employed. It appears that concerning health insurance, in order to narrow the gap between the "haves and the have nots," Bush is pursuing a policy of making it more difficult for members of the Middle Class to obtain this critically needed insurance. Whether or not that what he has in mind, that's the way it's working out. (Good work Mr. President.)

Today, more than one-third of the 47 million

Americans without health insurance have family annual incomes of \$40,000 or more. In addition, two thirds of the uninsured are from households with at least one full-time worker.

Actually there is an obvious way Bush could completely close the health insurance gap between the haves and the have nots. He could join the Gray Panthers and other groups around the nation supporting universal health insurance. This way he truly could become an equalizer!

—John Bernier

Letter from Senator Boxer

Dear Friend:

This year, March 31 marks Cesar Chavez's 70th birthday. I hope that you will join me in celebrating his legacy -- a legacy of social justice, fairness and hope.

In his young years, Cesar Chavez worked as a migrant farm worker, struggling with poor working conditions and poor wages. He was able to rise above these conditions to think not about himself, but about the ways to lift all workers and all people. And while he created the United Farm Workers, his aim was to improve conditions for all workers and all people. His aim was to create a more just and more equitable world for us all. His words "Sí, se puede!" were meant as a rallying cry for justice, for equality, for fairness.

This year, I am working to see that Cesar Chavez's legacy is remembered as we take up important legislation for America's workers. Senator Edward Kennedy has just introduced the Employee Free Choice Act, enabling employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations and to bar unfair labor practices during organizing efforts. While this legislation faces a difficult fight in the Senate, I will work with my colleagues for its passage. We also must use Chavez's standards of social justice, fairness and hope as we consider comprehensive immigration reform legislation and health care reform.

Californians can be proud that Cesar Chavez called California his home. You can count on me to continue working for the goals that were so important to him.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Strengths/Experience _____

**The Town & Country
Democratic Club
encourages the
participation of
young members.**

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 _____

Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic Club
 P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

Date _____

**The Campaign Services Committee of the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee,
along with the Sac County Young Democrats,**

Cordially invites you to

The 2007 "What Works" Campaign Seminar

Join Sacramento area experts, leaders, politicians and activists for a three hour seminar on what works with campaigns and a reflection of the 2006 election cycle. Get the chance to question experts on what works well for Sacramento area campaigns, what does not, and where Democrats can improve in 2008.

The Expert Panel Includes:

Brian DeBlonk, *Capitol Campaigns*, Principal Consultant

Todd Stenhouse, *Brown for Congress 2006*, Communication Director

Bryan Blum, *California Labor Federation*, Political Director

Joon Kim, *Burnside & Associates*

Dr. Bill Cavala, Campaign Expert, 30 Yrs Speaker's Office

April 14th, 2007, 9 am to 12 pm

Sacramento State University, Mendocino Hall, Room 1105

No Cost – Just Bring Your Questions

Hosted By Sacramento State Young Democrats

For more information please call John Vigna, Chair, SCDDC Campaign Services Committee at 916-202-5196, or Sam Catalano at 916-359-1040.

SUPREME COURT QUESTIONS BUSH'S "REASONED EXPLANATION"

The Supreme Court in its decision that the Environmental Protection Agency, following Bush Administration policies, ruled that the EPA had offered no "reasonable explanation" for its refusal to regulate carbon and other emissions from new cars that cause climate change. This should come as no surprise, as one of the hallmarks of this administration has been its near-perfect record of failing to come up with a "reasonable explanation" for anything.

Of course, the Iraq War is the most obvious example of this philosophy. The lack of Iraqi involvement in the 9/11 attacks, and the absence of Weapons of Mass Destruction were found in Iraq, pretty much set the tone.

This Bush scheme of avoiding anything reasonable certainly is evident in his opposition to stem cell research. Where is a "reasonable explanation" for blocking research which medical authorities contend has the greatest potential of alleviating human suffering since the development of antibodies?

Then there also is the question of Bush's dismantling of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Could it be possible to any where find a "reasonable explanation" for encouraging the spread of nuclear weapons throughout the world?

In order to present an unbiased discussion of this subject, it is only fair to report that we now know that Bush has prepared and will activate a "well-reasoned" Middle East peace initiative. The plan calls for the president to invite the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to the Crawford Ranch for an old fashion Texas Pork rib barbecue.

The strangest aspect of this whole "reasoned explanation" controversy is one that concerns probably the president's most criticized act, the selection of Dick Cheney as his vice president, which without question will go down in history as his most well reasoned, and thought out decision. It should be obvious that putting Cheney next in line for the presidency, made Bush impeachment proof. Who would vote to remove Bush from office with Cheney standing in the wings holding a shotgun?

J. Bernier

Contribution Policy

The opinions expressed in editorials or other contributions do not necessarily reflect those of the membership of the Town & Country Democratic Club. Contributions may be edited due to space or content, are due by the 25th of each month for the coming issue, and can be sent to.....

Lyn Stueve

Editor Town & Country Democrat

E-Mail: lynette.stueve@earthlink.net

THE GOVERNATOR VS THE HILLBILLY HEROIN KING

There has been much excitement recently over Governor Schwarzenegger's taking on the ranting of the OxyContin King, Rush Limbaugh. (If you ask me, it was more a fight between two twelve year olds than expertly trading barbs!) Rush claimed that our dear Governor was a "Total Sellout", using a mocking play on words of Aahnold's film, "Total Recall". He continued his whining by saying, "If he (Aahnold) had the leadership skills to articulate conservative principles and win over the public as (former president) Reagan did, then he would have stayed conservative". (What Rush meant was that Ronnald was a better actor than Aahnold. I have to agree with that one.)

Anyway, Aahnold responded that Rush was irrelevant to California politics. After all, Aahnold works for the people! (No really he works for big business, but it sounds good.)

This is wonderful! Aahnold finally sees Rush for who he is, a nobody. WRONG! The next day Aahnold *called* in to Rush's radio show and chatted about his health care plan and illegal immigrants. Rush claimed that Aahnold was capitulating to the liberals (that is so 90's, today's word is progressives). Aahnold reminded Rush that they had spent time at a fundraiser for cancer research recently, and suggested that he and Rush should get together and smoke a stogie and just talk. (Sounds so symbiotic doesn't it?) You know, I don't believe that smoking stogies is Rush's idea of a good time, but I could be wrong.

So everything is as it should be and Aahnold can make more bad movies because Rush has promised, in an inevitable hillbilly heroin rage, not to get him black listed (you know Republicans do that).

To read the "real" story (progressives tell the truth"), go to: http://ny.metro.us/metro/national/ap/Schwarzenegger_Limbaugh.html

In conclusion, we can live by Aahnold's words to us: "I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman". I think he should run for President.

Have a good day!

—Lyn Stueve



COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATIVE AWARD SPARKS HEATED DEBATE

The Town & Country Democratic Club has once more selected George W. Bush as the recipient of its Compassionate Conservative of the Month Award. However, the approval to again bestow this prestigious honor on the president did not come easily, as before reaching a final decision, the members of the club's award selection committee engaged in what can only be described as an acrimonious debate. This heated controversy was not about whether Bush should get this much sought-after prize, a foregone conclusion, but which particular actions most qualified him for this distinction.

One faction argued very persuasively that the abominable treatment accorded to patients at the veterans hospitals was more than enough evidence to grant Bush this honor. On the other hand, there were other committee members, whom were just as forceful in their determination that this month award should be based on the compassion he's shown in cutting back on Medicare benefits. And there was a third faction which was insisting that without question, Bush's efforts to dismantle the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should get top billing in choosing the award winner.

Fortunately, the opposing forces realized that for the good of the nation and the world, they had to set aside their differences, and agreed that Bush would be selected for the Compassionate Conservative award on the basis of all three of the issues in contention, namely the shoddy treatment given the nation's veterans, his callous handling of the Medicare program, and his apparent unconcern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

After the committee members finished congratulating themselves on the great job they'd done, the conversation turned to discussing the records of Bush and Nixon as presidents. It was agreed that compared to Bush, Nixon doesn't look all that bad. However, one of the members pointed out: "If we're sitting around talking nostalgically about the good old days when Tricky Dick was president, that certainly shows how bad off the country is today."

EDITOR'S NOTE: To maintain its policy of objective reporting, Town & Country feels it is proper that it should point out that in many circles the term "Compassionate Conservative" is considered an "oxymoron."

If you know other compassionate conservatives, please contact Lyn Stueve at 916 974-1960.

-- John Bernier

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; SEIU Local 250, 1911 F St, Sacramento. Contact: (916) 974-1960; bob644@earthlink.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



**Town & Country
Democratic Club**

P.O. Box 1286

Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

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