



# Town & Country Democrat

Volume 55, Issue 8

On the Web: [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

Aug.-Sept. 2007

## Officers

**Margie Metzler**  
President  
(916) 921-5008

[margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com)

**Arnie Godmintz**  
Vice President  
916-332-5980

[arniegod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arniegod@sbcglobal.net)

**Laure Olson**  
Secretary  
(916) 470-1893

[laureo77@yahoo.com](mailto:laureo77@yahoo.com)

**James Nakata**  
Treasurer  
(916) 768-9938

[james\\_nakata\\_52@hotmail.com](mailto:james_nakata_52@hotmail.com)

**Margie Metzler, Web-  
site: & Newsletter**  
(916) 921-5008

[margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com)

## Inside this issue:

Awards dinner Oct. 16!!	1
President/Habeas	2
Awards event flyer!	3
Burt/Bernier	4
Weasel/Join	5
SCHIP	6
Mine/JoinN	7
Join T&C	6
Clubs Calendar	8

## Town & Country 2007 Awards Dinner Tuesday, October 16, 2007

The Only Thing Missing is a Democrat!

*Town & Country Democrats 2007 Awards Dinner*  
Donations go toward opening a 2008 Northeast Headquarters

The Town and Country Democratic Club cordially invites you to our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Dinner  
October 16, 2007  
Doors open at 6 p.m. No host bar  
Dinner 6-8:45 p.m.  
Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. (near Howe), Sacramento, California.

**Keynote Speaker: Lt. Governor John Garamendi.**  
Receiving the Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service: Dr. Bill Durston  
Receiving our Great Grassroots Award: Ralph Cyfers  
RSVP: Contact Nancy Tronaas, 916-386-1170 or [ntronaas@att.net](mailto:ntronaas@att.net)  
Cost: \$50 Per Person

**CAN'T ATTEND? SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE!**  
Our Presidents have always had to clean up the mess! Unfortunately the cost of labor continues to rise and as the George Bush says, "IT'S HARD WORK!" You can help! Who is your favorite President? Honor him by making a donation.

ROOSEVELT	\$250 (100)
ROOSEVELT +	\$500 (200)
CARTER*	\$1,000 (500)
CLINTON	\$2,000 (100)
2008 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT	PRICELESS

\*Includes tickets and program of event  
Contact Nancy Tronaas at (916) 386-1170 or go to [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

**We are now in the final stretch before our awards dinner. We still need help from everyone, chiefly in helping us publicize this event and of course in coming yourselves!**

**Our event is more important than ever before this year.** Funds raised by this important event will make possible the opening and operation of a Northeast Headquarters to support Democratic candidates in the critical 2008 election. This year, sponsorship and attendance from you is more important than ever!

Because of the demise of the AD committees, activities by the clubs comprise the major source of funding and supplies for grassroots activities.

Our dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 16. Our honorees will be Dr. Bill Durston, who ran for Congress in 2006 (and is running again in 2008--- see below!), and Ralph Cyfers, our fearless leader of all Voter Registration activities. And our keynote speaker will be Lt. Governor John Garamendi!

## Please come!

- From our members, we need help setting up, organizing, and running the event. (Volunteers, contact Arnie Godmintz, 916-332-5980 or [arniegod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arniegod@sbcglobal.net)).
- From sponsors, we welcome financial contributions. (Contact Arnie Godmintz.) You can also read our letter to sponsors and fill out the application for sponsorship.)
- From everyone, we really want you to join us on Oct. 16th! (To register, contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or [n.tronaas@att.net](mailto:n.tronaas@att.net).) Our flyer is on page 3; please pass around to anyone who might be interested.)

You can also download invitation, sponsor information, and our flyers from our website, [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org).

You can also contact Margie Metzler, 916-921-5008 or [margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com)!

## From the President...



I recently watched a few of the 911 memorial coverage. Of course I vividly remember how devastating it was in 2001, and how I prayed that our power elite would give some serious thought to the reasons why we were attacked and think clearly about what we could do to ensure it didn't happen again. I was deathly afraid of another testosterone-fueled attack that would compound our nation's problems and create a host of new ones.

We all know how *that* turned out! As we reflect on the latest Republican attack on Habeas Corpus (see right), I wonder yet again if Osama Bin Laden was so brilliant that he could guess that if he attacked us on our territory, he could then sit back and watch us destroy ourselves without lifting another finger. Because now that the current administration has trashed the Constitution, including shredding the Bill of Rights, destroyed the economy, hobbled our Military, and nearly ruined all the Federal agencies, what need has he to do anything more?

And now we have Lieberman/Kyl trying to get us into yet another war, this time with Iran. I truly feel like standing in the middle of the street and screaming "Stop it!!" at the top of my lungs. Well, this is a start!

I am sure all of us are sometimes overwhelmed by the enormity of the mess this administration had made, and at a loss to figure out how on earth all these issues can be resolved. One way to feel better is to be with like-minded people, help establish the 2008 headquarters, and have a good time in the process. You can have all this by attending and/or sponsoring our 13th Annual Awards dinner, Oct. 16! Please see page 1 of this newsletter, or go to [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org) to lend us a hand or donate to this effort.

**Note:** I have had trouble getting the newsletter out and I sure could use some help! Please give me a call or send me an e-mail if you can help. I will help you get trained in desktop publishing if anyone wants to give it a try.

Note 2: There is a new SB 840 website available now at <http://www.sb840.org/>. I am not sure who created it, but it has some interesting information. In addition, Gray Panthers now has a page devoted to California's expanded healthcare issues, <http://www.gpcal.org/indexhc.htm>.

Margie Metzler, President, Town & Country Democrats  
[margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com); (916) 921-5008



Nick Anderson • Houston Chronicle

## Senate Fails on Habeas Corpus

Ari Melber (the Nation, <http://www.thenation.com/blogs/notion?pid=234404> , Sept. 19

Today the US Senate fell four votes short of restoring Habeas Corpus, the fundamental constitutional right of individuals to challenge government detention, which the Republican Congress revoked in last year's Military Commissions Act. Fifty-six senators supported a procedural move to tie the Habeas provision to [legislation](#) authorizing defense spending--a step that requires sixty votes.

The amendment was sponsored by Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, Senator Arlen Specter, who voted for the legislation that the amendment attempts to reverse, and Senator Chris Dodd, who blasted today's vote. "Each of us in the Senate faced a decision either to cast a vote in favor of helping to restore America's reputation in the world, or to help dig deeper the hole of utter disrespect for the rule of law that the Bush Administration has created. Unfortunately, too many of my colleagues chose the latter," he said.

Backers of the amendment and human rights organizers say they will continue to press for habeas restoration. Leah Adler, an organizer with Working Assets, [wrote](#) today that activists should focus on the U.S. House, which will "likely consider legislation to restore habeas corpus in the next few weeks."

Today's vote also suggests a new Senate [majority](#) for Habeas Corpus. (Last Congress, a similar amendment did not even break 50 votes.) And yes, it is a sad sign that we are reduced to [counting votes](#) for which members of Congress are upholding their oath to support the Constitution.

## The Only Thing Missing is a Democrat!



### *Town & Country Democrats 2007 Awards Dinner* Proceeds will go toward opening a 2008 Northeast Headquarters

The Town and Country Democratic Club cordially invites you to our  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner

October 16, 2007

Doors open at 6 p.m. No-host bar

Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. (near Howe), Sacramento, California.

*Keynote Speaker: Lt. Governor John Garamendi.*

Receiving the Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service: Dr. Bill Durston

Receiving the Great Grassroots Award: Ralph Cyfers

RSVP: Contact Nancy Tronaas, 916.386.1170 or [n.tronaas@att.net](mailto:n.tronaas@att.net)

Cost: \$50 per Person

#### SPONSORSHIPS ALSO NEEDED!

Our Presidents have always had to clean up the mess! Unfortunately the cost of labor continues to rise and as the George Bush says, "It's HARD WORK!" *You can help!* Who is your favorite President? Honor him by making a donation.

ROOSEVELT	\$250 (1935)
KENNEDY *	\$500 (1960)
CARTER*	\$1,000 (1974)
CLINTON*	\$2,000 (1992)
2008 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT	PRICELESS

\*Includes tickets and program ad space

Contact Nancy Tronaas at (916) 386-1170 or [n.tronaas@att.net](mailto:n.tronaas@att.net)

[www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

## T & C Member Ken Burt Publishes Book!



In *The Search for a Civic Voice: California Latino Politics*, longtime T&C member Kenneth Burt describes the birth of Latino politics. He places an emphasis on coalition politics, including the role of CDC and the Democratic clubs in the 1950s and 1960s. Burt interviewed US Senator Alan Cranston, who described how President Roosevelt sent him to Los Angeles during World War II to help stop the Zoot Suit Riots. Burt also interviewed Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Congressman Edward Roybal, and the leaders of Viva Kennedy. For more information, go to [www.KennethBurt.com](http://www.KennethBurt.com).

## BUSH AND THE NRA WILL WIN IN IRAQ

The selection committee for the Town & Country Democratic Club's "Compassionate Conservative of the Month Award," once again has failed to find anyone more deserving of this coveted award than George W. Bush. The man's compassion knows no bounds. The latest example of his humanitarian nature is a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that the Department Of Defense cannot confirm that all the war equipment shipped to Iraq has ended up in the hands of Iraqi security forces. In other words, it's likely, some of it's being used against American troops.

The GAO report goes on to say that the U.S. military "cannot fully account for about 110,000 AK-4 assault rifles, or 80,000 pistols," sent to Iraq. And the report added that there are also an unknown number of heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers in the unaccounted category. It's a bit ironic, to say the least, that the man who takes the "high and mighty" position about "supporting our troops," doesn't seem to have given a second thought that these weapons could be killing American men and women.

Now it shouldn't be overlooked that Bush may have a serious motive for his apparent unconcern that such deadly weapons are being scattered around Iraq and most likely being used to kill Americans. It's been suggested by some observers, that he's merely following his policy of supporting the Constitution's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, the "right to bear arms," by opposing just any type of gun control, even in Iraq. (This should certainly assure the NRA's continued support for the president.)

Just what has happened to all those assault rifles, pistols, machine guns and grenade launchers, clearly has an extremely low priority for the Bush Administration. After all, it has to devote so much time on a variety of compassionate objectives, such as blocking expanding health insurance for children, and restricting stem cell research, which some medical authorities say offers the greatest potential for alleviating human suffering since the development of antibodies. And then don't forget, Bush spends considerable time seeking means to dismantle the Social Security program. All this clearly should end any doubt that our president deserves this Compassionate Conservative award.



—John Bernier

## A WEASEL, BY ANY OTHER NAME, STILL IS A WEASEL

Congressman John Doolittle has labeled as “weasels,” his fellow Republicans who have expressed interest in opposing him in the GOP primary election next year. In most circles, such a comment would be considered a verbal slap in the face, but in this case, it clearly should be interpreted as a compliment. What Doolittle is saying, by calling these potential opponents weasels, really is praise for being such faithful and dedicated Republicans.

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, states that in English language popular culture, the term “weasel,” is associated with “devious” characters. Supporting this conclusion, is the Dictionary of Contemporary Slang,” which describes persons in the weasel category as “sly, devious, unprincipled, and/or vicious.” (That should pretty well sum up the Republican Party.)

As excellent example of GOP weasel tactics, was the way the Republicans managed to finagle passage of the Part D drug prescription legislation. This clearly utilized “devious,” as well as “underhanded,” methods.

This same terminology could be applied to the more than 70 years of effort by the GOP to destroy the Social Security system. This hostility to Social Security, America’s more successful social program, goes back to 1935. That was when the Republicans attempted to block FDR’s re-election, by claiming that the program was a “fraud on the American people.” It’s safe to say that such tactic certainly would fall into the weasel category as being both “devious,” and “unprincipled.” However, we shouldn’t be too harsh on these folks, as they were just following the strict GOP party line. Of course, when it comes to handing out the grand prize for weasel-like tricks concerning Social Security, without question, it should go to George W. Bush. The president and his handlers, realized that Social Security was so successful and had such wide support from the American people, that a frontal attack would be futile. Consequently, they devised the so-called “privatization” approach. Fortunately, this subterfuge didn’t work as it was obvious this was just a plot to destroy Social Security. And once again, the weasel syndrome rears its’ ugly head, and Bush and the GOP, as expected, followed the road paved with “devious” tricks.

So what it comes down to, by Doolittle calling his possible opponents weasels, he appears to be saying that the GOP will continue to use, whatever devious tactics are necessary, to prevent the efforts to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

—John Bernier

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## BUSH CHIPS AWAY AT SCHIP

President Bush's threat to veto legislation increasing funding for children's health insurance under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), could be likened to a "Sword of Damocles," hanging over the heads of millions of American children. Funding for the increase would come by adding 61 cent a pack to the federal excise tax on cigarettes.

Renewal of SCHIP is considered by many health authorities as the most important health legislation that will come before Congress this year. However, Bush says he will veto such legislation as it "would entail a huge tax increase for the American people." Apparently, he didn't notice that tax increase would be limited to smokers.

Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.) , chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, stated that this legislation would continue health coverage for 6.6 million children covered under SCHIP, as well as add three million low-income, uninsured children to the program.

The president declared that if SCHIP is used to "expand the nationalization of health care," this would be another reason to veto such legislation. As pointed out in Michael Moore's movie "Sicko," such things as Fire Departments are also the product of nationalization, or in other words, Socialism. Could it be assumed then, that the president favors cutting back on fire protection, as it is a form of nationalization?

In referring to the legislation to expand SCHIP, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, said he would try to convince the president that "common sense dictates not vetoing this this measure." The reaction in some circles to Grassley's approach was, "good luck Senator, but don't hold your breath waiting for such a thing to happen."

Senator Ted Kennedy pointed out that four or five months of the Iraq War, costs more than it would take to renew SCHIP and expand its coverage for the full five years called for in the proposed legislation.

—John Bernier

## Don't Call it an Accident: Robert Borosage

Three lives are lost and counting in the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah. The flamboyant, camera-hogging mine owner, Bob Murray, has called this a "once in a lifetime" accident, like a car crushed by a boulder suddenly dislodged. These horrors happen.

Yes, but when we add one plus one plus one, we don't call three an accident. We call it a product, a sum, the result. And the Utah disaster wasn't random; it is the product of conditions just waiting to be added up.

Murray, a self-made millionaire, owns companies producing more than 20 million tons of coal annually. He's known as a hard-driving executive who pushes the limits in his mines, seeking to extract the last dime from the coal.

At Crandall Canyon, the miners were working at depths that test the limits of safety. Although Murray denies it, federal regulatory officials say that retreat mining was being practiced. Retreat mining is a perilous technique in which pillars of coal hold up portions of the roof, and when the area is mined, the pillars are pulled down, capturing the useful coal and collapsing the roof.

Even hard-driving mine owners aren't allowed to run amok. There are federal and state laws and regulations that help protect worker safety in the mines. But the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration isn't exactly a bulldog. The mine safety czar, Richard Stickler, a former coal company executive with a lousy safety record, was deemed so unfit for the post by Republican and Democratic senators alike that they wouldn't confirm him. So Bush appointed him on October 2006 when the Congress was in recess.

And Murray, the owner of the Utah mine, is infamous for routinely opposing safety regulations. "Anything that will cost Bob Murray any extra money, he will find reason to find fault with it," said Phil Smith, communications director of the United Mine Workers, which doesn't represent the workers in Utah.

Murray also knows how to buy influence. He is a big-time donor to the Republican Party, personally donating over \$115,000 to Republican candidate over the past three election cycles and another \$724,500 to the GOP over 10 years through political action committees connected to his businesses. He brandished that clout in 2003, threatening the job of MSHA district manager Tim Thompson, who ordered him to shut down one of his Ohio operations. "I will have your jobs," he said. And in fact, Thompson was transferred to another office and retired in 2006.

So perhaps it's not surprising that federal regulators signed off on the "retreat mining" at Crandall, which one expert termed "damned dangerous" in an area known for its instability.

Murray's scorn for safety has resulted in the MSHA citing his mines for thousands of safety violations, and calling for him to pay millions in fines. According to the New York Times, Crandall Canyon had been issued 324 citations by federal officials, with 107 said to be "significant and substantial," or likely to cause harm.

But if the conditions were unsafe, surely the workers would join together to avoid risking their lives. CNN.com reports that workers were concerned but feared reprisals if they spoke out. They had no union. Bizarrely, days after the miners were trapped, Murray went on a wild rant against the United Mine Workers, suggesting that they were using the tragedy to try to organize the mine. But sadly for the workers, the UMWA wasn't there to stand up for them.

This catastrophe should be seen as the logical product of conservative policy, the sum of a castrated regulatory agency plus an unorganized and vulnerable workforce plus an untrammled CEO pushing the edges. These conditions added up to disaster. Don't call it an accident. The lives lost are the product, the sum, the result of conservative ideology put into practice.

*Robert L. Borosage is co-director of the Campaign for America's Future.*

### Sac Dems have a Home!

- **Phone numbers: 916-739-6001 or 916-739-6002.**
- **Address: 2729 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-6403.**
- **Email address: [SacDemsOffice@aol.com](mailto:SacDemsOffice@aol.com).**
- **Sam Catalano, Executive Secretary**

### Town and Country Committees

<b>Membership:</b> Nancy Tronaas: 916-386-1170 <a href="mailto:n.tronaas@att.net">n.tronaas@att.net</a>	<b>Legislative:</b> Joan B. Lee: 916-332-5980 <a href="mailto:joanblee@sbcglobal.net">joanblee@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Communications:</b> Lyn Stueve: 916 974-1960 <a href="mailto:lynette.stueve@earthlink.net">lynette.stueve@earthlink.net</a>	<b>Fundraiser:</b> Arnie Godmintz: 916-332-5980 <a href="mailto:arniegod@sbcglobal.net">arniegod@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Newsletter Contributors:</b> Margie, Lyn, Joan, John, Jim Nakata	<b>Website:</b> Margie Metzler: 916-921-5008 <a href="mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com">margiemetz@hotmail.com</a>

# The Calendar

## **Sacramento County Democratic**

### **Central Committee**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 127, 6 PM. Contact: (916) 442-0264 or [www.sacdems.org](http://www.sacdems.org).

### **Auburn Area Democratic Club**

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

### **Davis Democratic Club**

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

### **Folsom Democratic Club**

Last Monday, 7 PM; Contact Tessa Janian, [tessa.janian@comcast.net](mailto:tessa.janian@comcast.net) for location

### **JFK Democratic Club**

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

### **Lincoln Democratic Club**

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

### **Rocklin/Roseville Area Democrats**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Rocklin Library, 5460 Fifth St., Rocklin, 7 PM; Contact: Glenda Wertenberger, (916) 723-9930, [paulindaw@yahoo.com](mailto:paulindaw@yahoo.com).

### **Sacramento County Young Democrats**

(35 and younger) 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 317, Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact [scyd@yahoogroups.com](mailto:scyd@yahoogroups.com)

### **Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, Lambda Players Theater, 2427 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, 6 PM; Contact: (916) 441-1787, [info@sacstonewall.org](mailto:info@sacstonewall.org) or [www.sacstonewall.org](http://www.sacstonewall.org)

### **Sun City Democratic Club**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sierra Pines Recreation Center, Whistlestop Way, Sun City, Roseville, 9 AM; Contact: Myra Schimke, (916) 772-4371, [mschimke@surewest.net](mailto:mschimke@surewest.net)

### **Town & Country Democratic Club**

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

### **Women Democrats of Sacramento**

**County**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, SCTA Office, 5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact: JoAnn Souvignier, (916) 971-9601, [josouvign@comcast.net](mailto:josouvign@comcast.net), website [www.wdsc.net](http://www.wdsc.net)

### **Other Progressive Clubs**

#### **Sacramento For Democracy**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7:00pm; Various locations. Contact: (916) 974-1960; [lynette.stueve@earthlink.net](mailto:lynette.stueve@earthlink.net) [www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org](http://www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org)

#### **Gray Panthers of Sacramento**

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

#### **Capital Area Progressives (CAP)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, various locations; Cathlyn Daly, 479-5961; [dalywood@comcast.net](mailto:dalywood@comcast.net)



## **Town & Country Democratic Club**

**P.O. Box 1286**

**Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286**

[www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

**July 11: Sen. Kuehl Staff person re SB840!**

**August 8: Ice Cream Social with Mayor Heather Fargo!**

**September 12: Debate on Arden Arcade Cityhood!**

**October 16: FUNDRAISER!**