



Town & Country Democrat

Volume 56, Issue 3

On the Web: www.tcdems.org

Mar. 2008

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Town & Country Monthly Meeting Wed., Mar. 11, 7 pm!

NE Headquarters

Town & Country Democratic Club meets monthly at the clubhouse of Deterding Park (1415 Rushden Drive) at the corner of Rushden Drive and Somerset Road near Watt Avenue and Arden Way in Sacramento. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Please join us!

Our meeting this month will be all about the NE Headquarters. It's coming, folks, thanks to all of you!

After some false starts and a few scary moments, we are now on track to having a NE headquarters from approximately August to Nov. 15 (shortly after the election – and after we clean out the confetti!)

Arnie Godmintz has been tirelessly spearheading this effort since before I was born (or close) and it is bearing fruit. We now have a committee composed of other clubs and the Central Committee to find, set up, maintain, run, and clear out the place, and of course we will want YOU to be a part of it. Arnie and Paul Batterson are searching for a site, not so easy because we only want it for three months, but the real estate market it probably in our favor.

We'll need people to run the place, and perform all the other tasks we'll have to do. We are truly excited about this, and we want both to tell you all about it, and get your ideas and thoughts.

Please come, bring your friends, and get ready for our summer of campaigning!

[Download our flyer](#)

Also at the meeting: Club elections, Central Committee update, Voter Registration,

75th Anniversary of FDR's New Deal!

Websites of interest:

<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-55.html>

www.newdeallegacy.org; or www.newdeal75.org

WPA Murals: <http://www.wpamurals.com/>

http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/03/04/meaw_pm_adv_fdr/

FDR New Deal Speech:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11626189>

Living New Deal project (Berkeley): <http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/livingnewdeal/>

From the President...



The election year continues apace, and we still don't have a candidate. But never fear, we will soon, and then we can really campaign in earnest!

One of the most important projects for Town & Country has traditionally been the formation of a NE area headquarters during election years. During my first year in Sacramento, knowing no one, I practically lived at the headquarters on Sunrise, leaving me with both wonderful memories and terrific new friends. This year will be much more exciting: the Republicans are in serious disarray, the citizens are angry and disillusioned, and our candidates are as good or better than ever!

March's meeting, as I noted on Page 1, will be a forum for sharing information about this year's version. But I want to use this space to express our gratitude for the friendship and participation of all our partners, tentatively including the following organizations:

- **Sacramento County Central Committee**
- **Fifth Assembly District**
- **Tenth Assembly District**
- **Town and Country Democratic Club**
- **John F. Kennedy Democratic Club**
- **Folsom Democratic Club**
- **Mira Loma HS Democratic Club**
- **Sac Co. Women's Democratic Club**
- **Stonewall Democratic Club**
- **10th AD Task Force**
- **4th AD**

From my standpoint, I am absolutely delighted that healthcare, along with the economy, is high on the radar of many or most voters. These issues, our costly occupation of Iraq and the venality of corporate robber barons have reached a point where few citizens are still unaware and candidates ignore them at their peril. We are optimistic about the elections, both at the national level and our very critical down-ticket races. But none of us has any illusions: this will be a very difficult election year and we are all in for a whole lot of hard work. We will all be registering voters, working at our headquarters, walking precincts, making phone calls, talking to neighbors and co-workers, etc. for the rest of this year.

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

GOP: SO THOSE FOSTER KIDS HAVE PROBLEMS, SO WHAT?!

The California State Legislator can rightfully take pride in the fact that nine bills designed to improve the quality of life for the state's 77,000 foster children, have been approved by both the Assembly and Senate. Surprisingly, well, maybe not so surprising, all this legislation was authored by Democrats, without a Republican in sight.

Apparently, it can be said that trying to find a Republican who takes the lead in such humanitarian acts, such as giving a helping hand to children without real homes, is akin to searching for the "Holy Grail."

Included in the sponsors of this legislation to give a helping hand to these young people, were Town & Country members Senator Darrell Steinberg and Assembly member Dave Jones, both of Sacramento. (This certainly doesn't come as a surprise to the people who know them!)

Former State Senator John Burton is the founder of the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes. Among the legislation the foundation has been instrumental in gaining approval is a bill which would make California the first state to screen foster children for mental and physical disabilities.

The scarcity of the GOP, just when these foster children need help, brings to mind the old folk song by Pete Seeger, "Where Have All The Flowers Gone? Long Time Missing." Only in this case it should be revised to read: "Where Have All The Republicans Gone? Long Time No See." Then again, it's possible that the Republicans can explain this cold hearted attitude by pointing out that since its their position that providing health care for all Americans would be "Socialized Medicine," its reasonable to assume that in their eyes, help for these long suffering foster children would be in the category of "Socialized Compassion."

—John Bernier



BETTER SICK & BANKRUPT THAN RED!

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 ballot or tear it out and mail to: P.O. Box 1286, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286, by the end of March.

President: Margie Metzler

Write-in: _____

Vice President: Warren Harding

Write-in: _____

Secretary: Laure Olson

Write-in: _____

Treasurer: James Nakata

Write-in: _____

Join or renew your membership in our club!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Strengths/Experience _____

Please check one box and circle or check 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

Date _____ Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

THE U.S. & AMAZON BASIN: WHAT DO THEY HAVE COMMON?

If one had any lingering doubts about the critical need for Universal Health Insurance in America, such thoughts, surely would be dispelled after viewing a recent CBS' 60 Minutes program. The TV documentary depicts the operation of a free weekend health clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, and describes how it was overwhelmed by hundreds of people seeking medical care that otherwise was beyond their financial means.

The health facility was operated by the all-volunteer organization, Remote Area Medical, or RAM (<http://www.ramusa.org/index.html>). RAM was founded in 1985 by Stan Broch to provide for remote areas of the Amazon rain forest, which had little or no health services. Broch, who grew up with the Wepishana Indians in the Central Amazon Basin, is best remembered as the co-star of the TV series, Wild Kingdom. Now over half of RAM's free clinics are in the United States.

In the opening segment of program, Scott Pelley, the 60 Minutes correspondent, posed the following question to Broch: "You created this medical program to go into remote places in Third World countries, and now you're doing 60 percent of your work in urban and rural America. What are we supposed to make of that?"

Borch replied that for the 60 million uninsured Americans, the one thing they all have in their mind is "what if I have a catastrophic event, a car crash, a heart attack? That's a very, very weighty things to be thinking about, knowing that your family is in great jeopardy." And he went on to say that the hundreds of people treated at the weekend clinic in Knoxville. were not what could not be described as "down and out," but were just ordinary Americans who couldn't afford proper medical care. Unfortunately, Borch added, in spite of the hard work of these dedicated volunteers, hundreds of persons still had to be turned away.

What conclusion can be drawn from this tremendous outpouring of persons seeking care at this free health clinic conducted by RAM in Tennessee? It appears that the only explanation would be, whether you're living in a remote village of the Amazon, or in the richest nation in the world, if you don't have access adequate medical care, like the old expression, "They're all in the same boat."

Editor's. Note: If you have access to the Internet and a broadband connection, you can view the video at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/02/28/60minutes/main3889496.shtml>. Otherwise, we are trying to buy the video to play at one of our meetings.

CAMPUS SHOOTINGS ARE AN ALL TOO FAMILIAR EVENT

The recent fatal shooting by a Northern Illinois University student of five of his classmates, has become an all too familiar pattern. Earlier in the month, fatal shootings also took place at three other college campuses.

After this rash of gun violence, one would naturally assume there would be a nation-wide outcry demanding that immediate action be taken to bring about an end to this carnage at America's higher education sites. Unfortunately, what followed fell a bit short of what could be described as a "nation-wide outcry." In 12 states, California not included, legislation has been introduced to allow college students, who obtain concealed weapons permits, to bring guns to class with them.

Einstein's Theory of Relativity would be easier to understand than trying to comprehend the thought processes of these state legislators, who apparently believe that by increasing the number of firearms at America's colleges and universities, this would reduce the number campus shootings. More guns, less shootings? You don't have to be an Einstein to see that that hypothesis just might contain a flaw or two.

These duly elected legislators from those 12 states, would be well advised to take a look at a study by the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC reports that the U.S. has the highest rate of gun deaths, murder, suicides and accidental, of the world's 26 richest nations. The study also showed that America's gun deaths were 14.24 persons per 100,000 population, while Japan's rate was .05 per 100,000. Could it just be a coincidence that Japan has one of the toughest gun control laws in the world.

The leading nationwide group dedicated to reducing firearms death is the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. The organization's local chapter was instrumental last year, in getting two firearm ordinances passed by the Sacramento City Council. Persons interested in participating in the Brady Campaign goals, can contact the organization at: Sacramento/Nevada County Brady Campaign Chapter, P.O. Box 892, Rough & Ready, CA, 95975, or email, mmmnevadaco@nacctel.com, or at www.bradycampaign.org/CA.

—John Bernier



“SO WHAT,” PRETTY WELL SUMS UP McCAIN’S SITUATION

The proper reaction to the report about a possible “romantic relationship” between John McCain and a female lobbyist, should be “so what!” Really, what difference does it make, one way or the other, in judging his qualifications for president.

First off, McCain likes to stress his opposition to the use of torture as a means of interrogation., but he clearly makes exceptions to this policy, as evident by his all out support of the Iraq War. It is difficult to imagine the suffering by an American family on being informed that a son, daughter, or other family member, had been killed in the war. No question that could be described as a form of torture, yet our good Senator from Arizona expresses no concern about this conflict continuing for a hundred years.

And then there’re the thousands of other soldiers and marines suffering, agonizing lifelong physical and mental injuries, as the result of their service in this war that McCain gives his wholehearted backing. No one can deny that these Americans and their families, who have sacrificed so much for their country, must endure, for the rest of their lives, the harshest type of torture.

If McCain claims to be such a humanitarian because of his alleged opposition to torture, how does he explain the suffering of the untold numbers of innocent Iraqi men, women and children caused by this war he so fervently favors. Think of the more than two million Iraqi refugees with the parents constantly agonizing over whether tomorrow they’ll be able to feed their children. It’s doubtful that these unfortunate people, facing such torture, will take time to thank President Bush and Senator McCain, for cleansing their homeland of non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Not be overlooked is McCain’s complete backing of the Bush Administration’s policy of undoing the progress that has been made toward world-wide nuclear arms control. This top contender for the GOP presidential nomination certainly didn’t raise any objection to Bush’s nullifying the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, or his ignoring of the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty calling for all signatory nations to make good faith efforts to work toward world nuclear disarmament. Of course, McCain could say that in a global nuclear war, since most of the hundreds of millions victims would die instantly, therefore there would be no suffering, consequently no torture.

Really now, looking objectively at McCain’s overall record, couldn’t it be said that it doesn’t matter in the least, whether or not he had a romantic relationship with a lobbyist, or any number of lobbyists. Considering his support of the Iraq War and opposition to nuclear disarmament, such a relationship, if it did happen, certainly would be considered meaningless in the overall scheme of things.

—John Bernier

A BATTERED AND BLOODY NEW DEAL IS STILL WITH US

This March 31st will mark the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D Roosevelt’s New Deal program. Miraculously, Social Security, the New Deal’s greatest success, still is providing benefits to tens of millions of Americans, in spite of three quarters of a century of opposition by Republicans.

At the time FDR and a Democratic Congress were elected in 1932, the nation was suffering its worst depression in history. Unemployment was at an all time high of 25 percent. When the original Social Security legislation was considered by Congress, 99 percent of the Republicans in the House of Representatives voted against it. However, this setback didn’t discourage GOP in the least, as it has not strayed from its goal of doing away with Social Security.

The Republicans didn’t wait long after their initial defeat to go on the offensive against the program. In the 1936 presidential campaign, the Republican candidate, Alf Landon, described Social Security as a “cruel hoax.” Maybe in the eyes of Republicans a program which makes life worth living for millions of Americans would be looked on as a “cruel hoax.”

The GOP should be given credit for its determination, as in 1939 a solid majority of the Republican congressional delegation made a futile attempt to prevent the extension of Social Security benefits to dependents and survivors of retired workers. And true to form, in 1964, the Republican presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater, openly campaigned for the elimination of the program.

It appears that the GOP, after 75 years, has at long last come to the conclusion that it won’t be an easy task to get rid of the nation’s most successful social program. Consequently, President Bush apparently has realized that a frontal attack is doomed to failure from the start, so he attempted a backdoor assault: his ill-fated proposed “privatization” of Social Security. Bush’s plan to dismantle the program by this so-called privatization ploy brings to mind a variation of an old expression, “a coldhearted plan by any other name is still a coldhearted plan.”

—John Bernier

The Calendar

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee
2nd Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 127, 6 PM. Contact: (916) 442-0264 or www.sacdem.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 Wertemberger, (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@yahooogroups.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 Sac. 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

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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March 12: NE Headquarters Discussion