

LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB January 2010

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LJDC website: www.lajollademocrats.org<<http://www.lajollademocrats.org>>

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB JANUARY MEETING CO-HOSTED WITH THE PACIFIC BEACH AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

THE LJDC JANUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM AND 2010 CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

LA JOLLA RIFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 7555 DRAPER AVE, LA JOLLA, CA 92037

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010 AT 2-4:00 PM

“RETHINK AFGHANISTAN” DOCUMENTARY WITH RICK REYES (RETIRED US MARINE) & TANYA WINTER

The **La Jolla Democratic Club** will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, January 17 from 2-4:00 pm, at the Riford Public Library in La Jolla. The meeting will include viewing sections of the recently released documentary “Rethink Afghanistan” (Brave New Foundations) followed by a conversation guided by **Rick Reyes** (retired corporal in US Marine Corp, Vice President of Iraq Veterans against the War, Veterans for Rethinking Afghanistan) and **Tanya Winters**, a San Diego peace advocate. Attend, join in the conversation, and learn what can be done to change this misguided policy in Afghanistan.

The **Rethink Afghanistan** documentary is groundbreaking and shatters perceived truths behind the war in Afghanistan. The documentary includes such topics as **Afghans speak out** to President Obama, negotiating with the Taliban, **Robert Greenwald**’s conversation with former CIA agents Robert Boer and Graham Fuller, experts debating Afghan issues, and **retired corporal Rick Reyes’ testimony before Congress**. This is a must see documentary.

Candidates running for election in 2010 will be present to discuss their campaigns and answer questions. Club members will consider endorsement recommendations. This will be the first of three **endorsement meetings: January 17, February 21, and March 21**.

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CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY--PLATFORM

The La Jolla Democratic Club invites club members to review and help revise and strengthen the California Democratic Party Platform. We began our review of the CDP Platform last year and will submit our recommended changes to the CDP Platform Committee on February 1, 2010. The CDP will consider all recommended changes and will adopt a revised platform during the 2010 CDP State Convention in April. See schedule below.

There is still time for you to submit your California Democratic Party Platform suggested revisions. To read the current 2008 California Democratic Party Platform, go to <http://www.cadem.org> and follow the links by clicking on “About Us,” “Committees,” “Platform Committee,” and “Download 2008 California Democratic Party Platform.”

For questions and general information about the California Democratic Party Platform, contact Michael McQuary by phone (858-752-9544) or email michael_mcquary@yahoo.com . For information specifically related to revising the Education Plank of the CDP Platform, contact Jacque Nevels, Leader of the Education Reform Issue Group, by phone (858-212-4311) or by email jpnevels@yahoo.com.

2010 California Democratic Party Calendar for Changing the Platform

February 1, 2010 5pm deadline to submit testimony
February 15, 2010 12 noon deadline for 1st draft from committee
March 5, 2010 Draft platform mailed to the DSCC
March 29, 2010 5pm deadline for amendments
April 13, 2010 Deadline for changes before convention
April 18, 2010 DSCC adopt platform

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2009 BANNER YEAR: THE LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB WAS IDENTIFIED AS “CLUB OF THE YEAR” BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADOPTED SEVEN LJDC AUTHORED RESOLUTIONS

Our La Jolla Democratic Club was very successful in achieving its 2009 goal of authoring resolutions addressing critical concerns of members of the La Jolla Democratic Club to be adopted by the California Democratic Party.

We congratulate the team leaders of our [Focus For Change Issue Groups](#), who worked with club members, content experts, and others who shared a passion and expertise related to a critical topic, resulting in the submission of resolutions that were adopted by the California Democratic Party during the 2009 year.

Fourteen resolutions were submitted to the California Democratic Party Resolution Committee during the year and seven were successful. These resolutions were either stand alone resolutions (Military and Veterans Outreach, Congressional Oversight of San Onofre, Secure The Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food, Support US Service Members and Oppose Mercenaries in Combat), lead resolution which included other supporting resolutions (Health Care Reform-Single Payer), or supporting resolutions which were included in a lead resolution (End the US Occupation & Air War in Afghanistan, Support Property Tax Fairness).

Two of the La Jolla Democratic Club resolutions were identified as high priority resolutions and were adopted on the convention floor during the General Session of the 2009 California Democratic Party State Convention. These were Health Care Reform-Single Payer and Military and Veterans Outreach.

The seven successful resolutions are presented below and can be read in their official form by linking to the California Democratic Party website, <www.cadem.org>:

Health Care Reform (Single Payer)

WHEREAS, access to quality health care is essential for the good health and productivity of every American citizen and qualifies as a human right, not a privilege; and__

WHEREAS, the steadily increasing cost of accessing health care is causing financial individual hardships, bankruptcy, and mortgage foreclosures, causing business to be uncompetitive in the world market and making it difficult to decrease the national deficit; and while the U.S. spends more than any other industrialized country for health care, the U.S. has demonstrably inferior outcomes, even for the insured; and__

WHEREAS, the current commercial market model mediated by private health insurance corporations must function to create profits for the companies, their administrators and shareholders, creating an unavoidable conflict-of-interest between promoting quality health care and maximizing their profits and currently diverts up to 25% of the insurance premium dollar from medical services and leaves 46 million people uninsured; __

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports the establishment of a universal, single-payer, national health care system in the United States; and__

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a system be publicly financed and privately delivered with automatic enrollment of all residents (regardless of age, status of employment, pre-existing condition, or income level) allowing people to choose from any licensed health care provider, providing all appropriate medical services including preventive education, dental care, mental health care, long-term in-home care, and affordable prescription medications.

Authored by: Margaret Budd, Dr. Michael McQuary, Mike Copass, Jerry Malamud, Ethan James Soutar-Rau, Anita Simons, Jeoffrey B. Gordon, MD MPH, and the La Jolla Democratic Club's Focus For Change Health Care Issue Group; Co-Sponsored by Los Angeles County Democratic Party; (Partial List)

Military and Veterans Outreach

WHEREAS, Democrats have been at the forefront of supporting our troops and veterans, believing that to be consistent with opposition to certain military actions such as the 2003 invasion of Iraq; and__

WHEREAS, the President and the First Lady have declared Troops, Military Families and Veterans as top priorities; the United States Congress has declared 2009 the "Year of the Military Family" and the California Democratic Party shows support of our President, the First Lady, and the United States Congress in this effort by extending its support to military and veteran outreach and service projects within our communities; __

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports the President, First Lady, and the United States Congress by calling on all Democrats and Democratic Party organizations to reach out to the serving military, military families, and veterans by (1) adopting and supporting a local or national military or veterans agency or nonprofit, and (2) hosting local service days and events to let all military, veterans, and their families know that Democrats honor them, their service and their sacrifice; and__

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party goes on record in support of the "Year of the Military Family 2009" and calls upon all California Democrats and Democratic organizations to create seats at the policy table for them, and to take active measures to inform the military and veteran communities that the Democratic Party honors their service to our nation and welcomes their active participation.

Submitted by Carla Mays, Benjamin Bates, Dr. Michael McQuary, and the La Jolla Democratic Club's Focus For Change Military Families and Veterans Issue Group; (Partial List)

End the U.S. Occupation & Air War in Afghanistan

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party, concerned citizens and lawmakers are calling for a U.S. exit strategy from Afghanistan that will end the occupation and air war while ensuring the safety and security of our troops, our nation, and the region; while even the U.S. Ambassador General Karl Eikenberry expresses concern about corruption in the Afghan government and our inability to stabilize the situation; and

WHEREAS, the plight of women in Afghanistan is such that they continue to bear an especially heavy price under an eight-year occupation, and that far from eradicating the Taliban and other insurgencies, the presence of foreign troops has instead strengthened them, creating greater insecurity, death and impoverishment of the Afghan people; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Americans are increasingly disturbed about the toll the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan is taking on the honorable young men and women who have been killed and wounded and on their families as our involvement there continues to cost billions each month while the United States and particularly the State of California are in an economic crisis without money to fund domestic needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party, in addition to reiterating its support for a timetable for withdrawal of our military personnel, calls for an end to the use of mercenary contractors, as well as an end to air strikes that cause heavy civilian casualties, and urges our President to oversee a redirection of our funding and resources to include an increase in humanitarian and developmental aid, multi-party talks aimed at ensuring a democratic and legitimate representation of the people of Afghanistan, as well as multi-party

regional diplomacy for the safety and stability of neighboring countries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the California Democratic Congressional delegation, as well as to President Obama.

Authors: Karen Bernal, AD 5, Chair, Progressive Caucus; Norman Solomon, AD 6, _and Marcy Winograd, AD 53, Co-Chairs, Progressive Caucus Foreign Policy Committee; _Emy Thurber, AD 21; Endorsed by Region 10 and Region 17 delegations; Progressive Democrats _of the Santa Monica Mountains; Anna Givens, AD 7; Julie Combs, AD 7;_and Lynn Hamilton, AD 1, CDP Executive Board Member

Congressional Oversight Of San Onofre

WHEREAS, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station has been found by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as its own internal investigations to have a history of safety, maintenance and training concerns that bring into question the safe operation of the plant and a degraded safety culture, i.e. delayed preventive maintenance, endangered safety employees by careless plant operations, unreliable equipment, insufficient training for its workforce and a history of poor performance over several evaluation cycles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party requests our local Democratic Congressional members to call for Congressional oversight to investigate the outstanding safety issues at the plant and to assure that the problems identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations be addressed.

Authored by Nancy Casady (AD 75); Derek Casady (AD 75) and the La Jolla Democratic Club's Focus For Change San Onofre Shut Down Issue Group_ADOPTED by La Jolla Democratic Club, Dr. Michael McQuary, President

Secure The Labeling Of Genetically Engineered Food

WHEREAS, people have the right and need to be aware of the contents of their food, just as they have the right and need to be aware of the risks, benefits and alternatives to medical treatment which is recognized and provided for by the doctrine of informed consent; and__

WHEREAS, public health and consumer groups are concerned that genetically engineered crops have already contaminated native and related species and that genetically engineered seeds can be spread nationwide, contaminating conventional and organic food crops; and__

WHEREAS, surveys of the U.S. public consistently show overwhelming support for labeling genetically engineered food products that may cause allergic reactions, other potential health hazards, and potential environmental and ecological disasters;—

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party declare support for federal regulations requiring labeling of all foods that include genetically engineered ingredients in their manufacture; and—

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party go on record as supporting mandatory labeling of food for human consumption, which has genetically engineered ingredients in its manufacture.

Authored by Nancy Casady (AD 75) & La Jolla Democratic Club's Focus For Change Consumer Safety Issue Group; Sponsored by La Jolla Democratic Club, Dr. Michael McQuary, President

Support U.S. Service Members and Oppose Mercenaries in Combat

WHEREAS, private military contractors (mercenaries such as Blackwater/Xe Corporation) involved in combat have less training, are less accountable, and cost more than U.S. service members; and

WHEREAS, service members and veterans deserve to receive adequate financial compensation, educational assistance, re-entry counseling, health and disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party can bring a policy perspective that has not been heard from the Republican Party and demonstrate true advocacy for our military service members and families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that private military contractors, who are involved in combat, be banned from serving in U.S. military operations by the end of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the money saved by ending military contracts with private companies, who are involved in combat, shall be spent on increasing pay to U.S. service members, training service members in applicable job skills, providing complete G.I. Bill educational benefits, helping new veterans reintegrate into civilian life, improving the care provided in V.A. hospitals, and streamlining the V.A. application process.

Authored by Beth and Navid Ehsan, Mickey and Holly Foster, _Sal Magallanez, Mike Copass, and Dr. Michael McQuary _Adopted by San Diego Progressive Democrats of America-Metro Chapter_and the La Jolla Democratic Club

Support Property Tax Fairness

WHEREAS, the assessment system for non-residential commercial property in California represents a huge failing in our tax system, costing local governments and schools billion of dollars annually and allowing corporations and other non-residential commercial property owners to avoid realistic reassessment until their property changes hands; and__

WHEREAS, the under-assessment of large commercial properties for property tax purposes encourages cities and towns to rely instead on sales taxes which leads to big-box retailing projects and sprawl and because commercial property tax assessment is constrained by law, homeowners are paying an increased share of the property tax burden, which is estimated to be as much as 25% higher for homeowners and raising their share of property taxes from 32 to 40%, while large commercial properties benefit from under-assessment; and__

WHEREAS, it is grossly unfair for homeowners and small business owners to pay such an increasingly larger share of California's property taxes while large commercial properties go virtually untouched by regular assessments when a fair system of assessment for such properties could provide billions in additional revenue for California's under-funded cities, counties, schools, hospitals, police, firefighters, community colleges, universities, libraries, public transit and other local government services;__

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports a property tax system within California that would make large corporations and big businesses pay their fair share of property taxes while assuring that small businesses and farms are not overburdened and that residential properties and homeowners maintain their current legal assessment protection of no more than a 2% rise annually.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB 2010 MEMBERSHIP

It is imperative that La Jolla Democratic Club members renew their club membership and continue to support our local effort to educate the community, support progressive issues, and elect strong Democratic candidates during the 2010 election year.

With your help, the work of many volunteers in our 2008 La Jolla Campaign Headquarters on Silverado Street, and the successful election of 2008, [La Jolla turned officially "Blue."](#) We want to maintain our momentum. Sadly however, during 2009, we learned that meaningful change might not come from the top. We need to build a strong grassroots movement that will push for the change we voted for in 2008 and make our voices heard.

[Please renew your membership for the 2010 year by completing the membership form and inviting a neighbor or a friend to join. Your membership and active participation does make a difference. Let's keep La Jolla BLUE!](#)

LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB 2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail this form to La Jolla Democratic Club, PO Box 288, La Jolla, CA 92038 with your dues. Circle One:

\$5 Student / \$20 individual/\$30 couple / \$50 sustaining / \$100 patron (La Jolla 2010 Campaign Headquarters)

Receive newsletter (circle one): Online / USPS Mail / Both On Line & USPS Mail

Identify top Three Issues you would like the La Jolla Democratic Club to cover during 2010 General Meetings:

Highest Priority: _____ Second: _____ Third: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____