



La Jolla Democratic Club Newsletter

May, 2011

www.lajollademocrats.org

May Meeting - the 3rd Sunday - May 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**La Jolla Ridford Public Library
7555 Draper Avenue, La Jolla, 92037**

**SPEAKER: Rochelle Becker, Executive Director of the
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility**

**TOPIC: The San Onofre Nuclear
Generating Station - a second look in the
aftermath of Japan's tsunami**

See speaker's bio on page 2.

**Also:
Organizing for 2012, An Update**

**Plan to join your colleagues in calling
Democrats in La Jolla to Organize the
La Jolla Precincts**

Come for FREE pizza and calling
Wednesday, June 8, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Home of Marcia Bookstein, 3024

Cranbrook Court, 92037

RSVP: 858-457-3024

For further information about the role of
the Precinct Leader, see page 6.



Also:
We will hear about the **California
Democratic Convention** held in
Sacramento, April 29-May 1,
including the resolutions carried
from La Jolla and those approved.

Delegates who attended were Derek
Casady, Nancy Casady, Michael
McQuarry, Gerry Senda, Lawrence
Zynda and Carolyn Shadle.

See details on page 3.

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility



Rochelle Becker has been active on nuclear safety issues in California for 28 years. As the past Mothers for Peace spokesperson and project director, Rochelle testified before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the California Energy Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state legislature and Congress.

Rochelle was instrumental in gaining the support of California's Attorney General and the County of San Luis Obispo for a federal appeal. It was filed in December 2003 addressing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's refusal to allow hearings on post 9/11/01 security before licensing an expanded high-level radioactive waste facility on

California's vulnerable earthquake active coast.

She has also worked with organizations on safety issues at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). She is currently working with California Earthcorps in legal proceedings to address the safety concerns of replacing steam generators at the Southern California nuclear plant before the CPUC.

Rochelle has been quoted in articles and published Op Ed's in local, state and nationwide newspapers. She is often interviewed by many radio outlets including NPR's California Report, KPFA, KPFK. Rochelle was recently interviewed by David Brancaccio on nuclear security post 9/11/01, on the PBS program NOW. Producer Peter Meryash lauded Ms. Becker's interview "You were such a good voice of reason and I know viewers really responded well to your thoughtful and non-wonky insights".

Rochelle is the first member of the public from California to be invited to speak as a panelist at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual conference in March 2005.

Rochelle has won several environmental awards and for several years was the President of the Board of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo. Rochelle's non-environmental community activism includes: founding the birthday program for homeless children at the Santa Barbara County's after school program in Santa Maria, working on Child Abuse issues in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County, serving as president of the Camp Fire Board and Executive Director of the March of Dimes in Santa Maria.

Rochelle is a graduate of the University of San Francisco.



SUMMARY REPORT FROM A CA DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION DELEGATE

by Carolyn Shadle

Six of our members were delegates to the State Democratic Convention: Derek Casady, Nancy Casady, Michael McQuarry, Lawrence Zynda, Gerry Senda, and Carolyn Shadle.

There were multiple ways to experience the California Democratic Convention. This is one person's report.

Celebration

The first was the celebration. We continually cheered the fact that the Democratic party had swept every statewide office.

Government Leaders

The second was to hear from all of the State Constitutional officers and other government leaders. We heard informative and passionate speeches from such leaders as:

Dave Jones, CA Insurance Commissioner (and his daughter who did a wonderful presentation of the Star Spangled Banner) - advocating the passage of AB52 to give him authority to reject insurance rate increases

Gavin Newsom, CA Lieutenant Governor - promised a jobs plan in 100 days.

John Chiang, Ca State Controller - leading corporate governance reform

Kamala Harris, CA Attorney General - "It's time for Democrats to go on the offensive and say what we want."

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, incoming chair of the Democratic Party.

John Perez, Speaker of the CA Assembly - looking for two votes in order to enact Revenue Recovery.

Betty Yee, Board of Equalization- lamenting the tax deductions for the rich.

One wondered, as they talked, which one might be poised to be the NEXT governor!

House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** spoke via video and exhorted the Democrats to take back Congress and protect middle class values, health care for seniors and education for our youth. She said, "...We will continue fighting to make it 'Made in America' to create good paying jobs. And we will always protect the collective bargaining rights of our unions."

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein was the speaker at Saturday's lunch. She, too, urged the Democrats to work to retake the House of Representatives next year or risk deep GOP budget cuts that would hurt seniors and poor people the most.

Unfortunately, Governor Brown was not able to appear because he was undergoing minor surgery to remove a cancerous growth from his nose.

Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor and professor at UC Berkeley, spoke at dinner. He said, the only way America can reduce the long-term budget deficit, maintain vital services, protect Social Security and Medicare, invest more in education and infrastructure, and not raise taxes on the working middle class is by raising taxes on the super rich.

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent from Vermont) was the keynote speaker. He said, we have closed 50,000 factories in the last 20 years; 400 families at the top have incomes totaling 150 million citizens at the bottom. After two wars, a prescription plan, Wall St. bail out, tax cuts, we have a \$14 trillion debt. It's time to tax the wealthy.

Workshops

I attended one on **Redistricting**. A panel discussed the process which is now in the hands of independent citizens. Now is the time to make the commissioners aware of voices in your community. The map will be drawn by July 28 and submitted to the Department of Justice.

Caucuses

Caucuses met to provide exchange among the delegates around many important issues: African-American, Arab-American, Asian Pacific Islander, Business & Professional, Chicano Latino, Children's, Computer and Internet, Disabilities, Environmental, Filipino American, Irish American, Labor, LGBT, Native American, Progressive, Rural, Senior, Veteran's, Women's.

Committees

There was important business carried on by the various committees - Affirmative Action, Credentials, Finance, Legislation, Organizational Development, Platform, Resolutions, Rules, Voter Services.

The **resolutions committee** (of which Michael McQuarry is a member) reviewed over 80 resolutions presented by the clubs and districts and then presented a package for approval by the delegates. Included were resolutions to support workers and their rights to collective bargaining, to oppose cuts to Planned Parenthood, in support of the state's right to collect sales tax in online purchases, healthy oceans, the California Dream Act, and a resolution condemning Orange County Republican central committee leader Marilyn Davenport for circulating a cartoon depicting the president as a chimpanzee and urging the GOP to remove her from her post.

Economic Justice Action Group



Bernie Sanders, US Senator from Vermont, accepted a copy of the PreserveProgramsRaiseRevenue brochure from Michael McQuarry and Carolyn Shadie at the convention.

The Economic Justice Action Group prepared a brochure and website to distribute at the CA Democratic Convention and beyond. It enlists support from leaders to see our nation's problem as a revenue program, not a debt problem. See www.RaiseRevenue.org.

Redistricting

Following the 2010 census, an independent commission of citizens is currently working to draw new lines for the City Council Districts. The commission is charged with "preserving identifiable communities of interest." Residents are invited to assist the commission in identifying those communities.

Background news is available from the La Jolla Light, <http://www.lajollalight.com/2011/05/05/redistricting-proposal-would-unify-la-jolla-in-one-council-district/>

There are two local opportunities to learn and be involved:

- * **Wednesday, May 11, 6 p.m.** Public Meeting of the Commission at the Riford Library in La Jolla .
- * **Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m.** Speaker at the La Jolla Town Council Speaker Series featuring City Redistricting Chief of Staff Midori Wong and Community Leader, Joe LaCava, at the La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Street @ Draper. (www.lajollatowncouncil.org)

Support Clean Elections

John Hartley spoke at the February LJDC meeting about the SD initiative, **Neighborhoods for Clean Elections**, to put a clean elections initiative for the City of San Diego on the November 2012 ballot. (See the March LJDC Newsletter.)

The La Jolla Town Council will be voting on a proposal to support this initiative at its next meeting **Thursday, May 12 at 5 p.m.** at the La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Street @ Draper. For more information go to www.sdcleanelections.org. Public comment will be invited, and club members are invited to speak on behalf of the initiative.



Images from the California Democratic Convention, April 29-May 1, 2011



Right: Derek Casady, Francine Busby, and Carolyn Shadle, delegates from San Diego



Dianne Feinstein, US Senator from California, luncheon speaker





Adopt a Precinct

You or someone you know might be just the person to serve as one of the two Precinct Leaders for your neighborhood.

You know many of your neighbors and you will enjoy meeting others.

This is a role that will enable you to represent the San Diego Democrat Party in your precinct - to be a contact person for Democrats in your area.

To do this, you will go around the precinct with a precinct list furnished to you which tells you which of your neighbors are registered Democrats. You and your partner will knock on the doors of your Democratic neighbors, introduce yourselves as precinct leaders and say "hello." Some

neighbors will be pleased to know other Democrats and will be eager to talk. Others will be busy and decline conversation. In that case, you'll thank them and go on your way.

Your calling might result in:

- * encouraging your neighbors to vote
- * identifying people who might run to fill a local public office (planning board, water commission, town board, etc.)
- * locating potential donors
- * spreading the Democratic Party message

If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, contact Derek Casady at 858-457-0246.

La Jolla Democratic Club

OFFICERS:

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Gerry Senda

Vice President - Membership:

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Nancy Casady

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Jay Corrales

Newsletter Editor:

Dr. Carolyn Shadle

Webmaster:

Ann Kennedy

Website:

www.lajollademocrats.org

HELP!!

Do you know how to use a spreadsheet? Would you be willing to teach Marcia Bookstein? She is organizing the La Jolla precincts and would like help in using her computer. Call her at 858-457-3024

Using Technology

Help us stay in touch via email. Send your current email address to me at cshadle@mac.com.

And don't forget to check the website for photos and updates in between newsletters. Ann Kennedy keeps it up to date with the latest and greatest news of La Jolla Democratic Club activities (www.lajollademocrats.org).

--Carolyn Shadle, Editor

★La Jolla Democratic Club★

Membership Form

Please print this form, fill in, and send with dues to:

**La Jolla Democratic Club
P.O. Box 288 La Jolla, CA 92038**

LJDC Membership Annual Dues: **All yearly dues are due in January.**

\$20 Individual \$30 Couple \$50 Sustaining \$100 Patron
 \$5 Student

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Receive newsletter via email: yes / no

Email: _____

Volunteer: Phone Precinct Work Host Meetings Raise Funds Serve on Board

Make your check payable to LJDC or La Jolla Democratic Club

Dues are not tax deductible

La Jolla Democratic Club
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