

# La Jolla Democratic Club *June, 2014*

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



## 2014 Officers:

President - Derek Casady, 858-457-0246, VP of Communication - Carolyn Shadle, Secretary - Michelle Marzullo, Treasurer - Nancy Casady, VP-at-large - Jerry Wanetick, VP-at-large - Jim Evans, VP-at-large - Suzie Ditmars, VP-at-large - Michael Thomason, Webmaster - Ann Kennedy, Deadline Poet and Song Leader, John Meyer

## June Meeting will be on June 22

(Note: 4th Sunday (to avoid conflict with Father's Day)

**Sunday, June 22, 2014, 2-4 p.m.**

Community Room, AMC Theaters La Jolla 12  
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive, 92037

The speaker, **Michael Aguirre**, is the former City Attorney for San Diego and is now conducting private practice in San Diego with the legal firm Aguirre, Morris, & Severson.

**Topic: Settlement with SDG&E regarding the closing of the San Onofre Nuclear Plant.**



Local Democratic activists, Ray Lutz and Martha Sullivan, have qualified as intervenors against SDG&E's attempt to pass charges for their failures at the San Onofre Nuclear plant along to rate payers.

ALSO: Discussion about asking SD City Council to divest of oil investments .

## Looking ahead -

August 17 Picnic at Rose Canyon (between Gilman and 5)

*"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**Action is possible on any item contained in this newsletter.**



Aguirre was born to Julio and Margaret Aguirre. His father was of Spanish descent and his mother was of Mexican descent. He earned a Bachelor's degree in political science at Arizona State University in 1971. He earned a law degree from the Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley in 1974.

### Early career

Aguirre worked as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice, and directed a grand jury investigation of pension racketeering. He was then appointed as assistant counsel to the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. After leaving government work, Aguirre set up his own firm specializing in securities fraud.

In the 1990s, Aguirre continued his securities practice and his electoral campaigns. In 1990, Aguirre allied with the Chicano Federation to file a successful federal voting rights lawsuit to overturn San Diego's redistricting. In 1993, Aguirre successfully defended the United Farm Workers Union in Yuma, Arizona in a case with lettuce grower Bruce Church. Aguirre took over the defense of the case after UFW President Cesar Chavez died following two days of testimony. Aguirre finished the jury trial, which the UFW lost, but he succeeded in getting the case overturned on appeal.

In 1996 Aguirre went to court to throw out a 1995 contract between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Chargers football team. In the contract, the city agreed to issue \$60 million of bonds to renovate the football team's stadium, and, in a controversial clause, promised to constantly maintain the stadium as a state-of-the-art venue. The city had also agreed to guarantee the sale of 60,000 game tickets at prices to be set by the Chargers. Aguirre's suit and the ensuing scandal surrounding the maintenance clause compelled the city to renegotiate with the Chargers in 1998.

### City Attorney

Aguirre ran for San Diego City Attorney in 2004, in the midst of a massive financial crisis and investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Scandal had erupted in the summer of 2003 over a pension deal that municipal employees received between 1996 and 2002. Workers were given increased benefits during this period, but the city did not contribute enough to municipal pension funds to cover the increased benefits. The resulting deficit of some \$1.4 billion left the city's finances in a shambles, and made it virtually impossible to issue municipal bonds. Aguirre ran as a "clean up the mess" outsider, with support from Democrats in the officially nonpartisan race, and won with 50.4% of the vote. A 2008 Wall Street Journal article praised Aguirre's efforts to rid the San Diego of hundreds of millions of dollars of allegedly illegal pension benefits.

As City Attorney, Aguirre filed a legal action to force a developer to reduce the height of an office building near an airport, which Federal Aviation Administration officials said was a threat to public safety, although a city permit had been issued. In 2009 a California Superior Court judge affirmed the City Attorney's position by determining the developer had no legal right to erect the building to the unsafe height, and the top several stories had to be removed from the building.

In 2005 immediately upon taking office, Aguirre attempted unsuccessfully to overturn a city grant of \$900 million in pension benefits to police and other city workers that Aguirre contended had been illegal.

Aguirre sued Countrywide Financial in July 2008 over lending practices, and convinced the federal multi-district litigation judicial panel to move all Countrywide cases to San Diego.

In 2008, Aguirre ran for a second term, but was challenged by several other candidates. The President of the San Diego City Council Scott Peters ran with the backing of city unions, while Superior Court Judge Jan Goldsmith was backed by the Republican political establishment. In the five-candidate primary race Aguirre came in a close second to Goldsmith, forcing a runoff in the general election in November, 2008, which Aguirre lost to Goldsmith, 59.5% to 40.5%. After leaving office Aguirre returned to private practice under the firm name Aguirre Morris & Severson. Aguirre also started the National Center for Regulatory Reform, which has issued extensive reports on the Market Crash of 2008.

Following the resignation of Mayor Bob Filner in August 2013, Aguirre ran in the special election for mayor to replace him. However, in the election held November 19, 2013 he came in a distant fourth with 4.44 percent of the vote and thus did not advance to the runoff election. (Quoted from Wikipedia)

## Club News and Announcements

### In Memoriam

We extend our sympathies to member Lawrence Zynda on the passing of his sister, Rose Marie Zynda, on April 21, 2014. For the past twenty years she has been lovingly cared for by her brother Lawrence in his home. Many club members remember Rose Marie, whom Lawrence brought to club meetings.



### The Burden

June 4, 2014

6:00-8:00 p.m.

San Diego Central Library  
iego CA 92101Congressman  
Scott Peters, Operation Free,  
and CleanTECH San

Diego invite you to a free public  
screening of the film THE  
BURDEN. It is the first  
documentary of its kind to tell  
the story of our dependence on  
fossil fuels as the greatest long-  
term national security threat  
confronting the U.S., and how  
the military is leading our  
transition away from oil.

### News in Verse

by John L. Meyer

#### The Polluted Stream

Doesn't it seem like a polluted  
stream  
That never stops? You could just  
scream!  
Campaigns - with primaries and  
endorsements – on for so long,  
It seems like forever . What are we  
doing wrong?  
But when politicians start throwing  
mud.  
Who gets elected - a hero or a dud?

*We can have democracy in  
this country, or we can have  
great wealth concentrated in  
the hands of a few, but we  
can't have both.  
Louis D. Brandeis*



At the May meeting the membership  
approved the endorsement of a  
proposal brought by member Howard  
Singer to ask the La Jolla Parade  
Foundation to change the name from  
Christmas parade to a faith neutral  
name.

## **GE: Genetic Engineering.**

### **San Diego March Against Monsanto, Balboa Park,**

**May 24, 2014**



*What follows is an address given by Nancy Casady, member of Executive Board of La Jolla Democratic Club and general manager of OB People's Organic Food Cooperative.*

There's some **good news** to celebrate about our fight against Monsanto: We have passed a

labeling bill in the U.S. Glorious Vermont—home of one of my heroes Bernie Sanders, has passed the first no-strings attached GE labeling bill in the country; Hawaii has passed a bill controlling GE planting; Oregon is voting on GE labeling again and two counties there have already passed growing bans and in California, the State

Senate just passed a labeling bill out of two of its committees and sent that bill on to the floor of the Senate!

GE Labeling is on the move....as we've said before, it's not if—it's when we get labeling. Our message is clear....we want to know what we're eating and what we're feeding our children. I strongly believe this is a basic human right and I know you do too.

By the way, I like to use the term GE because it stands for Genetic Engineering and I want to remind people that we're talking about a process here "engineering"....something that happens in a lab that would never, ever happen in nature without human interference.

Unfortunately there is also some **bad news** too.....169 million acres----about half of all acreage in the U.S.----is now planted in GE crops. Mostly Crops that are designed for the purpose of withstanding more and more herbicides.....specifically Round Up which contains glyphosates. Glyphosates which are now showing up in the breast milk of m24oms here in the U.S. at concentrations 700 times higher than what is allowed in the drinking water in Europe. (continued)

Monsanto—with its Round Up herbicide is a business that is in business to literally poison mothers and babies. And let's not forget the 80 million pounds of the herbicide Atrazine that's sprayed on more than half the corn crop. Atrazine has been established as the cause of feminization in male frogs—a harbinger of its effect on humans. We need to know who we're dealing with here. This is a corporation that has one overriding motive behind all that they do... money, money, money. It's like a whole bunch of other corporations today who are also willing to gamble with the future of human life on the planet ... their business being to poison our air with CO2 and create the number one threat to our safety and security by climate disruption for only one reason....money. But this is what is real; this is what is happening and this is what our side must take into account.

In spite of the power against us, I want to remind you that our campaign to March Against Monsanto is having an effect. No one in the Congress today thinks GE stands for "General Electric" which they did a few short years ago. No one in the chemical industry thinks we're going away; and no one in their right mind

believes there is no difference between a genetically engineered plant and a plant that occurs in nature.

This is a time in history where we are being called to a fight beyond any in previous generations. Never before have the stakes been this high. Make no mistake about it, when we're talking about man-made manipulation of the human family's DNA, we're talking about a brave new world that requires—at the minimum—transparency and accountability. That is the only justifiably position to take, it is the only moral position to take and it is the only sane position to take.

So, fellow activists, take credit for being here today....you are doing so much more than coming out to a rally and walk. You are standing for a cause that sits at the very foundation of life itself and I am privileged to address you and grateful for your presence. Today and in the days to come, let's be loud, let's be heard and let's be victorious!



## Historic Victory Over Dark Money — Thank Governor Brown!

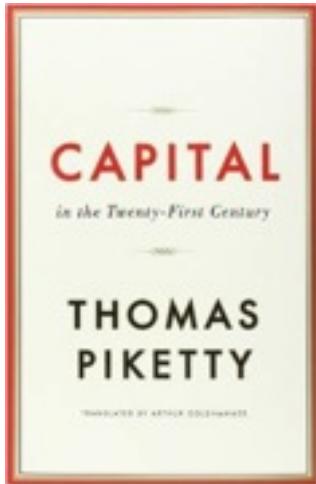
SB 27, a bill with national implications by requiring greater transparency from non-profits that spend significant amounts on California campaigns, was just signed by Governor Jerry Brown.

SB 27 will make sure billionaires and corporations can't hide behind secretive non-profits. It requires any group spending \$50,000 in California elections to report exactly who gave the money. This is a key step before passage of the game-changing California DISCLOSE Act (SB 52, Leno-Hill).

This historic victory is thanks in large part to 40,000 people who signed the petition for SB 27!

Please thank Governor Brown for signing SB 27 and ask him to follow up by helping pass the California DISCLOSE Act!

(Trent Lange, CA Clean Money ([newsletter@CAClean.org](mailto:newsletter@CAClean.org))



**Recommended Reading:** What are the grand dynamics that drive the accumulation and distribution of capital? Questions about the long-term evolution of inequality, the concentration of wealth, and the prospects for economic growth lie at the heart of political economy. But satisfactory answers have been hard to find for lack of adequate data and clear guiding theories. In *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, Thomas Piketty analyzes a unique collection of data from twenty countries, ranging as far back as the eighteenth century, to uncover key economic and social patterns. His findings will transform debate and set the agenda for the next generation of thought about wealth and inequality. Piketty shows that modern economic growth and the diffusion of knowledge

have allowed us to avoid inequalities on the apocalyptic scale predicted by Karl Marx. But we have not modified the deep structures of capital and inequality as much as we thought in the optimistic decades following World War II. The main driver of inequality--the tendency of returns on capital to exceed the rate of economic growth--today threatens to generate extreme inequalities that stir discontent and undermine democratic values. But economic trends are not acts of God. Political action has curbed dangerous inequalities in the past, Piketty says, and may do so again.

## Vote - Primary Election - June 3, 2014

Watch for the following Democratic candidates. (Incumbents are marked with an asterisk (\*) and endorsed candidates are marked with a ©.)

### **Federal Offices:**

© U.S. Congress, District 52 - Scott Peters\*, [www.scottpeters.com](http://www.scottpeters.com)

### **State Officers:**

**Governor** - © Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown\*, [www.jerrybrown.org](http://www.jerrybrown.org)

**Lieutenant Governor** © Gavin Newson\*, [www.jerrybrown.org](http://www.jerrybrown.org)

**Attorney General** © Kamala D. Harris\*, [www.kamalaharis.org](http://www.kamalaharis.org)

**Controller** John Perez, [www.perezforcontroller.com](http://www.perezforcontroller.com)

and Betty Yee, [www.bettyyee.com](http://www.bettyyee.com) and Tammy D. Blair

**Treasurer** - © John Chiang, [www.electjohnchiang.com](http://www.electjohnchiang.com)

**Secretary of State** -Derek Cressman, [www.derekcressman.com](http://www.derekcressman.com)

and Alex Padilla, [www.padilla4sofs.com](http://www.padilla4sofs.com)

**Insurance Commissioner** © Dave Jones\*, [www.davejones2014.com](http://www.davejones2014.com)

Dave Jones was the keynote speaker at the Roosevelt Dinner in April. He seeks approval of a November ballot initiative to require review of proposed rate increases by health insurance companies, as is required for home and auto insurance.



**Superintendent of Public Instruction** - © Tom Torlakson\*, [www.tomtorlakson.com](http://www.tomtorlakson.com)

**State Senate, District 40** © Ben Hueso\*, [www.huesoforsenate.com](http://www.huesoforsenate.com)

**State Assembly, District 79** - © Shirley Weber\*, [www.dweber4assembly.com](http://www.dweber4assembly.com)

### **San Diego County**

**Superior Court Judge, Office No.19** © Hon. Michael J. Popkins\*,

[www.electricjudgepopkins.com](http://www.electricjudgepopkins.com)

**Superior Court Judge, Office No. 20** - © Carla Keehen, [www.carlakeeheforjude.com](http://www.carlakeeheforjude.com)



**Superior Court Judge, Office No. 25** © Michele Hagan, [www.haganforjudge.com](http://www.haganforjudge.com) Michele spoke to the LJDC club in April. She is running to fill an open seat and seeks our votes.

**Assessor/Recorder/Clerk** © Susan Guinn, [www.susanguinn.com](http://www.susanguinn.com). Susan spoke to the LJDC club in April. She has a record of fighting for taxpayers and winning. She is well-versed in property valuations. She is running against three Republicans and seeks our votes.



## **City of San Diego**

Our District 1 is NOT up for election. Others of interest are:

© Sarah Boot, District 2; © Myrtle Cole \*, District 4;

© Carol Kim, District 6; © David Alvarez\*, District 8

## **Educational Districts** (You can vote in all of the districts)

County Board of Education, District 3, © Alicia Munoz

County board of Education, District 5 - © Rick Shea, rickshea4countyboardofed.com

San Diego Community College Board, District A - © Maria Senour\*

San Diego Community College Board, District C © Peter Zshiesche\*

San Diego Community College Board, District E - © Rich Grosch\*

San Diego Unified School District Board, B © Kevin Beiser\*, [www.kevinbeiser.com](http://www.kevinbeiser.com)

San Diego Unified School District Board, C © Michael McQuary,

[www.dmike4schools.com](http://www.dmike4schools.com) Former president of La Jolla Democratic Club, Michael spoke to the LJDC club at the April meeting. Members will be invited to vote to endorse him at the May meeting.



## **Propositions**

**41 © YES** (Statewide) Veterans Housing and Homeless Protection Bond

Act of 2014

**42 © YES** (Statewide) Public Records, Open Meetings, State Reimbursement to Local Agencies

**A © YES** (San Diego City) Amends Charter Related to Elections

“A series of special elections last year made it apparent that the city’s election rules don’t always match state law. After rushing to make various mismatched deadlines, City Clerk Liz Maland proposed changes to the city charter that would give officials more time to hold an election to replace a mayor or City Council member after a vacancy, and to certify election results.” (Lisa Halverstadt, Voice of San Diego 4/26/14.)

**B © YES** (San Diego City) Referendum on Barrio Logan Community Plan Update

**C © YES** (San Diego City) Referendum on Ordinances Related to Barrio Logan Community Plan Update

“Shipbuilders were not happy with the City Council’s narrow approval of an updated Community Plan that will eventually separate homes and industrial buildings in Barrio Logan. These opponents set about overturning the vote of the City Council almost immediately. The shipbuilders’ industry and its supporters, including the Chamber of Commerce, gathered enough signatures to place two measures on the ballot. There’s a wonky reason behind the need for two items: The City Council approved the community plan update in September and then tackled related ordinances, including new zoning concepts, in a second vote in October. One ballot measure would overturn the plan itself; the other would overturn the ordinances.” (based on report by Lisa Halverstadt, Voice of San Diego 4/26/14.)

Corinne Wilson spoke at the April club meeting about the importance of voting **YES on Proposition B and C** which are designed to protect residents’ health by creating a buffer between the residential area and the port/industrial area..The initiative would require businesses that use toxic, flammable chemicals, carcinogens and pollutants to locate a safe distance from schools, playgrounds and homes. Dr. Martin Stein, pediatrician, says, “The State of California ranks Barrio Logan in the top 5% of California neighborhoods most burdened by pollution. Visits to Emergency Rooms due to childhood asthma are nearly triple the County average.”

**Dues for 2014 are now due.**

Membership is on a calendar basis and is not prorated.

Join with, meet and socialize with other Democrats.

Receive the monthly newsletter. Help cover meeting costs and help get Democrats elected!

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **★La Jolla Democratic Club★**

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:

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The newsletter is distributed only by email:

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.*

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**La Jolla Democratic Club**

**PO Box 288**

**La Jolla, CA 92038**