

THE VOORHIS VOICE

A Liberal Voice of the Inland Empire

May 2010

claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com

www.claremontdems.org

Editor Laura Ditte Lo

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

May 8 12:00-2:00 Luncheon LYL Garden 921 W. Foothill Blvd, Claremont . The lunch is \$10.00, speaker free of charge.

May 24 Democratic Candidates Forum is coming to Claremont for the Inland Valley on Monday, May 24th at 7:00 pm.

May 31, Monday General Meeting, Porter Hall, Pilgrim Place.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FORUM MAY 24th

Please make plans to attend the Forum on Monday, May 24, 7:00 pm, at El Roble Intermediate School on Mountain Avenue. The event is being sponsored by the Democratic Club of Claremont, Bonita Democratic Council, United Food and Commercial Worker Int'l, local 1248, The American Institute for Progressive Democracy, Inland Communities Democratic Headquarters PAC.. Candidates will be answering questions from the attendees assisted by the Claremont High School Democratic Club.

DCC Shares in Claremont's Earth Day Celebration

Carolee Monroe

Claremont celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 17, with a street festival in our Village. Sponsored by Sustainable Claremont, the event brought people of all ages to enjoy a balmy spring day while they learned more about appreciating our Earth.

Our Democratic Club of Claremont booth's focus was centered on the theme, "Democrats Love Animals: Pets, Domesticated, Endangered, and Political". We presented four different types of activities to our booth visitors. Children were given two different craft opportunities; they could origami the faces of pets and other familiar animals or they could finger print/paint an endangered animal. Adults were encouraged to read up on and support Proposition 15, called the "California Fair Elections Act", which purports to remove fund-raising by candidates. We also raised money for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, with a total of \$85.75 sent to Heifer International.

Many thanks to Club members Carol Whitson, Jim Stripling, Gabe Monroe, and Jack Monroe for their help in staffing, setting up and breaking down the booth. Also, extra thanks go out to student Democrats from Claremont High School. These volunteers included Jocelyn Lo, Hannah Matheison, Rachael Sears, Meredith Jones, Rebecca Lee who mentored the origami and finger printing activities and encouraged contributions for Haiti.

ENDORSEMENT VOTE

Membership:

At our general membership meeting on Monday, April 26th, the membership voted to place on the May 31st general membership agenda a vote for endorsement of the two items:

- (1) "The Fair Elections Now Act Resolution" introduced by California Common Cause. (See below for a copy of the resolution.) A comprehensive analysis of The 2010 Fair Elections now Act Bill can be found at:

<http://www.publiccampaign.org/fair-elections-now-summary>

Please read this information prior to our next meeting.

- (2) Democratic judicial candidates from various races for the June ballot. Judicial candidates were present at our general membership meeting. We will have other judicial candidates at our forum on Monday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on attending and become a more informed voter!!!!!!

This is an official thirty (30) day notice as required for an endorsement vote.

Zephyr Tate-Mann, President

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Claremont Democratic Club

Resolution in Support of the Fair Elections Now Act

WHEREAS elections should be about voters, not about big money campaign donors, and

WHEREAS members of the United States Congress should be accountable to voters, and not to the wealthy special interests who give large campaign contributions, and

WHEREAS a system of public financing of elections, or RFair ElectionsS is a proven, practical way to allow candidates to seek office without courting special interest money, to effectively counter the influence of money on our elections, and to govern more effectively once elected, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Claremont Democratic Club endorses the Fair Elections Now Act, introduced in the 111th Congress by Senators Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) and Representatives John Larson (D-Conn.) and Walter Jones (R-N.C.) to provide a system of public financing for congressional races, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Claremont Democratic Club urges the United States Congress to enact the Fair Elections Now Act so that it can be signed into law at the earliest possible date

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The following will be a regular feature of the Voice. Aelian Gunawardena is a native of Sri Lanka, a freelance journalist, and member of the International Correspondents Association.

TALKING POINTS

Aelian Gunawardena

Steele: Oops, he did it again.

Sorry, Republicans-you're stuck with Michael Steele, said Marc Ambinder in the Atlantic.com. The tone-deaf Republican National Committee chairman had perhaps his most horrible week yet last week, after revelations that the RNC had picked up a \$2,000 tab for a group of young donors who were entertained at a lesbian-bondage-themed nightclub in West Hollywood. Steele wasn't at the club and didn't approve the expenses. But the embarrassing lesbian bondage" story broke at the same time that some Republicans Were grumbling about Steele's flamboyant spending of party dollars on his own comforts-\$12,000 on limousines and \$17,000 on private planes in a single month. Steele spent another \$18,000 to decorate his office. To fire Steele, though, would take a two thirds vote of the RNC's members, and there's no way that'll happen. "Republicans don't want to be stuck with the symbolism of having rejected their first elected black chairman."

While being interviewed on ABC, Steele seemed to defend President Obama by saying that both he and the president are lightning rods for criticism because they're black. "Barack Obama has a slimmer margin" because he's the first black president, Steele said. "It's a different role for me to play and others to play and that's just the reality of it." The guy is "loose cannon" said Cynthia Tucker in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. And he just can't stop drawing attention to himself. Let's face it: "Michael Steele is an affirmative action gone badly." He'd be fired tomorrow. "If the Republican Party weren't so self conscious about its lack of diversity."

Race: Obama opts for "black"

"It is official," said Sam Roberts and Peter Baker in the New York Times. "Barack Obama is the nation's first black president." The White House confirmed that the president had checked "Black, African-Am., or Negro" when filling out his 2010 census questionnaire. The form provides "more than a dozen options" for race, and given Obama's mixed parentage-he's the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya-he could have checked white; both black and white or the final category, "some other race," which can then be specified in writing. The form contains no specific category for mixed race, but Americans have been permitted to check more than one box since 2000, when about 6.8 million people reported being of two or more races. Obama, however, bypassed that option, staking his claim squarely on his father's heritage.

Obama is unmistakably a black man. By making it official, he merely shows he's "comfortable with who he is." What choice did he have? Said Earl Ofari Hutchinson in OpEd News.com, "In America, where a single drop of black blood once relegated citizens to second-class status, we are still defined, first and foremost, by our skin color. Not even a president is "exempt from racial loathing." As witnessed by the Confederate flags at Tea Party protests and the "ape and monkey depictions" of president and First Lady on websites. If Obama had tried to identify himself as biracial, neither whites nor blacks would have believed him.

The number of interracial marriages has soared 300 percent over the past decade, and one in 13 marriages now unites people of different races. In the coming years, the "social contract" of race will be transformed to the point that it no longer fits inside a neat little box.

CHS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Claremont High School Democratic Club continues to draw many interested students to its bi monthly lunchtime meetings. Recent speakers have included professors Ivan Light addressing the topic of immigration and democratic values and Andy Winnick on the budget. The group averages about 40 students and many are enthusiastic volunteers for events sponsored by the Democratic Club of Claremont. Many thanks to Carolee and Jack Monroe for supplying lunch and refreshment.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK IN 2009

Circle your choice: Lifetime \$250 Patron \$100 or more
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Please complete both sides of this form and mail it with your check to:

Democratic Club, PO Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711

OR

Access our website: www.claremontdems.org

Select: Get Involved > Join Us (Complete the form. Then...)

Select: Get Involved > Donate to the Club (This will take you to the Act Blue website where you can pay your annual dues online.)

Our Email address is claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com

P.S. – Part of your dues and contributions may be contributed to Federal and State candidates. Individual contributions will be deposited into the club’s Federal account, subject to the Federal Elections Campaign Act. Non-individual contributions and contributions of individuals who so request will be deposited into the club’s State account. Contributions are limited under State law. No anonymous contributions of more than \$50 will be accepted. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and employer of each individual contributor. Political contributions are not tax-deductible. FPPC #841491. FEC #C00404319

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