

SRV DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

June Meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2010, 6:15 pm at Crow Canyon Country Club

Topic: Why women don't run for office, what Emerge is doing about it and how this work helps Democrats

Speaker: Karen Middleton, President- Emerge America



Launched in 2002, Emerge America was created to address the under-representation of women in office at the local, state, and federal level. Our program is the essential step for Democratic women who want to run for public office. It is the only in-depth, seven-month training program that inspires candidates to run and gives them the tools to win. There are Emerge programs in nine states: Arizona, California, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

Karen Middleton joined Emerge as its president on September 1, 2010 and relocated with her family to Danville. She brings her experience as an elected official, campaign organizer, small business owner, trainer and political leader to Emerge and is committed to the vision of bringing Emerge into all 50 states.

Karen served in the Colorado State Legislature from February 2008 through 2010, where she was in a leadership position as Majority Caucus Chair and a member of the Education and Business Affairs and Labor Committees. From November 2004 -February 2008, she served on Colorado's elected State Board of Education representing the 7th Congressional District.

Karen earned her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1988, graduating with a B.A. in political science and women's studies. She graduated from the University of Denver with an M.A. in political science in 1996, with a thesis titled *An Analysis of State Campaign Finance Reform*. Karen then joined the staff of the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies first as Director of Admissions and Student Affairs and rising to the post of Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, overseeing graduate student recruitment, enrollment, and management. While working in higher education administration, Middleton co-chaired the Association of Professional Schools for International Affairs Admissions Officers, attended the National Association for Women in Education's Academy of Leadership in Higher Education, and received the Woman Leader of Excellence Award from the Colorado Women's Leadership Coalition in 1997 and the University of Denver Excellence in Education Award in 1998.

Monica Wilson, A recent graduate of the program, will also speak about her experiences in the program.

Dinner is \$25 per person for members and their invited guests, \$30 for others.

RSVP: Mail checks, made out to Jim Donnelly, to 373 Century Circle, Danville, CA 94526
Or call him at (925) 570-9289

Please RSVP no later than **Monday, June 19, 2011.**

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Presidents Corner

First of all I would like to apologize for not getting g out a newsletter last month. For someone who is retired (or at least semi-retired) work piled up and interfered with my volunteer activities. It was a busy but good month and I was able to get a lot done toward the balance of the year. I am trying to get my priorities right (more fishing, more walking and enjoying the neighborhood, more fishing, more volunteer efforts. The fishing part I have set for the year with a number of trips planned to the Sierra's this summer, a one week Alaska trip in August and a two week trip to Denmark in October.

Politically it has been an interesting couple of months. The Republicans presidential candidates are crawling out of the woodwork and pontificating about almost anything. The crazies in the House continue to try to destroy the America that many of us and our parents worked so hard to build since the depression. Again we hear that the solution to all problems is to cut government and privatize all services. Cut taxes to aid the wealthy and let the poor (and middle class) fight for the crumbs left over. For a good two minute summary of the current situation go to:

<http://front.moveon.org/scribbling-sharpie-illustrates-the-truth-about-our-economy/?id=28091-17595322-TVATkFx>

to see **Robert Reich explaining what went wrong with America's economy in just 2 minutes and 15 seconds**—with illustrations to boot.

The first draft of the state and county redistricting maps have been released causing many to protest over the new boundaries. In the L.A area there is one proposed Assembly district where four current Assembly members now reside. For us in the San Ramon Valley it looks as though Joan Buchanan will remain as our Assemblywoman, Mark DeSaulnier as our State Senator and George Miller will be our Congressman. Jerry McNerney's Congressional district is moving east and north. See copies of the proposed district maps below.

Our Governor ,Jerry Brown has stood by his principles, shown some backbone and vetoed the just passed California budget. On a positive note, this was the first time in over 20 years that the legislature has passed a budget by the July 1 deadline. However, the budget as passed contained too many accounting tricks and did not address the fundamental issue of raising the revenue needed to run the state even with the devastating cut backs in services we have witnessed over the past six years. It did not address the structural deficit that hangs out there like a dead elephant stinking up the whole process. The question now is; do the legislators get paid or not.? I would vote "NO" until they pass a responsible budget that addresses the structural deficit and raises money for the services we need. positive note, Jerry Brown has shown some backbone and vetoed the proposed California budget.

The vetoed budget was balanced with a mixture of taxes, cuts, and various other accounting and policy maneuvers including the delay of billions in bills, forgoing debt repayments, and counting on revenues that may or may not come in.

Brown had no choice but to reject it, experts say. "It's absolutely what he had to do. It was a terrible budget. His governorship would have been over because he said he wouldn't" resort to such tactics, says [Tony Quinn](#), co-editor of California Target Book. It should be interesting to see what develops over the next few weeks.

As all of you know next year is going to be one tough election year. To get ready for the battles ahead the Democratic Part of Contra costa county (DPCCC) is planning a number of fund raisers for the balance of the year. They need our support and out money. In the last election volunteers for the DPCCC walked the precincts and handed out over 400,000 slate cards as well as donating unknown numbers of hours phone banking for our Democratic candidate. The efforts paid off as all of our Assembly, state and congressional candidates won and they won in Contra Costa county by higher vote margins than expected. I urge all of you to please participate in the upcoming fund raisers and donate as you can the county party. Remember politics starts locally.

"And we know now that government by organized money is just as dangerous as government by organized mob" - Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1930's)

Regards,

Jim Donnelly
President, SRVDC

Redistricting

The first drafts of the proposed Assembly, Senate and Congressional redistricting maps have been released. John Hall has highlighted the districts around the san Ramon Valley on the pdf files attached to this email. If you would like to see how other districts may change within the state click on the link below and enter the name of the city you are interested in to see how their district may have changed.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-redistricting-map,0,6145644.htmlstory>

These are the first drafts and we can each comment on them by going to;
<http://redistrictingpartners.com/citizens-commission-first-drafts/>

Logging in and commenting on the districts. Your comments must be presented as a citizens comment and must not present arguments based on politic considerations. Comment concerning "communities of interest" may be presented

New SRVDC Website

Our new website <http://srvdems.org/> is now up and running thanks to the efforts of Brodie Hilp our Vice President. Visit it to see upcoming events and to learn more about the activities of the club. Your comments on our web site, both positive and constructive, are appreciated. Let us know what additional information you would like to see included on the site.

Danville 4th of July Parade

Once again our club is leading a continent of local democrats and our local officials in marching in the annual Danville 4th of July Parade. This year we are joining together with Congressman Jerry McNeerney, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan along with the Tri-Valley and Diablo valley Democratic Clubs to show our support for our local elected officials and our Democratic values. We urge all of

you who can to join us in this event. We will be meeting on Railroad Ave. near the San Ramon Valley High School at about 9:30 Am on the morning of July 4.

Please join us to show Danville and the valley that we are proud and we are strong in our commitment. Coffee. Water and juice will be provided.

Member Editorials

Each month we invite you to present your views on about any subject you wish to discuss. This is an important way to understand what are major concerns for our members. Surely there are things going on that make your blood boil. Let it out, express your opinions here.

The following letter presents another view of the New Farms Development proposed for the Tassajara valley. We plan to have the author speak to our club in the near future.

May 24, 2011

Via E-Mail and Fax

Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County
c/o John Osborne
Department of Conservation and Development
651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, North Wing
Martinez, CA 94553-1290

Re: New Farm Application

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing as a resident of San Ramon to personally express my opposition to the proposed New Farm Development in the Tassajara Valley. I was first introduced to the New Farm project during my tenure on the San Ramon Planning Commission and became further informed on the project as one of the Co-Chairs of the successful "No on Measure W" campaign in San Ramon.

I find it outrageous that no one on San Ramon's City Council has yet to come out to express an opinion on this subject much less oppose it. While the city leaders have not commented, the voters spoke as recently as last November on this subject. They made it abundantly clear, by an overwhelming 72% majority, that they are opposed to any expansion or weakening of the Urban Limit Line in San Ramon.

New Farm is a blatantly illegal attempt to destroy voter-approved Urban Limit Lines in Contra Costa County and flies in the face of reasonable growth management policies that have been a hallmark of our county for 20 years.

It is an illegal application that attempts to thinly disguise a Major subdivision and claim it is something else by merely calling it something else. It is growth inducing by bringing urban sewer and water to an area currently, and appropriately, dependent on wells for water and septic systems for sewage. If you bring Urban Services to an area, it is an Urban Area. That seems pretty simple to the average voter. These urban services would no doubt be used by the developers as a major selling point for this sub-division.

New Farm would set a very bad precedent in regards to weakening or even destroying voter-approved Urban Limit Lines. The developers are essentially thumbing their nose at the concept. Their cynical contorting of the zoning regulations in an effort to bring urban services to a rural area is at best devious logic.

This project would accelerate land speculation and put further pressure on what is considered by the county itself to be some of the most important agricultural lands in the area. It is incompatible and inconsistent with local and county general plans and puts significant pressure on wildlife corridors that connect San Ramon's open space with rural and open space further to the east. It clearly violates Measure C, J and L.

We did not approve, at great time and effort, Urban Limit Lines to then have developers turn around and act as if they don't exist. Please take your obligation to follow the will of the voters seriously and dismiss this project for what it is; a major urban sub-division outside of the Urban Limit Line. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil O'Loane
3526 Rosincress Dr.
San Ramon, CA 94582

Senator Barbara Boxer- Congressman George Miller Fund Raiser

The DPCCC is hosting a fund raiser on Saturday, July 23 at the Shadelands in Walnut Creek. We urge all that can to participate in this event and show these congressional leaders our support.

Join us

Saturday, July 23, 2011

for a

Taste of California Summer

with Special Guest

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

introduced by

U.S. Representative George Miller

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Shadelands Ranch

2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd.

Walnut Creek

Sponsored by the
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

for more information go to
www.contracostadems.org

Be Part of the Taste of California Summer with
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer:

Host Committee \$ 1,000*
Sponsor \$ 500
Advocate \$ 250
Friend \$ 100
General Ticket \$ 50

Respond by July 15, 2011 by returning this card with a check made payable to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County or go to www.contracostadems.org and click the donate button on the menu.

*Host committee members will be listed on future correspondence and have other special opportunities. Contact Melody at 925.299.1612 for more information.

Contributions to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Due to the involvement of a federal officeholder or candidate in this event, we are limiting donations to the federal non-connected committee limit.

Contra Costa Democratic Party Annual Picnic, Saturday, August 13

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

80TH ANNUAL BBQ

WHEN: 11 AM - 3 PM, SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH

WHERE: ANTIOCH COMMUNITY PARK

801 James Donlan Blvd.

Antioch, CA 94509

Come celebrate this historic year with your Democratic Neighbors!

**When you bring food to be donated to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties
you will receive 2 free drink tickets.**

\$500 Sponsor _____ Table of 10 \$250 _____ Family of 5 \$60 _____

\$35 per person _____ \$15 per senior/student/youth _____

Please make checks payable to: Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, FEC# C00456764, FPPC# 990861

**Fill out the information below and mail with payment to: Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
P.O. Box 1615
Martinez, CA 94533**

**Name _____ # of Guests _____ Adult _____ Child _____
Business Name _____ Amount \$ _____**

To enable us to comply with campaign reporting laws, please also complete the following:

**Address _____ Employer _____
Occupation _____ Home Phone _____
Work Fax _____ Email _____**

Contributions to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution will be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Contributions are limited to \$5,000 per calendar year. Corporate and union contributions are prohibited. Corporate and union contributions are acceptable under California law to be used in connection with nonfederal elections. California law permits contributions up to \$5,600 per calendar year for state elections.

RSVP by Wednesday, August 6, 2011

**For more information contact Monica Wilson, Vice Chair, DPCCC, at: (925) 779-9268 or
Jim Donnelly, Treasurer, DPCCC, at (925) 570-9289
Paid for**

Reports from our Elected Officials

Congressman Jerry McNerney

A clean environment means a healthy economy

By Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) - 04/22/11 01:22 PM ET

Earth Day provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the beauty and importance of our natural environment. For more than 40 years, Earth Day has been a time to rally around the changes that transformed our nation into a cleaner and healthier place.

Earth Day helped inspire me to pursue a career in clean energy. I spent over 25 years developing wind energy technology, doing everything from writing mathematical models to climbing 200 foot windmill towers for engineering experiments. My goal was to help develop energy technology that is reliable, environmentally friendly and cost competitive with fossil fuels. Over the past two decades the wind industry largely achieved those goals.

The United States has made significant progress in cleaning up our environment since the first Earth Day in 1970. We've passed landmark legislation like the Clean Air Act and brought new energy technologies to market. But sadly, our country now faces unprecedented attacks on this landmark environmental achievement from the same party whose President, Richard Nixon, signed the Clean Air Act.

One of the most egregious attacks is H.R. 910, a 'Dirty Air Act' recently offered by House Republicans to prohibit EPA from taking action to control greenhouse gas emissions. I worked to mitigate the damaging effects of this bill by offering an amendment – passed with bipartisan support – to ensure that voluntary programs to reduce carbon emissions can continue.

I also proposed a second amendment to ensure that this bill will not harm the most vulnerable among us – America's seniors and children, particularly children with asthma and lung disease. My son and daughter each

developed asthma after moving to an area of California with poor air quality, so I know firsthand how important clean, fresh air is for our kids. Unfortunately, blind partisanship prevented this commonsense amendment from being adopted.

H.R. 910 is likely just the start of attacks on longstanding environmental protections that are to come from the Republican majority. Their new agenda seems to reflect a belief that we must accept damaging exploitation of the environment to create jobs. This belief is sad and unfortunate because the opposite is true: a clean environment is necessary for a healthy economy.

The future of our economy, our national security, and our environment depend on the choices we make today. Being overly dependent on fossil fuels threatens all three of these goals. I believe we must renew our commitment to a healthy earth and enact policies that will create a sustainable economy and a clean, healthy environment. It is critical to take concrete steps now – like extending renewable energy tax credits and enacting a clean energy standard to spur investments in renewable energy resources.

Fortunately, the United States is a creative and innovative country, and much of the technology we need is already at hand. With the right policies in place, we can harness the power of cutting edge renewable energy technologies and invest in energy efficiency – while creating millions of new jobs in the process.

A personal anecdote might help illuminate this point. I saw the wind energy technology I spent my career developing move overseas because our foreign competitors enacted policies to encourage their utility companies to buy renewable energy. Those countries now export wind turbines to the United States. These are real jobs that were lost for American workers. I will do whatever I can to prevent that from happening again.

That's why I have fought to make sure that we invest in scientific research, in STEM education, and in programs that encourage the large-scale development of clean energy technology. Although we cannot eliminate our use of fossil fuel energy sources overnight, we can make quick and steady progress. Unless we become energy efficient and transition to using other domestic sources of clean energy, our economy will always be at the mercy of the international oil market.

On this Earth Day, let's remember what is at stake and recommit ourselves to making the right decisions for our children and grandchildren

Congressman John Garamendi

Congressman Garamendi Warns Bill will Reignite Water Wars

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, met to discuss H.R. 1837, the so-called "San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act." Congressman Garamendi voiced his strong opposition to the legislation during testimony.

"I'm a battle-tested veteran of the California water wars, and I'd frankly prefer to talk about past battles than wade into this hornet's nest again, but I'll be damned if I let anybody destroy the Delta," Garamendi said. "This legislation threatens the Delta, jeopardizes drinking water for California cities, and puts the interests of a select well-connected few above the entire state."

"In 1997, we were one signature away from agreeing to an 'all California' water policy solution – until the Westlands Water District walked away at the signing ceremony," said Congressman Garamendi, who served as Deputy U.S. Interior Secretary at the time. "I said they would regret it, and today they admitted it, even as they continue to demand a one-sided water grab that is not in the interests of California."

H.R. 1837 would be disastrous for all Californians. It:

- Jeopardizes drinking water access for California cities;
- Ignores the critical needs of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta;
- Overrides state water rights authority by overturning a century's recognition of state water law preeminence over federal water law;

- Decimates Central Valley Project Improvement Act protections for water supply, quality and the environment;
- Destroys the consensus San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement that took nearly two decades to achieve;
- Annihilates coordination between the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, the arteries of life for nearly 40 million Californians; and
- Erodes cooperation among stakeholders who have dedicated time, energy and resources to working together.

Letter of opposition from Members of California State Legislature:

"H.R. 1837 undermines judicial agreements, erodes long-standing water law principles, usurps California's sovereignty, and lays waste to any hope of progress in the Delta."

<http://napolitano.house.gov/sites/napolitano.house.gov/files/documents/Letter%20from%20CA%20State%20Legislature.pdf>

Letter of opposition from 12 different fishing industries:

"There are no words strong enough to describe the complete devastation this bill would bring to the Central Valley salmon runs and those who depend on them for their livelihoods, recreation and food sources."

http://napolitano.house.gov/sites/napolitano.house.gov/files/documents/Salmon%20Letter_McClintock%20Re%20H%20R%20%201837%20%282%29.pdf

Letter of opposition from Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar:

"This legislation would undo ongoing broad-based collaborative initiatives that have been underway for many years to solve some of California's most significant water issues."

<http://napolitano.house.gov/sites/napolitano.house.gov/files/documents/salazar%20letter%20HR%201837.pdf>

State Senator Mark DeSaulnier

DeSaulnier Public Safety Measure Unanimously Approved by Senate

Thursday, June 02, 2011

Senate Bill 360 Fights Abuse of Prescription Pain Killers

Today the Senate approved SB 360 (DeSaulnier) by a bipartisan 39-0 vote to increase the Attorney General's authority to fight illegal prescriptions of narcotic pain killers. SB 360 follows up on last year's SB 1071 which was the product of Senator DeSaulnier's 2010 "There Oughta Be a Law" contest.

Bob Pack of Danville is the founder and president of the Troy and Alana Pack Foundation, named after his two children who were killed in 2003 by a driver who was under the influence of narcotics and alcohol. Last year, at the suggestion of Mr. Pack, Senator DeSaulnier sought legislation to better fund the Controlled Substances Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) program at the Attorney General's Office. That legislation (SB 1071) was held in the Senate last year, but SB 360 continues the effort to help the Attorney General strictly enforce the law. SB 360 goes after those who print and use fraudulent prescription pads and those that illegally prescribe narcotic pain killers.

"Abuse of these painkillers is a societal problem that affects us all," said DeSaulnier (D-Concord). "We need to give the Attorney General and law enforcement the tools they need to aggressively take action against those who fraudulently prescribe these drugs and against pharmacists who knowingly fill fraudulent prescriptions. We also need to stop addicts from abusing the system by "doctor shopping," getting multiple prescriptions from multiple doctors to feed their addiction."

SB 360 is in response to the prescription drug abuse crisis we face in California and provides the Attorney General with improved ability to identify and deter prescription drug abuse and fraud. Prescription drugs account for the second most commonly abused category of drugs, behind marijuana. In 2010 there were 44.4 million prescriptions of narcotics filled in CA, equaling 2.9 billion pills. A Center for Disease Control study found that, in a five-year period, there has been a 96.6 percent increase in prescription drug related deaths.

SB 360 also helps to prevent the misuse of confidential information collected through the Controlled Substances Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) and ensures the integrity of the program and process for

practitioners and pharmacists to appropriately use patient's controlled substances history information. SB 360 is sponsored by Attorney General Kamala Harris and is strongly supported by several law enforcement organizations. SB 360 will next be sent to the Assembly for consideration.

#

Sen. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) represents the Seventh Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County.

Assembly Woman Joan Buchanan

Thursday, May 26 2011

Buchanan Bill to Inform Voters About Fiscal Impacts of Bond Measures Receives Unanimous Support in Assembly

Sacramento, CA – Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo) announced the unanimous passage of her bill, AB 732, out of the Assembly this morning. This legislation would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to draft an easy to understand table, outlining the fiscal impact of implementing a bond measure on both state and local governments. The bill has passed through the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting, the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and the Assembly Floor without a single "no" vote. The bill now moves to the Senate.

"AB 732 is a commonsense bill that helps voters better understand proposed bond measures", Buchanan stated. "Over the past decade general fund bond debt service has increased 110%. During the same period general fund revenues have only increased 30%. That means funding for other programs increased less than 30%, most notably education funding, which only increased 19%. It is critically important to have informed voters. This bill takes an important step by making the bond and its fiscal impact easier to understand". Assembly Bill 732 stems from a recommendation by the Little Hoover Commission. According to the Little Hoover Commission's 2009 report, Bond Spending: Expanding and Enhancing Oversight, the report suggests improving the information given to voters in order to help them have a clearer picture of the implications of approving or rejecting a state bond measure.

Assemblymember Buchanan believes that during such difficult fiscal times, voters need as much information as possible when voting on bond measures. The need for this information was best articulated by the voters themselves in a 2006 statewide poll by the Center for Governmental Studies which found that over 60% of California voters thought ballot initiatives were "often confusing" or "deceptive." AB 732 aims to correct this critical issue

Additional food for Thought!

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." Albert Einstein