



Feb. 2008 Newsletter  
Alameda Democratic Club  
Vol. XVII, No. 2

# Democratic Directions

## February's Meeting

Wed. Feb. 13  
7 PM

Alameda  
Hospital.

Political analyst and communications professor Joe Tuman talks about the February and June primaries.



## And the winner is .....

Hillary Clinton won the California primary, with 52 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Barack Obama. She won primary contests in 7 other states, including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Arizona. Obama won Illinois and 12 other states, including Georgia and Missouri. The delegate count stands at approximately 825 for Clinton and 732 for Obama.

## Political analyst to assess primaries at February meeting

Joe Tuman, a professor of political and legal communications at San Francisco State University, will discuss the Feb. 5 and June 3 primaries at our next meeting.

Tuman is a political analyst for KPIX television and for KCBS radio. He has at various times appeared on CNN, NPR and BBC radio and has written essays on political themes for the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle.

He also is an acclaimed author and his latest book, "Political Communications in American Campaigns," was released in fall 2007.

Tuman is also a runner, with numerous marathons and triathlons to his credit.

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 21 — Lamorinda Democratic Club hosts Secretary of State Debra Bowen, 7 pm.

March 15 — Surge for Peace March and Rally, Walnut Creek. Meet at Walnut Creek BART station 11am.

March 12 — regular monthly meeting.

## A gala evening with lots of pasta

Mark your calendars for our first fundraiser in 2008 on Sunday April 6. It's being called "a Gala Evening with Lots of Pasta."

After a delicious meal, with wine and other beverages, we'll have a raffle featuring many unique and one-of-a-kind items. The event will be held at Harbor Bay Community Center on Bay Farm Island from 4 to 7 p.m.

Tickets are only \$20 per person. To reserve meal tickets, mail a check to:

CADC

P.O. Box 2723

Alameda, CA 94501

For information, call Johanne Duffy at 523-3827.

Help make this a huge success. Invite your friends to join you for a fun evening.

## Minutes of Jan. 9 meeting

Because of a computer problem, the minutes of the January meeting, a forum with representatives of five Presidential candidates, were lost.

## 2008 membership dues

Thanks to the members who have paid their dues for 2008. The rates are as follows:

Family \$30                      Single \$25  
 Senior \$15                      Senior couple \$25

If you have not paid yet, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

City of Alameda Democratic Club  
 P.O. Box 2723  
 Alameda, CA 94501

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

**Check one:**

I will read the newsletter online  
 I prefer the newsletter sent by mail

If you have questions, contact Norma Smith at 522-0273.

Any material to be considered  
 for inclusion in the newsletter

MUST be submitted to [lcdennis50@earthlink.net](mailto:lcdennis50@earthlink.net)  
 or mailed to 3104 El Paseo, Alameda 94502  
 14 days before the next monthly meeting

## A way to have a say at state Demo convention

Every two years, the California Democratic Party (CDP) engages in a process, ending at the State Convention, leading to official party endorsements in the Democratic primaries. For Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional seats, the process begins with regional meetings called Pre-Endorsing Conferences.

Designated representatives of chartered local Democratic organizations are eligible to vote at these meetings. While participation is purely voluntary, clubs are encouraged to take part in the endorsement process. Clubs will be allocated delegates by Assembly District based on their membership within that district, one delegate for every full twenty members registered to vote as Democrats in the district.

Stay tuned to find out who our club's representatives will be.

### 2008 E-Board Contact Information

- *Co-Presidents:* Rob Bonta, ([robbonta@comcast.net](mailto:robbonta@comcast.net)) 521-2433; Jim Oddie ([jhoddie@pacbell.net](mailto:jhoddie@pacbell.net)) 864-8759
- *CO-VP/Programs:* Rae Lisker, ([raelisker@alamedanet.net](mailto:raelisker@alamedanet.net)) 864-2569; Karen Green ([kjgp25171@yahoo.com](mailto:kjgp25171@yahoo.com)) 865-0460
- *Co-VP/Activities:* NakMin Oddie, 864-8759; Johanne Duffy ([johannebduffy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johannebduffy@sbcglobal.net)) 523-3827
- *Secretary:* Joan Robinson ([joanrobin@comcast.net](mailto:joanrobin@comcast.net)) 864-9576
- *Treasurer:* Mike McMahon ([mikemahonusd@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemahonusd@yahoo.com)) 523-2263
- *Membership Chair:* Norma Smith ([Rsmith454@aol.com](mailto:Rsmith454@aol.com)) 522-0273
- *Newsletter Editor:* Lynne Dennis ([lcdennis50@earthlink.net](mailto:lcdennis50@earthlink.net)) 814-9405
- *PAC Chair:* Jim Oddie ([jhoddie@pacbell.net](mailto:jhoddie@pacbell.net)) 864-8759
- *Voter Registration Chairs:* Florence and Richard Hofmann ([rhofmann2001@alamedanet.net](mailto:rhofmann2001@alamedanet.net)) 522-7246
- *Phone Tree Chair:* Sylvia Blumberg ([sylannblum@hotmail.com](mailto:sylannblum@hotmail.com)) 521-6052

## Opinions and editorials

# Three views on poverty

Here are the views of three Presidential candidates on the issue of poverty in America, excerpted from Pathways magazine, a Stanford University publication:

### **Hillary Clinton :**

In order to truly expand opportunities for our children, we must give them the resources to succeed throughout primary and secondary schools and inspire them to pursue post-secondary education as well. To that end, I will invest in programs to keep at-risk kids engaged and on track in elementary and middle schools. Over five years, I will double federal support for early intervention mentoring programs, like GEAR UP, to benefit an additional one million middle school students. I will also invest \$100 million in a new public/private summer internship program.

### **Barack Obama:**

In this country — of all countries — no child's destiny should be determined before he takes his first step. No little girl's future should be confined to the neighborhood in which she was born. Our government cannot guarantee success and happiness in life, but what we can do as a nation is ensure that every American who wants to work is prepared to work, able to find a job, and able to stay out of poverty. What we can do is make our neighborhoods whole again. What we can do is retire the phrase "working poor" in our time.

### **John Edwards:**

If we believe that everyone who is capable of working should work, then we need to make sure that they have the opportunity to do so. I believe that we should create one million "stepping stone" jobs over five years. These will be good jobs that will let people work their way out of poverty in the short term, and help them get experience so they can get better jobs in the future.

And while we expect people to work and will help make sure they can, the Working Society would make sure all Americans have something to show for it. The erosion of the minimum wage is a disgrace; we need to raise it to at least \$9.50 an hour by 2012.

## Background on selection of Denver delegates

If you want to run to be one of California's 241 district-level delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention (August 25-28, 2008 at the Pepsi Convention Center, Denver), here are the simple steps you will need to take to get started.

First, you must be a registered Democrat. While Democrats do allow Independents to vote in our primary, we don't allow anyone but a "card carrying" Democrat to run as a delegate.

Second, determine the number of your congressional district. Then find out, by going to [www.cadem.org/Delegate08](http://www.cadem.org/Delegate08), how many delegates are allocated to your district.

Third, from **January 15, 2008 through April 2, 2008**, Form A will be available on the California Democratic Party website. You may fill out Form A online or submit via fax. If you file online, we also need your signature on file to be "official," so be prepared to fax or mail your signed Form A. When filing Form A, you must pledge your support for one presidential candidate. However, should your chosen candidate drop out of the presidential race prior to the Form A filing deadline of **April 2, 2008**, you have the option to re-file Form A and pledge your support to one of the remaining candidates (sort of like having a "Plan B" for your Form A).

Fourth, start hitting the gym . . . and your community, your work, local clubs, friends, relatives, high school classmates you haven't seen in 20 years (great excuse to get back in touch) – any registered Democrat who lives in your same congressional district and supports your presidential candidate can attend the district caucus and vote for you. They can even register as a Democrat right on site – that's how easy we make it!

You and your supporters attend your presidential candidate's caucus on Sunday, April 13 -- although people can arrive earlier, sign in and cast a vote (they don't need to stick around to hear the speeches or stay until the meeting is over). Voting can begin once a person has signed in and received their ballot. The caucus will begin at 3pm, (but the doors open at 2pm for people to begin signing in -- and voting if they don't want to stay. Anyone in line at 3pm will be allowed to sign in and vote.

**CITY OF ALAMEDA DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

P.O. Box 2723  
Alameda, CA 94501

Address Correction Requested

Phone: 510-522-DEM1

Website: [www.alameda-demo.org](http://www.alameda-demo.org)

Address Label

## Grassroots training offered

Democracy for America, a progressive political group, is offering a two-day training academy at Berkeley High School on March 1 and 2. The intensive campaign training includes experts in fundraising, communications and get-out-the-vote sharing their strategies.

For details go to [www.democracyforamerica.com/training](http://www.democracyforamerica.com/training).

## Help the club by registering voters

People are needed to register voters in Alameda before the June and November elections this year.

We will be staffing tables at Alameda Towne Centre, at nursing homes and at three street festivals.

If you're interested in helping out, contact Richard or Florence Hofmann at 522-7246 or at [rhofmann2001@alameda.net](mailto:rhofmann2001@alameda.net).

## A new concept in recycling

The Freecycle Network is a grassroots and nonprofit movement of people who are giving away and receiving stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free.

For more information about the group, go to [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org).

**“Senators Clinton and Obama have both pledged to me and, more importantly, through me to America, that they will make ending poverty central to their campaign for the presidency.”**  
*- Former Sen. John Edwards, in his speech announcing suspension of his Presidential campaign.*