



July 2008 Newsletter
Alameda Democratic Club
Vol. XVII, No. 7

Democratic Directions

July's

Meeting

Wed. July 9

7 PM

Alameda
Hospital.

Professor
James Lance
Taylor talks
about the
Obama
campaign.



Obama insider, political expert at next meeting

James Lance Taylor, a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco and a key player in the Barack Obama campaign, will speak to the club on July 9.

Taylor, who earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California, is an expert on American politics and political leadership. He has studied the impact of the Million Man March and has written about faith-based politics and about the impact of violence on communities of color.

Before coming to San Francisco he taught for five years at Pepperdine University in Southern California. In 2006 he led a group of USF students to South Africa to study political development.

Studying war and the media

Media critic and peace advocate Norman Solomon addressed the club on June 11 and showed a portion of a film based on his book "War Made Easy." For details on what he said, see meeting minutes on Page 2.

Upcoming

Events

July 19 — Club's garden party fundraiser

Aug. 13 — Congressman Pete Stark featured at regular monthly meeting

Aug. 25-28 — Democratic National Convention, Denver

Sept. 1-4 — Republican National Convention, Minneapolis (keeping an eye on the opposition)

Garden party to raise funds for campaign headquarters

Enjoy an afternoon of music, food, beverages and mingling with some prominent figures at the club's fundraising garden party July 19 from 2 to 5 pm. at the Ann Miller Muir Historical House.

Proceeds from the event will support the club's fall campaign headquarters and our goal of retaking the White House and adding to majorities in the House and Senate.

A silent auction of one-of-a-kind items will

highlight the event.

The Muir House, at 1004 Paru St., is a colonial revival home in Alameda's famed Gold Coast neighborhood.

Tickets are \$40 per person. To reserve a spot send a check to CADC, P.O. Box 2723, Alameda, CA 94501.

For more information about the event, call Johanne Duffy at (510) 523-3827.

Minutes of June 11 meeting

Meeting was called to order at 715pm.

Jim Oddie talked about supporting presumptive nominee Barack Obama, although he was originally to go to the Democratic National convention as a Hillary Clinton delegate.

Johanne Duffy gave details of the July 19 garden party fundraiser.

Richard Hofmann talked about the failure of Proposition 98 and the need for volunteers to staff a registration booth at the Park Street Art & Wine Faire July 26 and 27.

Our featured speaker was Norman Solomon, a columnist, author and media critic on war and peace issues. He is an Obama delegate to the Democratic Convention.

He made these points during his talk:

- Praised congressional mavericks like Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Wayne Morse for refusing to go along with war hysteria.
- "Just think what else could be done with war funds."
- Feels news media is in collusion with administration in preparing electorate for war -- "lapdogs instead of watchdogs," "stenographic view of journalism." Calls NPR National Pentagon Radio.

Some of his answers during the question period:

- "We don't know what we can expect from Obama." "Obama's finest position so far is that you should talk to people who are your adversaries."
- "Automatic support for Israel is dangerous."
- "We've had an economic draft for a while now."

Meeting adjourned at 845pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Dennis

Any material to be considered
for inclusion in the newsletter

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

Be a Neighborhood Leader and strengthen our party

The California Democratic Party is actively organizing to elect Democratic candidates in November. One important way that you can help us is by volunteering to become a Neighborhood Leader.

As a Neighborhood Leader, you will make the commitment to talk three times with 25 of your friends and neighbors about your Democratic values and about why our Democratic candidates are the right choice for both California's and America's future.

The Neighborhood Leader program was developed based on years of research that shows face-to-face contact is by far the most effective form of voter contact. By becoming a Neighborhood Leader you can be a dynamic force in the 2008 election.

The California Democratic Party will supply you with all the tools you need to be successful, including lists, scripts, pledge cards, issue papers, and other important election materials.

2008 E-Board Contact Information

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Opinions and editorials

Redistricting one of 11 propositions on November ballot

Courtesy of Mike McMahon

Voters will have yet another chance to strip state lawmakers of the power to draw political district boundaries in November.

An initiative to change how California draws its district boundaries qualified recently for the November ballot after receiving heavy fundraising support from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this year.

The redistricting measure is the 11th -- and possibly last -- to be placed on the fall ballot. No other measures await random signature verification, though the Legislature could still place a measure (or measures) on the ballot. The redistricting proposal, also backed by good-government groups, would establish a 14-member commission to draw districts for the state Legislature and Board of Equalization. State lawmakers currently have the power to create their own districts after each decennial census. The plan would still allow lawmakers to draw congressional districts.

This marks the second ballot go-around for the Republican governor, who failed to persuade voters to approve redistricting during the 2005 special election. The governor's proposal that year was part of an overall "reform" package that drew a backlash from teachers, nurses and public employees.

Schwarzenegger has now teamed up with groups such as AARP and California Common Cause. They argue that political districts created by an independent commission would make political races more competitive and possibly lead to more moderate representation in Sacramento.

The governor has raised and transferred \$2.4 million for the initiative this year.

Schwarzenegger's political committee, the California Dream Team, has been the single largest donor to the signature-gathering effort. The governor has also solic-

ited donations from his sizable Rolodex, including a \$250,000 contribution from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The measure, written by California Common Cause, would strip the Legislature of the power to draw state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts, which occurs after the census every 10 years.

That power would shift to a 14-member "citizens panel." The state auditor would select an initial pool of 60 individuals. Legislative leaders could then narrow the list on a limited basis.

That elimination is followed by a hybrid process of random selection of eight members and six members chosen "to ensure the Commission has a good balance of skills and diversity," according to proponents.

The final 14 would be composed of five Democrats, five Republicans and four independents.

The power to redraw congressional lines would remain in the Legislature's hands.

Some Democrats opposing the measure are already trying to peg it as a Republican power grab, most vocally Steve Maviglio of the California Majority Report.

Recently the California Democratic Party voted to officially oppose the measure. Democrats also criticized the 2005 redistricting measure as a Republican power grab. But backers of the 2008 measure continue to roll out endorsements of Democratic-leaning interest groups and political figures, including 2006 Democratic candidate for governor Steve Westly, the Southern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union and California Common Cause.

Here's the title and summary of the measure:

Proposition 11: REDISTRICTING. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Creates 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts.

Ten other November propositions to watch for

Proposition 1 Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

Proposition 2 Treatment of Farm Animals.

Proposition 3 Children's Hospital Bond Act.

Proposition 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

Proposition 5 Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation.

Proposition 6 Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding.

Proposition 7 Renewable Energy.

Proposition 8 Limit on Marriage.

Proposition 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole.

Proposition 10 Bonds. Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy.

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Address Correction Requested

Phone: 510-522-DEM1

Website: www.alameda-demo.org

Address Label

Our club's July 4 plans

As the newsletter went to press, club members were making plans to help decorate our July 4 parade float on the evening of July 3 and to ride on the float in the parade, which has a green/environmental theme this year.

Mary and Tom Miller took a lead role this year in decorating the float. Check out the August newsletter for photos of their creation.

“ Put simply, is a gun akin to an automobile, a legal but dangerous product that can be strictly regulated by the government? Or is a gun more like a book, both legal and largely off-limits to government regulation?”

David G. Savage, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

Help your party — register voters

WHAT: register voters at the Park Street Art & Wine Faire

WHO: Anyone 14 years or older. Students will get government class credit

WHEN: July 26 and 27. Shifts of one or more hours each day

WHERE: Park Street and Central Avenue

WHY: to register new Democrats and find headquarters volunteers

HOW: sit at a table or walk the fair with a clipboard

CONTACT: Richard and Flo Hofmann, (510) 522-7246

A simple click can save lives

This tip from Lucille Cannata: You can help raise money for mammograms for poor women simply by going to www.breastcancersite.com. Mark it as a favorite and click on it once a day. If a certain number of clicks are recorded, donors will give \$10,000 for free mammograms.