

VOICE OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY NEWS BULLETIN

AUGUST 2007

HELP SUPPORT OUR HEALTH-CARE-FOR-ALL BILL 840 IN CALIFORNIA

Last year advocates for universal single payer health care suffered a major setback when the Governor vetoed Sheila Kuehl's Senate Bill 840. This bill which has been re-introduced this year and already has 15 State Senators and 29 State Assembly members as co-authors is the only health care reform proposal that can provide high quality health care for all and control health care cost. The bill, if successful, would eliminate insurance companies from the health care system. Other proposals to reform our broken down health care system would not touch the core problem of our present system. We must abandon an insurance system that cannot control cost and whose primary financial incentive is to deny healthcare to people.

Sicko, Michael Moore's film condemning the insurance industry, is a great educational tool. Urge

your friends to see it. Cards are available at showings of **Sicko** asking the Governor to sign SB840,

Health Care for All (OneCareNow) is chartering a bus to the LA rally on Saturday August 9th. The cost is \$20. It will load at 10:15 from the commuter lot at Carrillo and Castillo (free parking on Saturday) and stop in Carpinteria for any wishing to board there. Call Peter at 682-5183 for reservations. We urge you to attend the rally! On July 7th about 20 seats were left.

Put pressure on all elected officials to support SB840. Keep the letters and postcards flowing to Governor Schwarzenegger to sign this bill. For more information visit OneCareNow.org.

To volunteer to hold a house party and/or a garage sale for fundraising call Peter at 682-5183.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join our committee in welcoming the following new members: Jean Krag, MD; Anna Pedotti; and Judith Writer.

As we prepare for the 2008 election year, we ask you to encourage your friends in the community to join us in our support of local, state and national Democratic candidates. Our voices must be heard at every level of government and our priorities and values must prevail.

If you would like to receive further information related to membership in Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County, please contact Mary Ellen Wylie at 967-9515 or Jill Dexter at 565-1492 or email to sbdemwomen@hotmail.com.

We welcome and thank our new and renewed members on the next page.

by Mary Ellen Wylie



"I don't belong to
any organized political
party. I'm a Democrat."
Will Rogers

Come enjoy a Summer Evening
of fun, BBQ and the good ol'
humor of

WILL ROGERS

adapted & performed by Rich Hoag

SAT. AUG 11

5:00 – 8:00

Club House at San Vicente Mobile
Home Park

\$25 - members

\$35 - nonmembers

\$50 - couple

RSVP ASAP! - 805.568.5932

info@democraticwomensb.org

PARKING IS LIMITED SO PLEASE DRIVE TOGETHER

**WELCOME NEW
& RENEWING
MEMBERS
SUMMER 2007**

Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County is sustained by the commitment of our membership. We are pleased to report our most recent members:

Pamela Boehr
Martha Clyde
Keith Coffman-Grey
John & Melinda Coggi
Laurie Deans
Sue Dodds
Liz Dumpis
Doreen Farr
Anne Forster
Mary Gervase
Ghita Ginberg
Barbara Greenleaf
Anna Grotenhuis
Cecia Hess
Carolyn Hubbs
Jan Keogler
Audrie Krause
David & Sharon Landecker
Jan Montgomery
Georgia Noble
Lois Phillips
Jane Prettyman
Kathy Relis
Gillian Richardson
Judith Ricker Nelson William
Rosen
Steven & Julie Solomon John
& Hanne Sonquist Nancy &
Michael Terman Jeremy Tittle
Barbara Tzur
Thomas Urban
Ruth Waldfogel
Eleanor Weinstock
Judi Weisbart
Jon & Julie Williams



SUPPORT A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

In recognition of Women's Equality Day, please join the Board and members of Democratic Women in advocacy and action at the 4th annual "Great American Write-In" on SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1-3:00 P.M. at the Santa Barbara Main Library Faulkner Gallery.

We will host a table, along with numerous other local organizations, in support of the Pro-Choice Coalition's massive state and federal letter-writing lobbying effort to protect reproductive rights. After signing letters, also please raise your voices in support of choice by participating in our Stand Up for Choice! rally at the corner of State and Anapamu.

This year's theme is "Equal Access to Reproductive Health Care" reflecting the high priority the PCC Steering Committee places on educating policy makers to view reproductive health and rights within a social justice and human rights framework.

On April 17, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to uphold the federal abortion ban, marking the first time that the court has restricted abortion procedures with no exception for safeguarding a woman's health. The underlying message of this ruling for women is that politicians, not medical professionals, will make their future health care decisions for them. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated in her dissent that "the majority opinion cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by this court – and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives."

Our Elected Officials need to hear from us now! This recent Supreme Court decision will give encouragement to state legislators throughout the nation to push for further restrictions to a woman's right to choose. With your help, we plan to exceed the 1800 letters signed at last year's event in support of reproductive freedom.

Mary Ellen Wylie, Chair, Pro-Choice Coalition

SAVE THIS DATE
LUNCH WITH VALERIE



SATURDAY
NOV. 3, 2007
DOUBLE TREE

COME LUNCH WITH
VALERIE PLAME WILSON
AND THE DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN OF SANTA
BARBARA COUNTY

INVITATION TO FOLLOW



*Top right: Nancy Pelosi with Diane Channing, EJ Borah and Sharon Hoshida.
Bottom: Left to right: Her Honorable Lois Capps with our Lillian Flavin; Marian Shapiro with Sarah Weddington; while Mary Ellen Wylie and Sheridan Rosenberg register guests.*

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY PELOSI COMES TO SPEAK TO SANTA BARBARA DEMOCRATS

On Friday, July 20th, at the lovely home of Betty Stephens, a large gathering of local Democrats took part in a special tribute to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The program featured inspirational speeches and a parody on California Here I Come, in homage to the Speaker, with words written and sung by the famed virtuoso opera singer, Marilyn Horne.

Stephens spoke passionately to the attentive audience and challenged them to spread the word about what Democrats have accomplished since the last election. She stressed that the Democrats' numbers in Congress are "barely a majority, but that a thin blue line is all that separates us from disaster." Stephens introduced State Superintendent Jack O'Connell who gave an overview of the status of education in California today. He then introduced Representative Lois Capps who said she is thrilled to be working in a Democratic majority House. She, in turn, introduced Speaker Pelosi.

Pelosi made the point that this Democratic majority has proposed and passed legislations to:

- 1) raise the minimum wage
- 2) provide the greatest increase in student loan programs in 10 years
- 3) increase Veterans' benefits

Pelosi said, "We are determined to be successful Democrats," and "We are very proud of our first seven months' efforts." She thanked all those attending "for everything you do (and will do)."

Stephens also introduced her special guest, Sarah Weddington from Austin Texas. Weddington is the attorney who argued Roe vs. Wade before the Supreme Court 34 years ago at the age of 27!!!

The Santa Barbara City council was well represented with Helene Schneider, Das Williams, Grant House, Iya Falcone and Roger Horton attending.

Santa Barbarans felt honored by this genuinely uplifting visit from the Speaker of the House.

Lillian Flavin and Marian Shapiro