

VOICE OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY NEWS BULLETIN

Valerie Plame to speak in Santa Barbara!!!

We are thrilled to announce that our annual Dem Women Luncheon speaker will be Valerie Plame, the CIA agent, whose identity was leaked to the media by Bush administration operatives to discredit her husband, Joe Wilson, a sharp critic of the Bush administration and former ambassador to Iraq. We have tentatively pushed our Summer luncheon back to Nov. 3 to accommodate Plame's speaking schedule. We are awaiting the signed contract.

Open House "FUNd Raiser"

Come by our **Open House FUNd Raiser** at Democratic Headquarters (402 East Gutierrez Street off Olive, entrance at back), Saturday May 19, 2007 from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Our longstanding coalitions, including Health Care for All, Coalition Against Gun Violence, Pro-Choice Coalition and the Democratic Service Club (Voter Registration) will be present. Guests will have the opportunity to sign letters to Governor Schwarzenegger and President Bush. In addition, members can sign-up for

coalition activities and Dem Women Committees. Chat with many of our elected officials, listen to musical entertainment and enjoy great refreshments! Transportation is available upon request. RSVP by calling Dem Women at (805) 568-5932 or email to SBDemwomen@hotmail.com. Here is your opportunity to learn more about the Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County and the coalitions we partner with. Suggested donation: \$10.00. Please mark your calendar!

PRO-CHOICE COALITION – SAVE THE DATE!

Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County supports pro-choice candidates and promotes advocacy for reproductive freedom, access to preventive health care services and education programs, and the right to control our bodies and our health. We are one of over thirty local organizations working with the Pro-Choice Coalition in their efforts to educate and mobilize the community in protecting reproductive rights. Please save the date of Saturday, August 25, 1:00-3:00, and join us in advocacy and action at the annual Great American Write-In event at the Faulkner Gallery in the downtown library.

Mary Ellen Wylie
Chair, Pro-Choice Coalition

ELECTIONS 2007 - 2008

There is no longer any such thing as a slow period in our election cycle, and the Democratic organizations of Santa Barbara are looking ahead to four, yes FOUR, elections coming up in the next 18 months. We want you to at least be aware of what we are facing locally and nationally, and we hope you will help us to **GET OUT THE VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS.**

As most of you realize, a majority of Santa Barbara County voters vote by mail (60% in the last election), so any activities to GOTV must start 3- 4 months before any election, for the vote-by-mail ballots are sent about a month before the election date. The election schedule follows:

November 6, 2007 - Santa Barbara City Council Election

Three seats will be open (those of Helene Schneider, Das Williams, and Brian Barnwell). All three have announced their bids for re-election. If other candidates announce their intent to run, we shall have a busy few months prior to November.

February 5, 2008 - Presidential Primary Election

This is a new development in California, and it means that we have no "down time" after the November election. Given the number of well qualified Democratic candidates, this election will be a fight to the finish and very exciting. We plan to be active from November to February to make sure that voters are aware of the date, informed about the candidates' positions, and ready to vote for their chosen candidate.

June 3, 2008 - 1st, 3rd and 4th District Supervisor Elections for Santa Barbara County (and other traditional primary matters)

This election is as important on a local level as the presidential election is on a national

level. The Board that will be put in place in 2008 will control re-districting in 2010. Consider what would happen if this Board realigned the borders of the Second and Third District, putting Isla Vista into the Second District. This could effectively create a permanent conservative majority (a Third District without I.V., the Fourth and the Fifth Districts) in the County.

Brooks Firestone will be seeking another term, and we must be ready to show that there is a clear alternative choice who will truly represent the interests of the Third District. To date, Doreen Farr, a former Goleta resident and member of the County Planning Commission who now lives in the Santa Ynez Valley, has indicated that she will seek to replace Firestone. Doreen Farr is strongly supported by former Third District Supervisor Gail Marshall.

The Democratic organizations will keep you informed about the likely candidates and their views, and we shall put our efforts into defeating Firestone.

November 4, 2008 - Presidential election, national election for House of Representatives and a number of Senate seats, as well as state races.

Can this date come soon enough? It seems as if we have been waiting for an eternity for the chance to be rid of GW Bush. If that opportunity does not come sooner (impeachment, anyone?) we are ready for the fight for the future of our country. Happily, the 2006 elections have given us much more hope and energy, so we are going to enjoy this election period.

We know that many of you are already active volunteers, and we look forward to working with you over the next 18 months. If you have not yet joined our efforts, we would welcome your help! So please contact us, so that we can put you on our active volunteer list.

Sally Hearon and Nancy Miller
EEL Committee Members.

To volunteer for grassroots work with our coalition partner, the **Democratic Service Club**, contact Sally at sbhearon@hotmail.com or Nancy at nm2492@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

The Membership Committee is pleased to report that we have recorded eighty-six returning members since January 2007, and have welcomed two new members, Pamela Kinsley and Laura Petersen. Our membership is at an all time high of over 500 people dedicated to promoting Democratic principles and priorities and supporting candidates at the local, national and state level. Please help us grow even stronger by inviting your friends and neighbors to join us in our efforts. Our voices and positive actions can and will make a difference in our community and the nation. If you would like 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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an exciting turnabout we have in the US Congress as Democrats assume the majority position. We are proud to be represented by Nancy Pelosi, who as the Speaker of the House, is articulate, confident and decisive. We have the opportunity now to begin to right the unabashed damage done to our system of laws and policies enacted during the "reign of terror" the last seven years. Let us continue at home by supporting bills submitted by Democrats. Call Lois Capps and Pedro Nava. Become involved with Health Care for All in California. Support the Coalition Against Gun Violence and the Pro-Choice Coalition. You can do that and more by staying informed and involved with the Democratic Women of SB County. We work as volunteers with keen commitment to the values of family, and social conscience in order to make this a better nation for ALL of us.

Keep in touch by attending our upcoming **FUND RAISER May 19th!** See you there!

Kathleen Modugno
President, Democratic Women
of Santa Barbara County

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