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We live in a time of urgency.

One of our jobs is to give voice...take the best ideas forward...

Whole reason for health care is taking care of the patient.

How do you reform a for profit health care system

What is missing is true health insurance reform.

.have to ensure that we use every safeguard possible that this [referring to the catastrophe in the Gulf] does not happen again

Let's not follow the rest of the world; let's lead the rest of the world. ...world class universities UCD, Sac State....multiple venture capitalist firms ...

There are first time home buyers. How do we start getting banks to loan!

First and foremost, we need transparency from banks

Cannot have banks taking risks and making ungodly profits

This is a race that is important to the region.



Candidate for Congress Ami Bera says, "This is a race we can win."

by Tim Fenton

Dr. Ami Bera thinks he knows why so many physicians (47!) are running for Congress in the November 2010 election. Recently, we talked with Dr. Bera, the Democratic candidate for California's 3rd Congressional District, at his election headquarters in Elk Grove. He believes the recent long struggle to pass a health care reform law was eye-opening for doctors. They saw a debate that was focused on the health care "industry" and the for-profit insurance companies that are part of it. Doctors, on the other hand, he believes, would be much more focused on the health care consumer, the patients.

Ami feels that the current Congress has taken an important first step with health care reform in the area of coverage. He applauds the fact that more than 30 million American who have had no health care insurance will now be able to get it. But, he notes that the new law has little in it that attacks the issue of the soaring cost of health care. Health care costs already account for far too much of the U.S. gross domestic product and that, he says, cannot be sustained. Bera faults for-profit insurers for looking at health care as a product to be sold, and once consumers have bought it, doing all they can to make it hard to use.

Dr. Bera looks toward a future where every person has easy access to health care services through private, non-profit entities that are publicly funded. The non-profit model would be portable and not tied to employers. There would be no exclusions for pre-existing conditions. And, it would cover everyone. Bera cites Medicare as the model to follow. He says Medicare is not "government health care;" it's a system of private providers providing services through a not-for-profit

manager.

We asked Dr. Bera how, as a first time office seeker, he was dealing with the challenge of fundraising in an era where billionaires are seemingly buying their way onto ballots. He sees fundraising as a necessary component of his campaign since it costs money to reach the voters. Bera has outperformed his opponent, incumbent Dan Lundgren (R. Long Beach) in fundraising. He noted that the 2008 election pioneered new ways to raise funds centered on the Internet and getting lots of smaller contributions from individuals rather than PACs and lobbyists. He says the five-dollar donation is significant now in that it gets more people involved in the political process.

When we asked Dr. Bera about his stated goal of advocating for a "Smart" and "Green" relationship with the earth, he spoke of the devastating images in the media of the Gulf oil spill. The spill highlights for him the urgency of developing a clean alternative energy industry. Bera says the U.S. should be leading the world in these industries, and he notes that our region with UC Davis and thousands of PhDs and cutting edge research resources should be leading the country.

Commenting on the devastating local impact of the collapse of the housing industry and the failure of mortgage-backed securities, Bera said the big banks had not adequately disclosed the risks involved with sub-prime mortgages and the trading of derivatives based on them. He questions whether the mega banks still have something to hide.....is there another shoe still to drop he asks.

Though most of us reading this newsletter cannot vote for him, Dr. Bera speaks kindly of the support he

has been getting from Davis and Yolo County. He and his wife have a long history of involvement with the Davis community based on experiences as students, faculty and administrators at UCD medical school. Hinting that our Congressman Mike Thompson anticipates a fairly easy race for re-election, Dr. Bera invites Davisites to come over to our neighboring CD and work for his campaign. The Republican Congressional Campaign Committee recently identified Congressman Lundgren as one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents. As he walked us to the head-quarter door, Ami Bera told us his is "a race we can win!" Spending half an hour with him made us believers.



Dr. Ami Bera, candidate 3rd CD with Ryan Loney, DDC member and known to many of us as a key person in the successful 2008 Yolo United campaign

Ed. Note, Davis is already lucky to be represented by Mike Thompson, widely regarded as the "best member of Congress in this country." Ami's candidacy in our neighboring CD3 presents the rare opportunity to switch a much needed seat. We are also lucky to have him as an outstanding candidate. Check out Ami's website to learn about his ideas and join his campaign by volunteering and contributing:

www.BeraforCongress.com

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Calendar of Events & Activities

July 6: Tues. 7:00-9:00 pm DDC Board Meeting regular business meeting of the Board, all members invited. Odd Fellows Hall

July 4: Sunday 12:00-8:00pm Community Park, Davis. **Celebrate Independence Day** by distributing information, registering voters and enjoying the fireworks as a volunteer at the Club's July 4 booth in community Park (contact Carl Schmid or Rick Gonzales).

June 27: Sunday Italian Carnevale Great food, drink and fun as a fund raiser for County Supervisor Jim Provenza Odd Fellows Hall, Davis. Contact Renee Liston (756-1619)

August 26: Thursday 6:00-8:00pm Ice Cream Social. Enjoy ice cream and toppings served with soap box oratory at the home of Jerry and Teresa Kaneko 556 Reed Dr., Davis. Contact Jerry 756-2324

Sept. 19: Sunday Annual Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed, Veteran Memorial Hall, BBQ dinner and fall campaign kickoff featuring candidates for federal and state offices.

Eliminate Red Dots (Please pay your past dues) by Carl Schmid

If an ugly red dot appears next to your address, it was carefully placed there by our Treasurer Betty Weir to notify you that your 2010 Club dues have not yet been paid. You may easily eliminate this embarrassing blotch by completing your membership renewal using the form located on page 4. Your dues provide vital support for all Club activities, and this is an election year. In coordination with YCDCC, the Club will soon open and staff a unified campaign headquarters in Davis dedicated to the election of great Democratic candidates including Gov. Brown, Senator Boxer, Gov. Brown, Representative Thompson and Assemblymember Mariko Yamada. Paying your Club dues will contribute directly to much needed Democratic victories in November. We hope that we can count on your continuing support.

Legislating Peace (HR 808) part 2 or Some Amazing History by Carl Schmid

The June Newsletter reported the Board's unanimous endorsement of Rep. Kucinich's highly progressive bill (HR 808) to establish a "Dept. of Peace." While many Board members initially had misgivings that this might just be a wooly idea, we were persuaded by Ms. Lilly Marie's passionate and cogent presentation of this neat approach to understand and address the nature and causes of all forms of violence. Since that report, I learn (*One Thousand Days* by Schlesinger p 469) that JFK complained "in the entire U.S. Government we have fewer than one hundred men working on the complex problems of arms control." Schlesinger writes *Taking up the Democratic Advisory Council's [DAC] proposal of a National Peace Agency, * Kennedy promised to establish a new organization to work for disarmament...* He adds the footnote * *The idea of a National Peace Agency was first submitted to the DAC by ... Assistant Secretary of the Air Force in the Eisenhower administration...and was adopted with Kennedy's specific endorsement on **December 5, 1959*** [emphasis by Ed.]. In fact, Kucinich's rather radical idea has been kicking around for more than fifty years and is a well-thought out proposal that has enjoyed the endorsement of the DAC, JFK and even serious Republicans. Knowing that health care reform took one hundred years, perhaps, the Dept. of Peace may require a little more aging.

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(Continued p.3)

Champagne Brunch starred two surprise guests by Carl Schmid



Robin Kulakow (l. with Betty Weir) and **Bill Julian** welcomed more than 75 Club members to their home for the 21st Annual Champagne Brunch, which featured two surprise guests, **Secretary of State Debra Bowen** and candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Calif. Sen. Tom Torlakson**. In addition to fine food, music and excellent presentations, DDC Pres. Arun Sen expressed appreciation for the service of three long time community leaders on the occasion of their retirements:

Barbara Slemmons (l. with Arun) recently retired from the Board after providing many years of steady guidance to the Club. **Ruth Asmundson**, who will soon complete her term as mayor, expressed satisfaction that she was able to participate in many achievements over the years, most recently bringing Target to Davis. **Helen Thomson**

will also soon complete her term on the County Board of Supervisors capping 38 years of public service that she called “my privilege.”

Lois Wolk described Tom Torlakson’s critical role in improving Highway 12 (“a moral imperative..people were dying”) and his knowledge of the delta (“no more 19th century thinking”), a crucial issue given the upcoming ballot proposition to pave much of Yolo’s farmland in preparation for pumping our water south. Endorsing his candidacy, she identified him as an “advocate for our schools and kids.”

Sen. Torlakson draws upon his own first hand experiences (“thrilled to be a teacher”) to address the problems, “a crisis in our schools.” Among other solutions, he advocates “hands-on education” identify himself as a “supporter of career technology.”



Debra Bowen (shown left) prefaced her remarks with the disclaimer that as Secretary of State she works under a “self imposed rule...I do not endorse candidates.” However, as a matter of fact, she reported that “in the last sixty days, Meg Whitman spent on average \$21,000 per hour... a phenomenal amount of money.” “We don’t have megamillionaires, we have regular Californians.” She is concerned that the “spillover of all that money at the top of the ticket” will affect all races in the upcoming election. As Secretary of State, she recently “completed a top to bottom review of our voting” to ensure accuracy. For our ballots, “we are using paper because we can see it and feel it.” As part of this effort, she happily reported that her office successfully sued a vendor resulting in a “\$2.3 million settlement.”

Take home lessons from **Mariko Yamada’s** report focused on two key points: Funds for recycling centers need to be securitized as a source of revenue for the jobs and also to support their important mission in recycling. California is the only major oil producer that does not impose an oil severance tax. Revenue from that tax should be used for our schools. Lamenting that we “want government to work” and “when the other side is always saying no, it is difficult to lead with universal preschool behavior.”



In the midst of his third year of savage budget cuts, **Jim Provenza** (shown l.), repeated his long term commitment to “work for a system that allows us to democratically decide budgets and taxes.” As part of the solution, he would close tax loophole, impose an oil severance tax and institute performance-based budgeting at all levels. While dealing with the County’s problems, Jim recognizes that cities and schools are experiencing the same problems saying “teachers dig into their own pockets to pay for supplies and their pockets are not very deep.” **Sheila Allen** (shown l.) built on this theme saying “children are our future” and “education is not free.”

SPONSOR (\$100)

(continued)

- Janellyn & Terry Whittier
- Kathleen Williams-Fossdahl
- Barry Wilson
- Mariko Yamada & Janlee Wong
- Jane & Richard Zeiger

PASSPORT (\$50)

- Yvonne Clinton
- Val Dolcini & Solveig Monson
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- Ryan Loney
- Mary Majors
- Judith & Eldrige Moores
- Julia Sadler
- Thomas & Joan Sallee
- Alan & Sandra Sokolow
- Bob Schelen
- Norma Turner



In foreground (l-r): Debra Bowen

State Senators Torlakson and Wolk

Supervisor Helen Thomson

In Memoriam: We regret to report the loss of Martha Amoroch, long-time Davis resident, Club member, and friend to many of us.

Democratic Newsletter

Sunday, June 27

Davis Democratic Club

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Italian Carnevale

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attached to your newsletter?
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Visit our web site

www.davisdemocraticclubg.org

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