

# MOUNTAIN DEMOCRATS

yosemitedems.net

April – May 2010



The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644

YosemiteDems.net



*The Mountain Democrat* is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

### COMING EVENTS

#### April 2010

Apr. 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Apr 10: **Jefferson Dinner**  
(page 3)

#### May 2010

May 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

May 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

### CONTACT US

CDC Yosemite Gateway  
(Vacant)

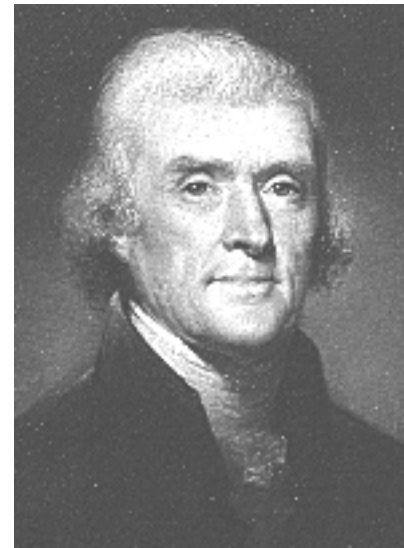
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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

**YosemiteDems.net**



# Mariposa Jefferson Dinner

*The  
Mariposa Democratic Club*

*invites you to the*

*Annual  
Jefferson Dinner*

*April 10, 2010 at 6:00 PM  
Mariposa Best Western*

*\$20.00 per person in advance/\$30 at the door  
(Children: under 12-- \$10, under 6--free)*

**Call: 209-742-5236 or 209-628-2839**

## From the Campaign Trail...

By Les Marsden

It's official: on Thursday, March 11, I filed my candidacy, paid the applicable fees—and will be on the June 8 primary ballot as your choice for US Congressional Representative in the 19<sup>th</sup> District. One other candidate filed in the Democratic primary.

I continue to meet with area groups, councils and affinity organizations and continue to beat the bushes for campaign contributions (hint!) which are ALWAYS needed. By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope to have our yard signs available. **Frank Ploof** has stepped up to serve as Marsden For Congress Campaign Manager. Peter DeCaro had a personal issue arise requiring his full focus—and Frank was more than ready to step up to bat. Frank is a dedicated progressive Democrat and has worked on the campaign from the beginning. To contact Frank, e-mail him at [mbeguy@gmail.com](mailto:mbeguy@gmail.com)

And now for the big news: the campaign received a huge mark of confidence just this past Saturday, March 20. Our California Democratic Party's pre-endorsement conferences were held all over the state. Our Region Seven's event was convened by Chair Gary Robbins in Modesto. The delegation of State Central Committee members, County Central Committee members and designated representatives of Democratic Clubs met to select their candidates for CDP endorsement. In our event, candidates were to be selected for five legislative districts and four area Congressional seats. Candidates or their representatives were offered the opportunity to speak. In one race, notable for many of us here (the 25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District), unfortunately no Democrat has filed; none will be on the June ballot.

In the US Congressional races, representatives from incumbent (District 18) Dennis Cardoza, (District 11) Jerry McNerney and challenger Ami Bera, who's mounting a strong challenge to (District Three) Republican incumbent Dan Lungren all spoke.

## From the Campaign Trail (continued)

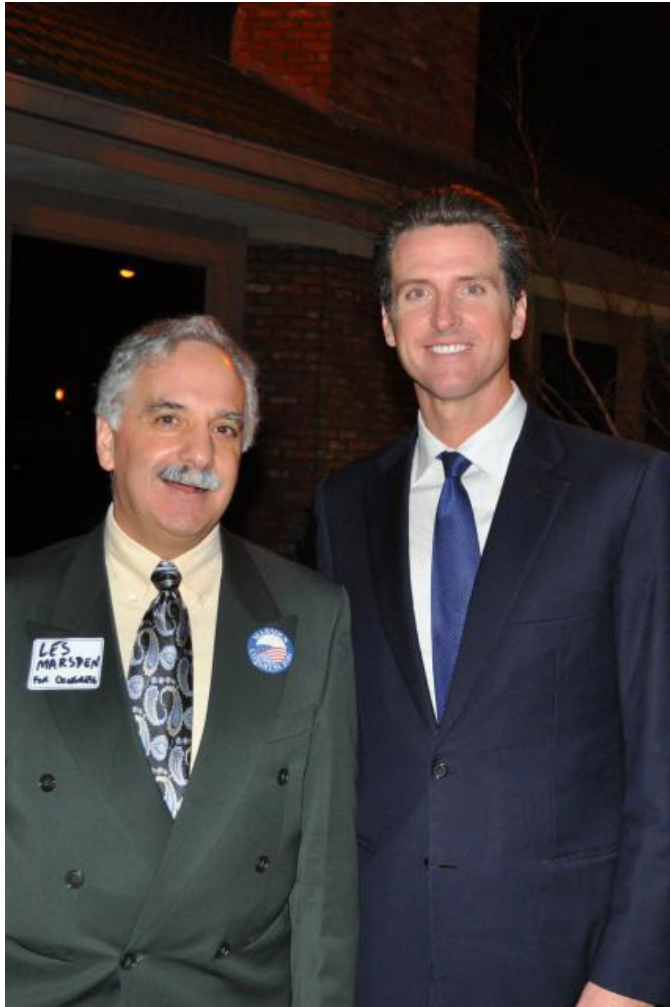
There are no primary challengers to these Democrats and all three won the necessary 70% of votes cast to gain regional endorsement.

We then (at the end of the afternoon) moved on to the only contested primary race: mine. Contested because there is another candidate: Loraine Goodwin. Following a drawing for position, Ms. Goodwin opted for me to speak first. At the conclusion of her speech, the vote was conducted with the following result: Goodwin: 1 vote. Marsden: 29 votes. Not only did I far exceed the 70% required minimum, but participation in our 19<sup>th</sup> District vote was also far higher than in any other district; I was told I received more votes than Cardoza, McNerney and Bera combined. For that, I was truly, and humbly, grateful. And I must thank those of you Mountain Democrats who were voting members and who either attended or sent in your vote-by-mail ballots. Special thanks goes to Susan Rowe, who was not only present in Modesto—who not only distributed my campaign literature there—but also collected completed ballots from many of you here to hand-deliver to the conference. Susan: thank you VERY much!

At next month's State Party Convention in Los Angeles (April 16 – 18) my endorsement will move onto the Sunday morning consent calendar for a vote of passage from the entire body of the convention. I will then be the endorsed candidate of the California Democratic Party for United States Congress in California's 19<sup>th</sup> District.



**Les has been getting around!**



Les and Gavin Newsom, February 18, 2010

**An  
*Impassioned***

## **CRY FOR HELP**

**from your newsletter editor.**

You may have noticed that the content of the Mountain Democrat has been a little thin on current coverage of happenings such as club activities, events, and other local information.

This is NOT a result of editorial preference. It IS the result of too few members contributing pictures or articles for inclusion in the newsletter..

PLEASE consider writing an article, taking some pictures, even asking your friends if they have something they would like to contribute to our newsletter. If you attend a Democratic or community event take some pictures or write a short (or long) summary of the event.

The next newsletter deadline will be May 24<sup>th</sup> for the June – July 2010 Mountain Democrat. If you would like to contribute articles or pictures, send me an email at [scott@k6ix.net](mailto:scott@k6ix.net) and I will put you on the list to be notified of future deadlines.

If you are unsure of how to format or submit material just email me or call me at 559-658-2342.

Scott Hill

## Let Freedom Ring

By Peter Cavanaugh

“Let freedom ring. Let the white doves sing. Let the whole world know that today is a day of reckoning. Let the weak be strong. Let the right be wrong. Roll the stone away. Let the guilty pay. It’s Independence Day.” “Independence Day”, Martina McBride, 1993

Each weekday afternoon across our nation, that impossibly smug, outrageously pompous, self-labeled Great American, Sean Hannity, begins his program with the above chorus from Martina McBride’s “Independence Day.” It is presented by implication as a powerful personal anthem, evoking thrilling images of a locked and loaded, combat geared, radio warrior about to wreak savage revenge against enemies far and wide, especially those with certain Middle East connections, all liberals, most progressives, and some folks who just plain look funny. One might even envision a jaunty, ascot-attired, aviator-scarfed Sean climbing into his Sopwith Camel F.1 biplane, setting off to strafe the Kaiser at sunset over war torn Berlin.

Country music fans, however, know “Independence Day” is actually about a horribly abused housewife who burns her alcoholic husband alive and their whole house with him on a Fourth of July. Talk about fireworks! A daughter, ostensibly the song’s composer, is consequently sent to live in the uncertain safety of foster care.

But Sean only plays Martina’s chorus. Why ruin an otherwise stirring image with mere facts? Truth can be bothersome.

Especially when Mr. Hannity received a major broadcasting award in late March from Talkers Magazine for “Outstanding Community Service by a Radio Talk Show Host” while being simultaneously accused of being an utter fraud for the very same activity cited in his official commendation.

## Let Freedom Ring (continued)

Quoting Conservative commentator Debbie Schlusel, Sean Hannity’s sponsorship of, involvement with and allegiance to a group called “Freedom Alliance” and their “Freedom Concerts” is “all a huge scam.”

Writes Ms. Schlusel, “They’ve told you they are raising money to pay for the college tuition of the children of fallen soldiers and to pay for severely wounded war vets. In two recent years, less than 7% and 4%, respectively of the money raised by Freedom Alliance went to these causes, while millions of dollars went to “expenses,” including consultants and apparently to ferret a Hannity posse of family and friends in high style.”

On one line item from her impressively detailed documentation, Ms. Schlusel observes that \$500,000 in expenses were spent to award just over \$800,000 in scholarships. Wait! A Conservative investigator accusing a Conservative talk show host of major fraud?

That’s almost as crazy as a Republican candidate for Governor, Steve Poizner, attacking California liberals for “years of doing too much for too many.” Poizner is running far behind Meg Whitman in voter polling and so resorts to thinly disguised racist rhetoric in a desperate attempt to win base support, evidently forgetting the words of another prominent Conservative, Winston Churchill, who once famously observed, “Never was so much owed by so many to so few.”

Wow! If Poizner’s correct, Sir Winston could have been been talking about us Mountain Democrats.

Yes, Martina, the “right is wrong.”

Sean Hannity proves that every day on Fresno’s good old KMJ.



## Recent Speakers at the Oakhurst Club



Phil Connelly and Bill Simon, ACLU, February 6, 2010



Chip Ashley, Sierra Club, March 6, 2010

## Photos from past Jefferson Dinners



Les Marsden, Willow Polson, TJ Cox at the Jefferson dinner



Before the Jefferson dinner at the Mariposa Best Western

## Move Your Money

by Alan Cheah

(Excerpted from Sierra Star 2/28/10)

How did we get from the collapse of the housing bubble to the loss of our local businesses? Media pundits say it is people buying homes they couldn't afford. The Wall Street Journal says it is Wall Street's derivatives trading based on sub-prime mortgages. Both are right but the difference is people buying unaffordable homes would have hurt the economy but with derivative trading it devastated it.

What we do understand is that something is very wrong. Bailouts to the tune of \$700 billion have been allocated. Most of it was given to the very institutions that caused the economy to crater. They were given the money to make them solvent because they were too big to fail and also to start lending to stimulate the economy.

They didn't lend, instead, they used our taxpayer money to boost their capital ratios, which improved their ratings and stock price. They also put money in their proprietary trading accounts to continue risky investments. That resulted in increased profits for themselves, more big bonuses but no creation of jobs or benefit to Main Street.

Are we powerless? If big institutional banks won't lend money and they use your deposits to fight legislation protecting us, why not take your money out? Put it somewhere that provides you better service, the same protection and helps create jobs and revive our local businesses. I am speaking of community banks like Yosemite Bank, United Security Bank and Central Valley Community Bank and credit unions like Golden 1.

These banks are FDIC insured and Golden 1 is NCUA insured. NCUA, National Credit Union Administration, is basically an FDIC for credit unions. Both insure each account up to \$250,000.

## Move Your Money (continued)

Community banks are dedicated to the interest and well being of the community.

Put your outrage into action. Join the national movement to move your money out of big banks and into community banks and credit unions. If you like Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life," go to [www.moveyourmoney.info](http://www.moveyourmoney.info) and learn more.

Even if you can't move all your money, move as much as you can. This will send a message to Congress and the banksters that "[we] are as mad as hell and [we] won't take it anymore." Withhold your money and they will listen.



## **How the People in My District Got Stupak to Change His Mind --and Thus Saved the Health Care Bill**

A letter from Michael Moore

Friends,

Well, our full court press on my congressman, Bart Stupak worked! Hundreds of my neighbors here in his Michigan district spent the weekend organizing thousands of voters to get busy and save the health care bill. We called Stupak's congressional office non-stop and [we got thousands of people up here to flood his email box](#).

And then a rare thing happened: An elected representative did what the people told him to do. It was nothing short of amazing.

Stupak, and his seven "right to life" Democrats who had said they would vote against the bill, reversed themselves after what Stupak said Sunday afternoon was a week of his staff having "really taken a pounding." Hey, all we did here in northern Michigan was let him know that we would be unceremoniously tossing him out of Congress in this August's Democratic primary. One of our group announced she would oppose him in the Dem primary. That seemed to register with him.

All of this made Stupak look pretty worn down at his press conference yesterday, pleading with people like us to stop calling his house and waking his wife "at two or three in the morning." Hey! That's not us. We never call during Carson Daly!

Obama needed 216 votes in the House last night--and he barely got them (219 was the final number). Had Stupak not done a 180 in the last 24 hours, the health care bill would have gone down in flames. Thank you, to all of you here in northern Michigan who did what had to be done. You and you alone saved this bill in the final moments.

A letter from Michael Moore (continued)

Stupak stood on the floor of the House last night and, in a surreal moment, spoke against the "Stupak Amendment"! Once he got through his medieval meanderings about where babies come from, he gave one helluva speech.

And, that's when Republican congressman Randy Neugebauer of Texas shouted out: "[Baby killer!](#)" Wow. I guess the fertilized egg police felt betrayed by Bart.

Those of us here in Michigan will now decide what to do about our misguided congressman. We're a forgiving lot, but maybe not this time. We shall see.

Bart, I'm glad you discovered you didn't have a uterus. And, like the scarecrow, I'm glad you found a bit of your brain.

A good night it was--important little steps were taken to bring our country into the civilized world.

Now, we have some real work to do if we really want to say we have universal health care. The sharks who run the insurance companies have every intention of turning this lemon into some very profitable lemonade.

Yours,

Michael Moore

[MMFlint@aol.com](mailto:MMFlint@aol.com)

[MichaelMoore.com](http://MichaelMoore.com)

**March 22nd, 2010 3:17 PM**

P.S. Someday, the Hyde Amendment is going to have to go. No Democratic president should ever agree to anything that discriminates against women.



**Spread the Good Cheer!**



**Presenting the Most Beautiful Sticker  
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**Yours for a meager \$1.00.**

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Dinner,  
or by calling:**

**Jim Archer 209-742-7281 or  
Scott Hill 559-658-2342**



**YOU ARE INVITED**

To the

**MARIPOSA**

**JEFFERSON**

**DINNER**

*“A warm mountain gathering of Democratic friends ”*

That’s how one of our community described this event,  
but it can be described in many ways.

It is casually elegant in the Sierra tradition . . . .

It’s a gourmet delight made with love and care . . . .

It’s a chance to get somebody out of the kitchen . . . .

And enjoy a feast somebody else will prepare.

So join with us then for a night filled with magic . . . .

Inspiring speakers who won’t talk too long . . . .

Share music and laughter with friends who are jolly . . . .

And all of this now can be yours for a song!

***The Jefferson Dinner***  
**Saturday, April 10, 6:00 PM**



## **FLOAT FOR RENT**

**Our giant, splashy and wonderful float is for rent!  
Tell your friends and relations.**

For information call 209-742-1010

*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

**OK Democrats!!**

**It is JEFFERSON DINNER TIME**

**Spread the word!**



## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person  
\$15.00 family  
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

\_\_\_ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person

\_\_\_ New Member or \_\_\_ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisory District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	-or- Oakhurst Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268	PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338	Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010	(559) 658-2342