

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

October 2009



General Meeting:

The General Meeting is typically on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information on the Sun City Democrats, please contact President **Jodi Salyers** at 864-2812 or Communications Chair **Carol Flynn** at 864-3544.

Saturday, October 3, 2009

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker

Place: Sun City Activities Center Atrium

Program: **Becky Moeller** is president of the Texas AFL-CIO, overseeing the 220,000-member labor federation's legislative, political education and community service programs.



Moeller is the first woman to hold statewide elected office in the **Texas AFL-CIO**, having broken that barrier in 2003 when she became secretary-treasurer. During her four-year term in that office, she brought efficiencies and oversight to the state federation budget that kept programs going even after the departure of a substantial chunk of membership from the AFL-CIO umbrella.

Saturday, November 7, 2009

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker

Place: Sun City Activities Center Atrium

Program: **Dr Richard Dusansky, Ph.D.**, will present a short talk on "The Economics of Health Care". He plans a question and answer period after his talk. Please bring your concerns to the meeting for Dr. Dusansky's comments.

Dr. Dusansky came to the University of Texas in 1989 to become chairman of the Economics Department. As the Richard Gonzalez Regents Chair, he was responsible for expanding the Economics Department. His current research deals with consumer speculation as a force in housing market "bubbles" and the roles of "moral hazard" and insurance-contract choice in determining consumer demand for medical care.



HEY, IT'S TIME FOR A PARTY!

Special Event:

Friday, October 16, 2009

5:30 PM

Place: Sun City, **The Oaks** at Legacy Hills

Program: **Back to Work Potluck**

We've all had a summer break; now let's get back to work with some fun, drink, and good food! The Club will be providing appetizers and beverages for Happy Hour. Dinner will follow and will be provided by you; please bring a salad, vegetable, entree, or a dessert to share with others. No charge for this event, but of course donations will be cheerfully accepted.



The Issues Group:

The Issues Group meets typically on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 PM in member's homes. RSVPs are mandatory; the last meeting was canceled due to lack of RSVPs. There is no meeting currently scheduled.

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WISH WE COULD CLONE HARRY?

Harry Truman was a different kind of President. He probably made as many important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 42 Presidents. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House.

The only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in Independence, Missouri. His wife had inherited the house from her mother; and other than their years in the White House, they lived their entire lives there.

When he retired from office in 1952, his income was a U.S. Army pension, reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year.

After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There were no Secret Service following them.

When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale."

Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, "I don't consider that I have done anything which

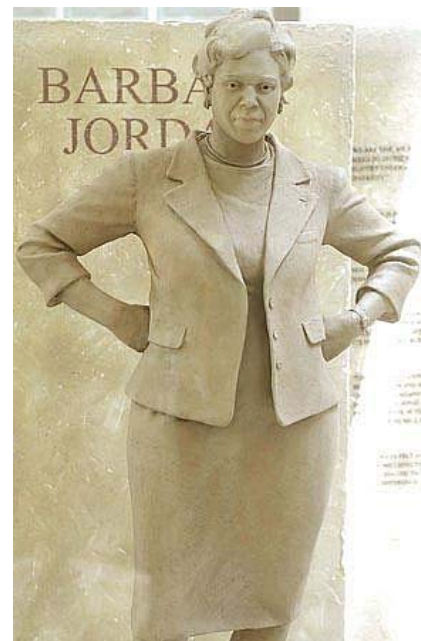
SUN CITY DEMOCRATS

should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise."

As president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food.

Modern politicians have found a new level of success in cashing in on the Presidency, resulting in untold wealth. Today, many in Congress also have found a way to become quite wealthy while enjoying the fruits of their offices. Political offices are now for sale. (sic. Illinois)

Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!"



A SAD PROPHECY FROM A GREAT LADY

"This is the great danger America faces: that we will cease to be one nation and become instead a collection of interest groups – city against city, suburb against suburb, region against region, individual against individual. Who will then speak for the common good? Are we to be one people bound together by a common spirit sharing in a common endeavor or will we become a divided nation?"

Barbara Jordan, in the 1976 Keynote Speech to the Democratic National Convention.

(Thanks to **Mary K Pierson** for sending this to me.)

Posted on Wed, Sep. 16, 2009

The “Culture War” is real and scary.

By LEONARD PITTS JR.

lpitts@MiamiHerald.com

I don't know who coined the term “culture war” to describe our political divisions, but I'm reasonably sure he or she intended it only as a figure of speech.

It feels like something else in light of a new report from the Intelligence Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors extremist groups. “Terror From The Right” is a listing of bombers, killers, would-be assassins and insurrectionists motivated by anger over abortion, gays, taxes, blacks, Muslims and illegal immigrants.

Which raises an obvious fair and balanced question: What about terror from the left? The SPLC's Mark Potok says left-wing terror essentially means eco-terrorists, e.g., animal rights extremists. The death toll from their work, he says, is zero.

By contrast, Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people because he was angry at the government, brothers Matthew and Tyler Williams shot two men to death for being gay, James Kopp killed Dr. Barnett Slepian for being an abortion provider, and dozens of other men have been indicted for dozens of other plots to kill thousands of other people with whom they had political disagreements.

It's one thing to read these stories in isolation and another to see them collected, and thereby connected, here, one extremist plot after another in the 14 years since Oklahoma City. It gives you a sense that -- apologies to Buffalo Springfield -- there's something happening here and what it is, is all too clear. The report provides troubling context for the outrageous behavior that has attended the election of our first African-American president.

When you call them on that behavior, Barack Obama's detractors love to accuse you of equating dissent with racism. It is a specious argument. I disagree with the president's use of signing statements to avoid complying with laws he doesn't like, but it would never occur to me to carry a sign vowing death to him, his wife and their “two stupid kids” as a protester in Maryland did, or to pray that Obama dies of brain cancer as a “minister” in Arizona does, or to heckle him during a joint session of Congress as Rep. Joe Wilson infamously did.

That's not dissent. It is the howl of the unhinged and the entitled. The same folks who were complacent as President Bush spent surplus into deficit, wasted \$600 billion and 4,000 American lives on the wrong war and watched a major American city drown are morally outraged because the new guy wants to reform healthcare?

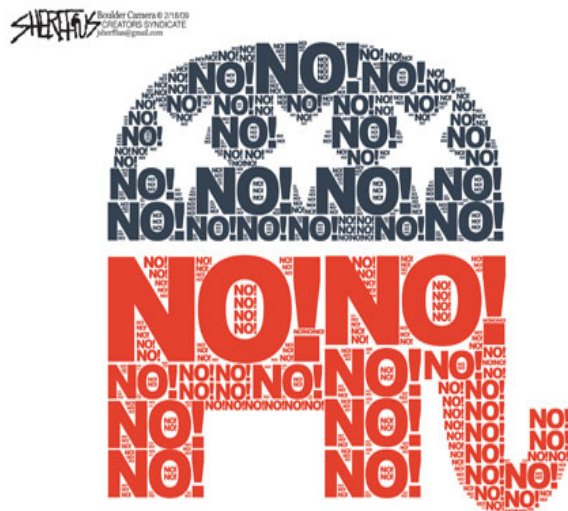
For many of them, I think -- not all -- that's because they find it hard to accept that the new guy is liberal . . . and black.

As Potok sees it, some of us are angry over the dramatic changes underfoot in this nation. “People who want this country to remain a white-dominated country have lost. They have completely and utterly lost the battle, and they can never win it. If they were to seal the borders tomorrow, whites would still lose their majority in a matter of years, simply as a result of the difference in fertility rate.”

As a result, many people “feel that this is no longer the country that their Christian white forefathers built, that they have been robbed, that this isn't the world they grew up in and that they are very, very frightened” -- a feeling stoked and exploited by political and media demagogues, who will loudly disclaim responsibility when that fear becomes violence.

The president is black, the secretary of state is a woman, the new Supreme Court justice is Hispanic, the nation is changing, becoming vastly more inclusive. If some see that as a redemption of promise, the SPLC report reminds us that others regard it as an embodiment of threat. For the record, at least six of the plots it recounts were motivated by, or against, Obama.

Take it as proof. “Culture war” is not a figure of speech.



And now a word from the GOP...

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS OFFICERS

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Special Events: Nancy Danley 864-1544 nrdanley@suddenlink.net

Please SUPPORT Your Local Club

Have you noticed that the **Sun City Democrats** have become a growing and vital presence in Sun City, Georgetown, and Williamson County? Wasn't it wonderful seeing so many Obama yard signs displayed in Sun City during the last election? Please join us by supporting our activities and help us continue to elect more Democrats by paying your annual dues.

Dues are **\$20** per member. You may pay at the sign-in table at the meetings or mail a check made out to Sun City Democrats to our Treasurer: **Margaret Donaldson**, 107 Rosecliff Drive, Georgetown TX 78633.

Support the Sun City Democrats POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Our PAC is known as **IMPACT: Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas**. **IMPACT** is the way that the Sun City Democrats organization can legally contribute to candidates. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer, **Don Lelong**, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown TX 78633.

IMPACT 's goal is to raise **10 Grand By 2010**, just after the primaries. That's about the same as we raised during the last election cycle. We are shooting for broad participation and modest, frequent contributions (of course large ones will be gratefully accepted too). Be on the watch for **IMPACT** mailings, fundraisers, and other opportunities to support Democratic candidates.



DEMOCRATIC PARTY INFORMATION

Texas Democratic Party

Boyd Richie, Chairman. www.txdemocrats.org
707 Rio Grande Street, Austin, TX 78701
Telephone: (512) 478-9800

Williamson County Democratic Party

Richard Torres, Chairman. Phone #: 512-964-5054
www.williamsoncountymdemocrats.org.

Monthly meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Party headquarters, 110 South I-35 (corner of I-35 and Highway 620 behind McDonald's in Round Rock).

Williamson County Democratic Headquarters

needs volunteer workers. Address: 110 North Interstate 35 (at Highway 620). Phone: 512-388-1993

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 11 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM

Williamson County Obama Store is located at the Williamson County Democratic Headquarters, featuring T-shirts, hats, posters, calendars, etc.

PRECINCT 381

~**Kay Walker**, Precinct Chair
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PRECINCT 394

~**Don Mohr**, Precinct Chair
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PRECINCT 399

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