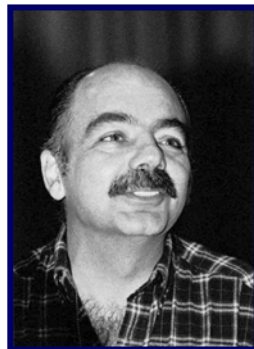


# Poway Dem Club Gets Busy!



The **POWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB** may still be very new, but its members have hit the ground running! The club has already held general meetings with great guest speakers. The October, 2005 meeting featured State Senator Christine Kehoe from District 39 (upper left and center photos). She provided a "behind the scenes" look at how Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger works -- and does not work -- with the Democratic majority in Sacramento. She implored everyone to "just say no" to Arnold's expensive special election.

At the November, 2005 meeting, the guest speaker was CSUSM professor, Fredi Avalos (upper right photo). She explained that with the consolidation of media giants, our choices for news are becoming more and more limited. If the trend continues, we will not only lose our free press, but we will lose our democracy.



The first meeting of the new year -- January, 2006, featured Fernando Suarez del Solar (pictured above center). He provided a very touching story of his son, Jesus, and Jesus' untimely death as a Marine in the war in Iraq. Fernando put a very personal face on the consequences of the war and how the Bush administration's lies and misinformation contributed to his son's tragic death.



## Duncan Hunter Rally

In keeping with the **PDC** commitment to take action, six **PDC** members joined over 50 protestors in December, 2005 at Duncan Hunter's El Cajon office demanding that we get out of Iraq now. The members attending the rally were (pictured at left [l-r]) Diana Newland, Anne O'Dell, Martha Sullivan (partially hidden), Judy Ki, Pete Babich, and Dorothy Gesick.



## Up Close & Personal – Gene and Suzy Jaque

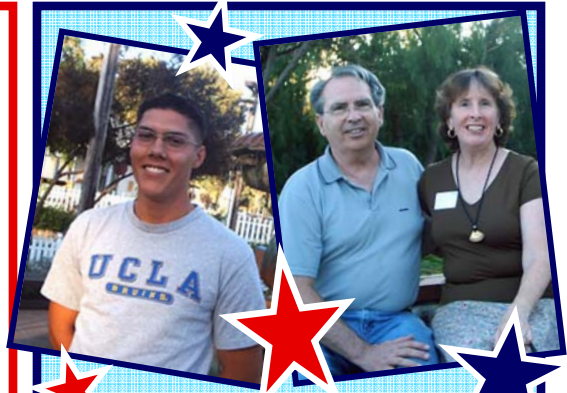
Two of the most interesting and dedicated Democrats in

**PDC** are Gene and Suzy Jaque. Gene is a self-described “political junkie” and has voted in every election since 1948. So it is not surprising that on Gene and Suzy’s honeymoon, a visit was made to the Harry Truman Library in Independence, MO.

Gene has lived in Poway since 1975, and he and Suzy were married in 1998. Gene is a retired insurance broker and Suzy currently works with the Poway Unified School District. Gene and Suzy are among the illustrious founding members of **PDC**, but this is not Gene’s first Democratic Club membership. He was a founding member of the Mid-Wilshire Democratic Club in Los Angeles in 1964.

The Jaques are passionate about politics and read a lot of newspapers and watch a variety of political programs including **COUNTDOWN** and **HARDBALL** on MSNBC, **WASHINGTON WEEK** on PBS, and three Sunday political talk shows.

Over the years, Gene has submitted many **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** and has been inspired to write **LOTS** of letters since George W. Bush took office. Per Gene, he submits about one letter per month. Gene writes his letters in longhand and rewrites each letter several times until the message is very concise and clear. Suzy often serves as letter editor. Although newspapers generally require that letters be submitted in typed format only, Gene’s handwritten letters have always been published!



**We are the face of THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY in Poway!**



## Poway Democratic Club Officers

**PRESIDENT** - Pete Babich • 858-748-1645 • [president@PowayDemocraticClub.org](mailto:president@PowayDemocraticClub.org)

**VICE-PRESIDENT** - Scott Currier • 858-673-1028 • [vicepresident@PowayDemocraticClub.org](mailto:vicepresident@PowayDemocraticClub.org)

**SECRETARY** - Open PDC position • [secretary@PowayDemocraticClub.org](mailto:secretary@PowayDemocraticClub.org)

**TREASURER** - Diane St. John • 858-487-9489 • [treasurer@PowayDemocraticClub.org](mailto:treasurer@PowayDemocraticClub.org)

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**POWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB MAILING ADDRESS** - PO BOX 28 • POWAY, CA 92074

## Poway's Redevelopment Funds are *NOT* Free Money by Connie Messina

Andrea Moss' feature article on the redevelopment of shopping centers was very timely. ("**Small Businesses Seek Poway's Help with Rising Rent**" NORTH COUNTY TIMES, January 8, 2006) Many of our small business owners in Poway are very nervous about their rising rental costs. Nothing has been done by the city to prevent shopping center owners from reaping huge benefits from redevelopment funds as the city offers "forgivable" loans to spruce up the properties and then charging much higher rents to longtime mom and pop business tenants.

Even those businesses with lease contracts which supposedly protect them from rent increases have seen their related costs (fees for upkeep of premises) skyrocket. These huge cost increases are often such a burden that smaller shops must often shut down. Poway seems to want the shopping centers to have the country-western look, but what gives a city its "down-home country feel" is the unique small businesses which have been around a community for a long time and who are valued by the residents. Kudos to the Poway Chamber of Commerce which has stepped up in defense of the small business owners.

Residents must remember that Redevelopment money is not FREE money. These are OUR tax dollars. We have a right to comment on how funds are spent by the city. Let's not be complacent about how Redevelopment funds are used. Our local small business owners in Poway need our support. Please let the Poway City Council know how you feel before your favorite restaurant, insurance agent, hair salon or doctor is forced out of doing business in Poway.



## Where are U.S. Funds to Research Fossil Fuel Alternatives? by Pete Babich

I was watching 60 Minutes last night and there was a segment on Canada's effort to extract oil from its soil. They call the product oil-sand. With the price of oil pushing \$60 dollars a barrel, it is now cost-effective for Shell Oil Corporation to squeeze oil out of Canadian sand. Of course the process increases green-house gases and the strip mining process will leave the land scarred for generations to come.

Last week I saw a news report that said Iceland has plans to completely eliminate its use of oil. They have an abundant source of geothermal energy, and have plans to eliminate all gasoline engines and replace them with hydrogen fuel cells within twenty years. What an innovative idea!

These two reports made me wonder what the US could do with its wealth of resources and knowledge. Maybe if we were not spending billions of dollars a year on the war in Iraq "protecting our oil", we could invest just a tenth of that cost to develop alternative sources of energy that don't depend on oil at all. Maybe we could learn from Iceland.

**I'm a Democrat because I think and because I care.**

# Bush is Breaking The Constitution

by **Martha Sullivan**

The American people need their senators to stand up to and stop the ridiculous notion of a unitary president who is able to waive over two centuries of checks and balances, following our Constitution. The Constitution and Bill of Rights have managed to survive a second war with Britain (1812), a civil war, two world wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and sundry smaller wars since without breaking.

Don't sully the memory of Americans who died in and lived through those conflicts by letting the Bush administration's hyped war on terror break our Constitution. Our Constitution is what holds this country together -- it bridges religion, gender, race, sexual orientation, income and language. Don't let them break the one thing that holds the U.S. together.



## Bush Abuses Presidential Wartime Powers

by **Lee Purrier**

It is important to challenge the notion that we are at WAR so wartime powers apply. Presidents cannot simply declare WAR to give themselves additional powers. If that were the case, they would have a WAR going on all the time. The WAR on terror is no more a WAR than the WAR on crime, drug trafficking, disease, and natural disasters so it needs to be put back into that perspective. The Democrats must show that we put forth all reasonable resistance to these threats. We must intelligently oppose spending huge sums of the peoples' money on favored defense contractors without a clear definition of objectives and detailed planning on how to achieve them.

Although recognizing that impeachment is unlikely until the Democrats regain control of the congress, it should be a key topic if only to educate the voting public on the impeachable actions this administration has taken. It is disturbing to hear recent polls which show that 40% of Americans don't know that there are 3 separate branches of government and what their functions are. Most believe the President has all powers once elected. This should be an opening for the Democrats to fill. We need simple ads with educational content so the people have something to compare the two parties relative to our constitution and governmental processes established to support it. Bush's repudiation of the constitution is a violation of his oath of office to "uphold the constitution" and his support of torture, wire tapping and communications interception is illegal, unnecessary, and produce little, if any, favorable results.



## What's Scarier than Al-Qaida?

by **Scott Currier**

Am I concerned about terrorist threats from groups like Al-Qaida? Only as long as the people who were on watch during 9/11 are in charge. This administration feeds off of and grows stronger from the fear they generate with the American public. They very well may have known we were about to be attacked and didn't act to prevent it. Now, spying on American citizens without court oversight is being sold to us by the same liars that hoodwinked congress into giving them authority to invade Afghanistan. How did we wind up in Iraq? Scary is no checks and balances. Scary is being lied to by the people you entrust your safety. Scary is seeing billions and billions of our hard earned dollars being wasted or stolen and no congressional oversight. Do terrorists concern me? Not as much as another four years of Republicans controlling congress.

## Poway City Council Offers Assistance to Hurricane Victims

by Marijo Van Dyke

I want to say how proud I am of our club's leadership in encouraging the Poway City Council to show more generosity toward the folks who landed in our area after the hurricanes in the Gulf.

It's so easy for an affluent community like Poway to contribute money to a disaster fund feeling as though we've done our civic duty. But in this case, the tragedy was so great and the need so vast that much more was required in order to show the victims of that tragedy who arrived in our midst that we care about them and want to help them settle here, if that is their desire. The Council responded with enthusiasm thanks to our club's appeal to their sense of compassion. According to newspaper accounts, there are ten families who have been befriended by the people of Poway, including placement in affordable apartment units, help with acquiring jobs, household goods and whatever is needed.

To me this is the essence of the values I hold dear as a Democrat. Thank you, Dorothy Gesick and Pete Babich.



## How to Manipulate the Common Folk

by Judy Ki

See if this sounds familiar: "Naturally, the common people don't want war. But, after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag people along whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country."

You may think this quote sounds like President Bush or someone from Bush's administration. Actually, these words were spoken by Hermann Goering, Adolf Hitler's Reich-Marshall at the Nuremberg Trials after WWII. Scary, isn't it?



## Environmental Groups Oppose North County SDG&E Line

by Martha Sullivan

I have very important information for **PDC** members. San Diego Gas & Electric Company has proposed a highly controversial SUNRISE POWERLINK which is a 120-mile-long, \$1.4 billion line that the utility says is needed to ensure an adequate supply of electricity for the region. This proposed power line is opposed by several community groups as well as by the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Besides being a visual monstrosity, the new lines are extremely noisy, emit electromagnetic fields, prevent the use of air tankers in case of a fire and generally reduce the value of homes without any compensation.

Although an exact route has not yet been designated, it appears the line would start in Imperial County and cross the northern backcountry of San Diego County... After converging, the lines could then stretch southwest, possibly through Santa Ysabel, Ramona and **Poway** ---- just south of Highway 67 ---- into Mira Mesa and Rancho Penasquitos. It's time to take decisive action BEFORE this huge power line ends up cutting through Poway. For more information, click on PEOPLES POWERLINK at [www.jeeniforcongress.com/discussion](http://www.jeeniforcongress.com/discussion).

The bumper sticker shown below was spotted on a recent trip to Washington, DC.  
--- Contributed by Barb Salice



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Many thanks to all **PDC** members who took the time to write the thoughtful and thought-provoking editorials printed on this special page. I hope all **PDC** members find these editorials informative and interesting. I look forward to receiving a new batch to be printed in the next newsletter.

Editorials may be submitted for inclusion on **THE THINKING DEMOCRATS PAGE** regarding any politically-oriented local, state or federal issue. Length is limited to 250 words. Submit editorials via E-mail to [info@PowayDemocraticClub.org](mailto:info@PowayDemocraticClub.org) or sent via regular mail to **PDC, PO BOX 28, POWAY, CA 92074**. Please watch for information from **PDC** regarding the submission deadline for the next newsletter.

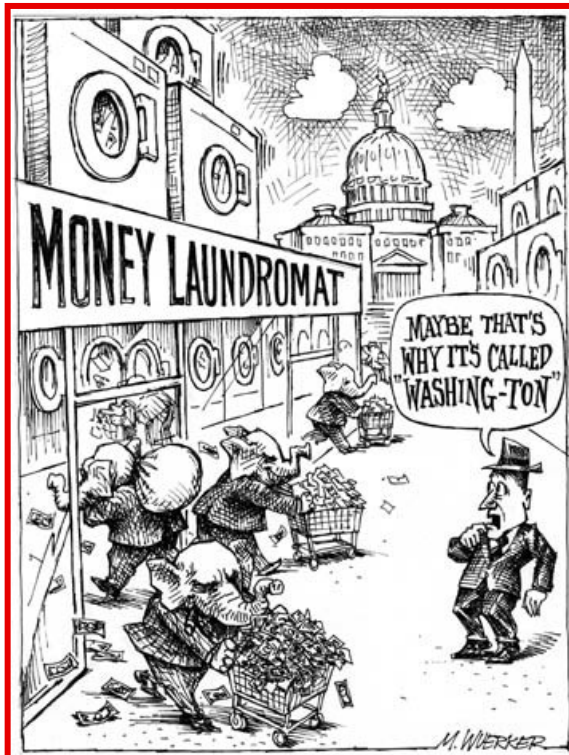
## TICKLE YOUR POLITICAL FUNNY BONE

Winning Political Cartoon Entry

The winning cartoon entry for this **PDC** issue was drawn by

**Matt Wuerker**  
from  
**THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS**

Contributed by  
an anonymous  
**PDC** member



## SAVE THE DATE!!!



Mix & mingle with your new **PDC** pals at our special **ENVIRONMENT ISSUES GENERAL PDC MEETING & POTLUCK**

•  
SATURDAY  
APRIL 8  
NOON – 3pm

•  
Stay tuned for announcements on location & special guest speakers

## PDC President's Message

The **Poway Democratic Club** is off to a great start. We have more than doubled our membership in six months and expect to grow to over 250 members by the end of 2006. With a critical mass that size, the **PDC** can become a strong political force influencing the politics of our city, county, state, and country. Our growth and influence is timely as the June Primary and November General elections are fast approaching. We can make a significant difference with our effort to increase the Poway Democratic voter turnout and increase the number Poway Democratic voters.

Of course, these objectives will not be achieved just because we stated them. It will require contributions from each of you. Our first strategy is to identify community coordinators for each Poway precinct. There are 68 precincts in Poway with registered voters. **PDC** members reside in twenty-two of those precincts. If a **PDC** member would accept responsibility to be the coordinator of their precinct, it would go a long way toward improving Democratic voter turnout. I am volunteering to be the coordinator of my precinct. I hope you will choose to volunteer to coordinate your precinct.

Once we get a core group of coordinators identified, we plan to conduct training and provide material to support precinct development. The job does require a little effort. But if you don't do it, who will? If we all do a little bit, collectively it will have a huge impact.

Another way you can support the **PDC** is by volunteering for one of our open positions. We need a Secretary, Voter Registration Chair, City Involvement Chair and Hospitality Chair. If you can help with any of these positions, it would be very much appreciated. We have a dedicated group of volunteers, but we need to spread the work.



I'm looking forward to 2006. I'm confident the **PDC** will lead the way toward creating a better city, county, state, and country.



Pete Babich

**KLSD** is San Diego's own progressive talk radio station featuring Stacy Taylor, Al Franken, Ed Schultz, Randi Rhodes, "Scooter" and others!

Tune in at AM1360

**PDC MUGS  
FOR SALE!!!  
EXTRA LARGE**

**Great for Valentine's  
Day gifts, anniversaries,  
weddings, birthdays.... \$10 each**



POWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB WEBSITE: [www.PowayDemocraticClub.org](http://www.PowayDemocraticClub.org)

## PDC Meetings, Special Events & Announcements

<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
FEBRUARY 19, 2006 SUNDAY NOON – 2:00pm	MEET FRANCINE BUSBY CANDIDATE FOR 50 <sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS- IONAL DISTRICT	ESCONDIDO CHALICE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION. RSVP TO MELODIE AT melodie@busbyforcongress.org OR 760-753-6300
MARCH 3, 2006 FRIDAY 7:00pm – 10:00pm	ANTI-WAR RALLY & PANEL DISCUSSION WITH Q&A. PANEL INCLUDES CINDY SHEEHAN, ANN WRIGHT & DAVID SWANSON	U.C.S.D. AT PRICE CENTER THEATER SEE <a href="http://www.activistsandiego.org">www.activistsandiego.org</a> FOR MORE INFORMATION (OR SEE PDC MEMBER JUDY KI)
MARCH 4, 2006 SATURDAY 6:00pm – 10:00pm	NORTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC UNITY "MARDI GRAS & CASINO NIGHT" - FUNDRAISER FOR NORTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	LAKE SAN MARCOS COUNTRY CLUB CALL 760-752-9530 FOR INFORMATION
MARCH 9, 2006 THURSDAY 7:00 – 8:30pm	PDC GENERAL MEETING	TO BE ANNOUNCED. WATCH FOR POST- CARDS, E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PDC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
APRIL 8, 2006 SATURDAY NOON – 3:00pm	PDC GENERAL MEETING - SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL THEME POTLUCK MEETING – OUTDOORS!!!	CONNIE MESSINA'S PATIO – WATCH FOR POSTCARDS, E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PDC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON SPEAKERS & POTLUCK



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Poway, CA 92074