

THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

Michael Jackson, Health Care and Change

Jack Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2

The Kendall County Democratic Club will **not** hold it's regular monthly meeting during July and August. The club normally meets at 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Boerne ISD at 123 Johns Road on the first Thursday of every month. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for details.

July 4

Independence Day. Don't forget to hang your flag out. Head over to Boerne City Park at sundown to see the fireworks display.

July 9

Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club meeting will be a field trip to the LBJ Library in Austin where the group will receive a personally guided tour. Call Jean Robitaille at 830 981-4971 for details.

July 14

Blue Tuesday social get-together for Democrats at the Dodging Duck Pub on River Road. 6:00 PM. Anything you want to talk about as long as it is Democratic.

July 25

Kendall County Area Democratic Women are sponsoring a wine and hors d'oeuvres tasting at 6:30 PM in the Hampton Inn in Boerne. The featured speaker will be Tom Scheiffer, brother of the famous broadcaster and former Ambassador to Japan and Australia. Tickets are \$25, call Claire Gluck at 210 426-7749 for details and reservations.

Forgive me for saying this, but as I see the nationwide—worldwide—focus on the Michael Jackson passing, I can't help but note that tens of thousands of Americans will die this year simply because they don't have health care. Michael Jackson was a fabulous talent and hundreds of millions were affected by his magic. But we're **all** affected by health care.

We're all going to face medical trauma, or chronic pain maintenance, and as often as not, long-term care, whether due to fighting a disease or the need for 24-hour oversight. So while we may or may not have Michael Jackson in our iPods or our music libraries, we **all** will have medical needs that will require either vast wealth to pay for, insurance to cover, or governmental assistance.

And while the American health system has some of the best care available in the world, if the insurance company says "no" to that needed procedure, you're out of luck. If you don't happen to have hundreds of thousands in savings, the treatment that could save you...won't.

So as I watch the 24-hour news networks spend those 24 hours doing easy television—presenting this peripheral friend or that psychologist who once crossed paths with Michael Jackson—I have to wonder, what would happen if they spent a few of those hours doing **real** investigative journalism about the American health care system. What if the energy that's gone worldwide into mourning over Mr. Jackson's passing could instead be used to find a solution that works for American taxpayers? Sometimes our focus on the near-trivial and our inattention to the absolutely critical astounds me.

The Republicans tell us National Health Care can't be done, yet we're the only civilized country in the world that hasn't. Do the Republicans just think we're a witless, clueless generation that can't face difficult tasks? Maybe they're just all too aware of how incapable their leaders have been and can't fathom tackling huge issues instead of ignoring them.

And isn't it ironic that there's a song Michael Jackson wrote which has a profound message about the concept and **actuality** of change? It's a message that couldn't be any more applicable to Health Care, to Republicans, to any and all of us. It's called ***Man in the Mirror***, and I quote a brilliant part from it below:

*I'm Starting With The Man In The Mirror
I'm Asking Him To Change His Ways
No Message Could Have Been Any Clearer
If You Wanna Make The World A Better Place
Take A Look At Yourself, And Then Make A...Change*

Club News

Another reminder—there will be no club meetings during July and August. Our next meeting will be September 3. But don't take a vacation from participating in Democratic events—as noted below, the Woman's Club will visit the LBJ library on July 9. The club is also sponsoring a wine tasting/political rally featuring Tom Schieffer who will be one of the main candidates for the Democratic nomination for Governor next year on July 25.

Did you see the Democrats marching in the Bergesfest Parade on Saturday, June 20?

Take a moment on July 4 to reflect on what the establishment of our nation in 1776 has meant to mankind. People around the world have come to look upon the United States as standing for the rights of people to free themselves from the control of larger, more militarily stronger nations and to have the right to govern themselves. Unfortunately in recent years as we have become involved in the politics of some foreign nations we have drifted away from the ideals implied by our own Declaration of Independence. How can we return to the ideas outlined by our founders?

As mentioned above, **the Kendall County Area Woman's Club is sponsoring a visit to the LBJ Library in Austin on July 9.** Plans are for car pools to leave Boerne about 8:30 or so in the morning. The tour of the library will be conducted by Carol Carpenter's daughter-in-law who is an architect working on the updating of the library. In the afternoon, the library is having a special program in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. After lunch those who want to see the special program will return to the library while those who want to skip the program and return to Boerne will depart. Please call Jean Robitaille at 830 981-4971 if you would like to go.

Also, don't miss the Woman's Club combination wine tasting and political rally on July 25. Tom Schieffer will be the speaker. This will be an unusual opportunity to size him up one-on-one and find out where he stands on the many issues of concern to us including CHIP funding, toll roads, increased funding for facilities such as nursing homes, etc. The wines available for tasting will be selected by Sergio Ayotte of the Boerne Wineseller. Sergio knows his stuff as he was formerly a wine buyer for Costco and HEB. Costco, as many know, is the largest wine seller in the country and it's buyers were always given VIP treatment by the vineyards as they roamed the world looking for the best bargains in wine. Tickets are \$25. Call Claire Gluck at 210 426-7749 for reservations.

Membership in the Club is payable yearly starting in January. We suggest an annual contribution of \$20 per person (payable to KCDC). If you enjoy receiving the *Kendallian* as a way of keeping up with local Democratic activities but cannot be an active member, we would appreciate a contribution to cover the cost of the stamps. If you would prefer to receive the *Kendallian* by E-MAIL or if you would like for us to take your name off our mailing list please let us know. **Sarah White is our treasurer. Her address is 138 Stonegate South, Boerne, Texas 78006. Her phone is 830 755-8794.**

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