

THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1

The club meets at 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Boerne ISD at 123 Johns Road. Lainey Melnick, a gracious lady, who is running against that carpetbagger Lamar Smith to represent us in Congress, will speak at the meeting. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for details.

October 8

The Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Boerne at 10:00 AM. This is the final planning session for the Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner. Call Claire Gluck at 210 426-7749 for details.

October 12

Columbus Day. How different would the history of the western hemisphere be if the New World had been discovered by somebody else?

October 13

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 either humorous or Democratic.

October 17

Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner at the Boerne Convention Center beginning at 6:00 PM. Bill White, Mayor of Houston and candidate for the Democratic nomination for US Senator, will speak. \$25 Donation. Call Gwen King at 830 755-4434 for tickets or details.

October 31

Halloween. If you are out driving this night, be careful of all the little kids who might be in the neighborhood.

What The National Parks Say About Us

Jack Morgan

Ken Burns' new epic *The National Parks* airs starting Sunday on your local PBS station. I encourage you to watch because it serves as a reminder of what we can be as a country, and as a people, when we're actually smart. When we think **grandly**. And when we think for all time instead of for our tiny slice of it.

I've seen chunks of the film and there are a few themes that emerge to me:

- There was a time when every last corner of this country could have been exploited in any fashion imaginable, if only you had the means to make it happen. Picture the Grand Canyon as the theme park **Canyonland** to imagine what might have been done. Had Muir and Roosevelt not stepped forward, rest assured, there would be a **Canyonland**.
- The National Parks only happened because people of broad mind allowed a radical thought to take root: that this country's magnificent wonders should be available to all as a birthright, not for just a privileged few.
- The structures and roads of National Parks that we know today were largely built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which put 3,000,000 unemployed Depression-era American men to work, and created a legacy for us all in the process. Now **that's** a government program!
- If the idea of National Parks had been conjured up these days instead of 150 years ago, those who offered up the idea would be branded socialists, communists, and traitors to this country. And I'm not in the least bit kidding.

The National Parks are a high water mark for what we can be in this country. Ken Burns calls them America's Best Idea. The idea of setting aside this country's most astounding—most exploitable areas—so that they **can't** be exploited, is almost disturbingly radical in this day and age.

This country's moved so far to the right that it's easy to imagine the private property rights folks would put Rush, Sean, Glenn, Bill and all the other blowhard idiots to work, calling the very concept an affront to the founding fathers. Despite the flags they wrap themselves in, these people simply aren't patriots. If their worldview held sway in years past, we'd have no one to call for help if our houses caught fire. We'd have no libraries at which to get a book, and only those with money would be literate. And we'd have no public broadcasting to bring us 12 remarkable hours that will remind you why you still feel a stirring in your chest when you see that flag waving in the breeze.

Club and Other News

Lainey Melnick, who is running for the Democratic nomination to take on Lamar Smith next year, will be the speaker at our meeting this Thursday evening (October 1). Lainey, who is from Austin, gives her experience as that of a small business owner, an executive of a high tech firm, a community organizer, and a mother and grandmother. If we can get Lainey elected we will finally have someone who actually lives in the 21st District to represent us in Congress. Come to the meeting and learn more about this fine lady.

The annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, sponsored by the Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club, will take place starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday evening, October 17 at the Boerne Convention Center. As mentioned, Houston Mayor Bill White, will be the speaker. Bill is campaigning to be the Democratic nominee in a special election to replace US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson once Hutchinson resigns as she has promised to do. A few of you might not know that White is the nephew of our own neighbor, Helen Shinn. This is a very worthwhile event to attend. It is the main fundraiser for the Woman's Club who has donated over \$30,000 to local and statewide Democratic candidates in just the few years since the club was founded. Give Gwen King a call at 830 755-4434 if you would like tickets or reservations.

A few hardy souls did show up for the MoveOn.Org demonstration in front of the San Antonio office of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. They stood there for about an hour getting soaked in a driving rainstorm (ask Jean Robitaille how it was) with about 75 other demonstrators. The demonstrators held up signs for passing motorists declaring the advantages of the so-called Public Option in the health care bills now making their way through Congress. One of the main objectives of the demonstration was to draw coverage from some of the TV stations in San Antonio and at least three stations were there and some of their coverage did appear on several of the evening newscasts. About a dozen counter demonstrators got wind of the demonstration and showed up which lead to a mildly tense atmosphere toward the end of the hour.

Just to remind everyone, there will be an election on Tuesday November 3 to approve or reject eleven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. Several of the amendments deal with the touchy subject of the evaluation of property for tax purposes. Copies of the amendments will be available for club members at the next meeting. You should research these amendments and decide how you are going to vote prior to entering the voting booth.

At the last club meeting President Mary Lowery appointed a search committee to identify officers to serve next year. If you would like to volunteer for one of the positions or to help the club in any way, please call Sarah White at 830 755-8794 or Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271.

Are you aware that the health insurance industry has an anti-trust exemption? One senator says that the only other industry that has such a sweetheart deal is baseball. Because of the exemption the health insurance industry cannot be prosecuted under Federal anti-trust laws for restricting competition through activities such as price fixing, bid rigging, and reserving various portions of the market for different companies. Some in Congress would like to take the anti-trust exemption away from the industry but most seem to think that this is unlikely to happen as part of the health reform measure now being debated in Congress.

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.**

**KCDC
P. O. Box 1396
Boerne, Texas 78006**