



April 22, 2009, 6:30 pm

Eli Reyna

Orange County Human Relations Commission

Social 6:30; Speaker 7:00

Green Valley Community Center

17250 Los Jardines West, Fountain Valley

(Between Warner and Slater)



Eli Reyna is an Orange County Human Relations Commissioner and is also their Community Relations and Marketing Director. In his work with the County Human Relations Commission Mr. Reyna has developed a variety of human relations videos and training materials on stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, racism, cultural

competency and mediation.

Eli Reyna is a leading voice on hate crime issues and was appointed to the California Civil Rights Commission on Hate Crimes with California Attorney General Bill Lockyer in 2002. During the last ten years, Mr. Reyna's workshops and conferences on social justice issues have reached people in many universities and colleges in the U.S., Mexico, Peru and Spain. In 2000 he was one of the panelist for "One America: A President's Initiative on Race" brought together by President Bill Clinton.

In addition to his work on the Commission he co-founded Buendía Productions in 1994 which has produced and developed videos and curricula on a variety of issues affecting youth, law enforcement and diverse communities.

One of Eli's staples is the comedy in almost everything he creates. In 1993 he was invited to perform at the Ice House of Pasadena. He wrote/directed "Crossing the Lines," a three video series on race relations using comedy as a tool to address difficult human relations issues.

Eli came to the United States in 1983, from Mexico, with little understanding of the English language. Seven years later he graduated cum laude from Chapman University as the "Outstanding Senior Man of the Year," and appeared in "Who's Who in American Students." He holds a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Chapman University in Television and Film Production and a graduate certificate from UCLA.

Please join us for what will undoubtedly be an instructive and entertaining evening. ###

Why We Need the OC Human Relations Commission—Steph Campbell

In February the FBI director announced that the FBI would no longer engage with CAIR, the largest Muslim-American civil rights organization. It did so because of concerns that CAIR leadership is tied to Hamas.

The result of this disengagement is the end of CAIR's sensitivity training for FBI agents.

At the same time it has been revealed that the FBI had informants in Orange County mosques. From July 2006

to October 2007 a paid informant to the FBI was spying on thousands of Muslims in Orange County in order to collect evidence of jihadist rhetoric and other allegedly extremist acts. This is all according to a report in the L.A. Times.

According to Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR in Anaheim, the result is that people are avoiding the mosques, reducing donations and eliminating open political discussion. Draw your own conclusions. ###

The Founding Fathers' Religious Reasons for Separation of Church and State

**Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Orange County Chapter - General Meeting**

Saturday, April 18th at 2:00 pm

Irvine Ranch Water District¹ 15600 Sand Canyon Ave. (at Waterworks) in Irvine



Our next speaker will be Dr. Barbara McGraw, a strong supporter of separation of church and state and the founder of the Center for Engaged Religious Pluralism at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Dr. McGraw will talk about the founding fathers from a religious perspective and why they believed in the separation of church and state.

Ever wonder why separationists and the religious right can find quotes from the American founders to support their very divergent views? She will show that the answer to that seeming inconsistency is that both the separationists and the religious right are "half right" and "half wrong" about what the founders accomplished. Dr. McGraw will be looking to the past to find a way to understand how the two "half rights" can pave the way for an American future that preserves the separation of church and state, while also welcoming religious voices in the public square.

Dr. McGraw received her Juris Doctor from USC in 1984 and her Ph.D. in Religion and Social Ethics also from USC in 1999. She has taught at Saint Mary's College of California since 1998. She was a finalist in the "Religion and Politics Division" Book Award Competition for her book "Rediscovering America's Sacred Ground: Public Religion and Pursuit of the Good in a Pluralistic America." Her interests include:

- Religion, Moral Values, and Pluralism in American Public Life
- Religion in America
- Interfaith Leadership
- The World Religions and Social Ethics Issues
- Political Theology and Political/Economic Culture
- Civil Discourse Across Sacred Boundaries

We hope that you will join in the discussion!

¹ Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.

For more information:

www.au-oc.org or email: orangecountyau@yahoo.com
Fax: 714-515-4248 or call: 714-299-4551 or 714-957-0748

The May 19th Special Election—Steph Campbell

All the propositions were put on the ballot by the legislature and are supported by a motley group of politicians including Schwarzenegger, Karen Bass, Steve Westley and others. It seems easier for them to put them on the ballot than to do their jobs. None of them seem interested in making hard choices and take the very necessary step of raising taxes.

Democratic Party recommendations on the props are not yet available; during the week of April 27th their recommendations should be posted on the CDP web site at www.cadem.org.

The League of Women Voters opposes 1A, 1C, 1D and 1E and has taken no position on either 1B or 1F.

I have also provided Calitics polling information (Calitics (www.calitics.com) is an online progressive community providing a platform to California progressives for discussion of issues and elections – mostly Dems but not all.)

Here's what we're going to be voting on:

Proposition 1A: State Budget. Changes California Budget Process. Limits State Spending. Increases "Rainy Day" Budget Stabilization Fund.

This proposition increases the size of the state "rainy day" fund from 5% to 12.5% of the General Fund. If this passes several tax increases that were passed in February 2009 would be extended by 1-2 years.

The additional tax comes from the Vehicle License Fee (the same vehicle license fee that cost us Governor Gray Davis and left us with the Governor we have today.) The tax rate increases the fee from 0.65 percent of the vehicle's value to 1.15%. Personal Income Tax rates also increase with higher tax rates charged as income goes up. Each tax rate with go up by .25 of 1 percent

Calitics Poll: : 39% of registered voters favor it, 46% oppose it and 15% are undecided.

{Steph's Vote: **Yes** – Note that the funding in 1B is tied to passage of 1A—from the polling it's clear most voters don't realize the tie-in.}

Proposition 1B: Education Funding.

This proposition requires supplemental payments to local school districts and community colleges. Over 5,000 teachers have been laid off and \$12 billion gone from our schools. This proposition starts paying schools back as the economy improves.

Calitics Poll: 44% yes, 41% no, 15% undecided.

{Steph's Vote: **Yes** – Who could be against this?}

Proposition 1C: Lottery Modernization Act.

This one allows the lottery to be modernized to improve

performance with increased payouts, improved marketing and management. It protects funding levels for schools but increased revenues will be used to address current deficits and reduce the need for additional tax increases. It allows the state to borrow from future lottery profits (\$5 billion)

Calitics Poll: 37% yes, 50% no, 11% undecided.

{Steph's Vote **No** – It sounds a lot like 'pie in the sky' to me. And why pay for all this modernization and marketing cost? }

Proposition 1D: Protects Children's Services Funding. Helps Balance State Budget.

Temporarily provides flexibility in funding to preserve health and human services for young children while helping balance the budget. Savings in the budget are achieved by corresponding **reduction** in funding for early childhood development programs. The theoretical "protection" comes from taking money from the tobacco fund and moving it into children's' services.

Calitics Poll: 37% yes, 50% no, 11% undecided.

{Steph's Vote **No** – Doesn't sound like protection to me. }

Proposition 1E: Mental Health Services Funding. Temporary Reallocation. Helps Balance State Budget.

Balances state budget by amending the Mental Health Services Act to transfer its funds to achieve General Fund savings. The original funding for Mental Health Services was approved by the voters under Proposition 63.

Calitics Poll: 47% yes, 37% no, 16% undecided

{Steph's Vote **No** – Why would we take money away from mental health services – sounds like a travesty to me. }

Proposition 1F: Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years.

This prevents members of the legislature and statewide constitutional officers from receiving pay raises in years when the state is running a deficit. The Citizens Compensation Commission established in 1990 could not increase elected officials' salaries when the state Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties is negative by 1% or more of the General Fund. Both the House and Senate voted unanimously for this one – why couldn't they just do it – why send it to the voters.

Calitics Poll: 81% yes, 13% no, 6 % undecided

{Steph's Vote **Yes** – It doesn't save a significant amount of money but when so many of us are living in a wage freeze environment, why shouldn't they have to do the same?}###

Eliminating Nuclear Weapons—Steph Campbell

You will have heard by now that President Obama called for the elimination of nuclear weapons on his recent trip to Europe. He is supported in this endeavor by an organization called Global Zero. Global Zero was launched in December of last year by 100 leaders from around the world with the stated goal of eliminating these weapons. When they launched this organization, these 100 leaders signed a declaration which states: " We, the undersigned, believe that to protect our children, our grandchildren and our civilization from the threat of nuclear catastrophe, we must eliminate all nuclear weapons globally. We therefore commit to working for a legally binding verifiable agreement, including all nations, to eliminate nuclear weapons by a date certain." Among the signatories are Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu, Anthony Lake and Mikhail Gorbachev to name just a few.

You too can sign the declaration and pass the word on. They are looking for people all around the world to sign to reflect strong international public support . Check out

their web site and please sign the declaration at www.globalzero.org.

The organization has identified the following broad steps to meet this goal:

- ... Deep reductions to the Russian and US arsenals which comprise 96% of the world's arsenal.
- ... Cutting arsenals in all nuclear weapons state to zero in phased and verified reductions.
- ... Establishing verification systems and methods to prevent future development of nuclear weapons.

The people behind this organization are pragmatic and skilled in international politics. They know how difficult a task they have before them and that it will be a long time to get from where we are today to the worldwide elimination of these weapons.

But they can't do it without strong support throughout the global community. Please do your part. ###

Treasurer's Report: Club Account Balance: \$10,005

The New Chair of the DNC? Or Why I Miss Howard Dean - Steph Campbell



The new chair of the DNC is Governor Tim Kaine of Virginia, a lawyer and Harvard grad, like Obama. He got his start in politics in 1994, running for a City Council seat, and became Mayor of Richmond in 1998. Then a term as lieutenant governor, and governor since 2006 -- the same year Obama became a Senator.

What kind of a leader is he? He has signed legislation that will funnel thousands of dollars to so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" in Virginia through "Choose Life" license plates. "Crisis pregnancy centers" are deceptive fake clinics that mislead women, and promote extreme, anti-choice views to stop women from exercising their right to choose. (The same kind of clinics that the Orange County Board of Supervisors is planning to divert Planned Parenthood to.)

He's also outlawed cul-de-sacs in new developments in Virginia.

And what's he doing for the party? Well, not much. In February under his leadership the DNC raised \$3.2 mil-

lion; when Dean ran the Party he raised \$5.5 million in February 2006. And how is incompetent Michael Steele doing for the GOP? He raised \$5.1 million in February.

Why should we care about this? Well here are two good reasons. First he has just selected a panel to reform the party's presidential-candidate picking process. And who did he pick to chair it? Senator Claire McCaskill of the newly formed Centrist Caucus—the caucus that also includes Senator Joe Lieberman! And second his name is now being talked about as the 2012 vice-presidential pick in Obama's re-election bid.

On the bright side CNBC has announced that Howard Dean will be a commentator . While Tim Kaine is using 'Choose Life' license plates, Howard Dean is urging passage of the same-sex marriage bill.

Who is the real liberal here? Howard Dean outclasses Kaine and Obama!



Talking Points—Richard Gillock

Last week the Senate voted to let the United States drive off a cliff with the whole world as passengers. The Senate resoundingly defeated a measure that would have “fast tracked” climate change in the budget. This would have allowed future votes on climate change legislation, already funded in the budget, to take place with a majority vote and bypass potential filibusters by Republicans. This means that “Cap and Trade” legislation to limit green house emissions, will face a certain Republican filibuster. The vote on fast tracking was 67 to 31 with all Republicans and 26 Democrats voting to cut the throats of America’s children.

The traitor in our midst was Democratic Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana. He announced his “Centrist Democratic Caucus” on March 17 with 15 members, of which 3 refused to be identified. This is similar to, and includes many of the same names (at least those who are still left in the Senate) that signed onto, the “New Democratic Coalition” that Evan Bayh set up in 2001. Several additional Democrats joined this new “Judas Caucus” in the budget vote.

OK, Evan Bayh is still running for President, and always will be. He has a smile, he has hair, and he has no moral principles whatsoever! He should be a shoe in.

Bayh represents the “me first” political side of the Democratic Senate, but what about the “patriotic side” that were elected to take care of this country? Where is their clout? Where is the Barbara Boxer Caucus?

This is yet another demonstration of the lack of leadership we have in the Senate. Senator Harry Reid is a failure.

Democrats and Republicans both talk about how Senator Reid is a “nice guy.” That’s fine if you are a greeter at Wal-Mart. What we need is a Senate Majority Leader who is angry about the mess this country is in and is willing to fight to put it back together. Senator Bernie Sanders comes to mind, but he has so much integrity he doesn’t belong to either party.

I’m tired of “politics of the possible.” I want the “politics of the necessary.” If the Senate can’t join forces to save the world, what chance is there for universal healthcare or veterans’ benefits?

Good old Harry lets his Democrats vote however they want if it’s an issue that might hurt their re-election, or worse yet, their fund raising. That’s unacceptable. The Majority Leader might allow one or two to defect on a ma-

yor piece of Obama’s legislation if you’re sure you have the votes you need for it to pass, but the bottom line is that the legislation has to pass.

A block of Democrats in the Senate who caucus with the Republicans cannot be allowed. To allow this is to split the party and destroy the results of the 2008 election. We won! Why is it already falling apart?

We have to go back to the lack of leadership in the Senate. Our Majority Leader still thinks he has to ask Republicans for permission on each vote. The bi-partisan vote on the budget was Republicans zero in both houses!

Harry Reid has the power to reign in the dissidents. He has the power to reorganize committees. Evan Bayh sits on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs committee. He also sits on the Armed Services Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His wife conveniently sits on the board of directors of ten different corporations, many of which benefit from the 3,000 votes Senator Bayh has cast on legislation directly affecting those companies. [1]

One way to stop the appearance of corruption is to move committee assignments around when Senators get too cozy with industry. This would help Senators to remain more connected with their constituents, instead of their donors. Senator Bayh and others need this therapy quickly. After undermining President Obama’s work to shore up the economy and create a sustainable energy program, Senator Bayh seems ill-equipped to continue on either the Banking or Energy committees. Good riddance.

Since Harry Reid appears unable or unwilling to exercise leadership, it is up to us to demand new leadership in the Senate. We need to start with our own two Senators and let them know we are cutting them off if Harry doesn’t go. We need to make this an issue at the state and local party level. We need to make this such a vocal issue that Harry Reid steps down as Senate Majority Leader and a progressive voice with tough credentials steps in.

If we can’t make progress on meaningful climate change legislation before the December meeting in Copenhagen, then America will continue to stand in shame before the world just as it did under President Bush. To get there, we need to shape up the Senate.

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evan_Bayh

Upcoming Calendar of Interesting Events for Dems!

April 18 2:00 pm	Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Dr. Barbara McGraw of The Center of Engaged Pluralism will discuss <i>"The Founding Fathers' Religious Reasons for Separation of Church and State"</i> The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave. For additional information, see: www.au-oc.org .
April 20 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 68th Assembly District Committee. Contact them via their web site for additional information at http://www.68thad.com/contact.asp
April 22 6:30 pm	Democratic Club of West Orange County—Meeting—See Page 1 for details
April 24-26	California Democratic Party State Convention Sacramento Convention Center 13th & J Streets, Sacramento
April 25 10:00 am	Irvine Global Warming Group, Waste Management's Irvine Recycling Center near Jamboree & Barranca 16122 Construction Circle Irvine, CA 92606 Guided Tour with presentation at the Waste Management Recycling Center of Irvine: meetup.com/Irvine-Global-Warming-Group/calendar/9929278
April 27 7:00 pm	Orange County Central Committee. All Democrats are welcome. Carpenter's Hall, 1816 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange.
May 4	Last day to register to vote in the May 19th Special Election
May 6 7:00 pm	Democracy For America at Karl Strauss Brewery, 901 South Coast Drive, Costa Mesa
May 9 6:00 pm	Reclaim Democracy: Screening of "Manufactured Landscapes" Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave, www.reclaimdemocracyoc.org for more information.
May 13 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 67th Area Wide Democratic Alliance; International Association of Machinists Hall, 5402 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach. For more details see http://www.67thad.com .
May 16 2:00 pm	Americans United for Separation of Church and State. William Lobdell author of <i>Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America — and Found Unexpected Peace</i> The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave. For additional information, see: www.au-oc.org .
May 16 7:00 am	OC AIDS Walk—Angel Stadium, For additional information, see: aidswalk.org/oc
May 19	Election Day
Jun 6	UNIFEM Walk Join UNIFEM for a fun 5-mile walk along Huntington Beach to take a stand against violence against women for UNIFEM's United Nations Development Fund for Women. Meet at Huntington State Beach Park. \$10 donation. Contact stephaniepa@socal.rr.com for further details.

May Dynamic Democrat Submissions due on May-6-2009

Dynamic Democrat's Picture of the Month!



March, just like February was all about the economy. Here we show people taking to the street to protest corporate greed. Is there good news in any of this? There is some. On March 19th President Obama vowed to end the culture of corporate greed. Easier said than

done. Meanwhile over at Citigroup they announced on March 29th that they are going to lay off its 65 office cleaners who are part of SEIU. SEIU spokesperson said "What's really ironic, is that of these low-wage workers a number of them have outstanding loans and mortgages from Citigroup. How will they pay their bills now? Probably they'll go on public assistance." ###

Message From The President—Jo Anne Jennings

I was surprised by the decision of the Board of Supervisors to remove funding for sex education through Planned Parenthood because they offer abortions. Pro-Life advocates base their opposition on religious faith and our Constitution guarantees separation of church and state. This alone should determine the actions of our supervisors.

As a Pro-Choice advocate, I'm not Pro-Abortion! An unwanted pregnancy can be a tragedy for a mother and family. Giving up an infant for adoption, even to a loving family, can leave scars on the birth mother and often on the child. An abortion leaves an emotional trauma as well. People often assume that abortion is used as birth control by unwed mothers, but that is simply not the case. For a variety of reasons - health, financial, etc.- married women also request abortions. Abortion is not a decision taken lightly or easily. As Obama said during the

campaign, we must walk in a woman's shoes before we judge her. This is between a woman and her doctor.

The only way to avoid these unhappy or if you're Pro-Life immoral actions is through good sex education and family planning. This is one of the programs the Board of Supervisors would end. They believe abstinence only programs are the only ones that deserve their support. As Bristol Palin said in a television interview, abstinence is best, but it's not realistic. There's a part of me that wonders if abstinence is what you preach, why is it always focused on girls and women? Don't boys and men have a responsibility too? As a friend once reminded me, women can only procreate every nine months whereas men can procreate 365 times a year!

If you haven't already, consider contacting the Board of Supervisor and let them know your position. ###

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Membership Application
Democratic Club of West Orange County

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Remember:
April 22nd—6:30 pm
Eli Reyna**

NEXT DCWOC MEETING –6:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, April 22, 2009