

THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2

The Kendall County Democratic Club will hold it's regular monthly meeting in the Board Room of the Boerne ISD at 123 Johns Road in Boerne. 7:00 PM. The program features a debate between the candidates running for a place on the Boerne School Board. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for details.

April 9

Monthly meeting of the Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club. 10:00 AM at the Holiday Inn Express in Boerne. Call Jean Robitaille at 830 981-4971 for details.

April 12

Easter. Don't forget to color your Easter eggs and hold an Easter egg hunt. (Does anyone know how this tradition originated?)

April 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. What are we going to do about the threat of the "Conservadems" in the Senate? Are they going to kill any or all of Obama's programs?

April 27

Early voting for the Boerne ISD Board begins. Kendall County voters will be able to vote early at the courthouse. Bexar County voters will be able to vote at all Bexar County early voting locations as well as Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall.

The Wisdom of Ken Burns

Jack Morgan

I recently had the opportunity to spend 4 or 5 hours over two days in the company of filmmaker Ken Burns. In case you've spent the last couple of decades in a coma, Burns is responsible for probably the best string of documentaries in the history of the medium: "**The Civil War**," "**Baseball**," "**Jazz**," "**The War**," "**Lewis & Clark**" and coming this fall, "**The National Parks**." I've seen Burns speak at a couple of conferences and was struck by how passionate, intelligent and articulate he was. But there was something more that I couldn't quite identify 'til I spent a lot of time around him: He's fabulously wise.

While he's six months older than I am, he looks 15 years younger. His full head of dark hair and boyish features suggest a late-30's/early 40's guy, but he's 55 and holding. It's really a spectacle when sage concepts and ideals flow out of this seemingly young guy's mouth.

A quote which I saw play out live on MSNBC's coverage of the inaugural was when Keith Olbermann asked Burns how he rated Obama's speech. Burns: "I think this is the beginning of our third act as a country. First act, Thomas Jefferson says, "All men are created equal" but he actually means all white men, property free of debt. Four scores and seven years later, Abraham Lincoln says, "Look, we really mean it," but it's going to be another 100 years. And when Barack Obama took the oath of office, that was the beginning of our third act, of real possibilities and it also means that the civil war is over." If that doesn't stir a little patriotism in you...you probably don't have a pulse.

I didn't talk politics with Mr. Burns, but he's a known supporter of Barack Obama. What he *did* talk about was one of his next films that he's about to begin editing, "**Prohibition**." He gave a quick sketch of the film, that it was about the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing liquor. But what he said next was more interesting. Summarizing, he said Prohibition was America's greatest social experiment, a horrible failure that produced a massive crime syndicate, and tried to tell people how they should behave. He said it was the only Amendment created to do so, and the only Amendment that has been overturned.

He said government should learn to not try and determine peoples' personal behaviors, but that there always will be those who will, if we only let them do so.

Those are important words for all of us to remember. Happy spring to you all!

Club News

The biggest threat to Obama's program appears to be coming from conservative Democratic Senators. About a dozen or so conservative Senators, behind the leadership of Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana, have declared that they will not support all of Obama's programs unless they see them modified to their liking. Just one example of the changes they want: they oppose Obama's program to save \$4Billion by bypassing banks and make student loans directly to students. Without the votes of these conservative Democratic Senators, Obama does not have enough votes to pass his programs. Can you believe that after all this time of wishing for a Democratic Congress that now we have to put up with this grandstanding. These Democrats need to vote on the basis of what is right for the country and to stop trying to position themselves for the next election.

Our meeting next week will feature a debate between the candidates for the Boerne Independent School District board. There are a lot of important issues at stake regarding the education our young people receive. What are the positions of these candidates regarding evolution and the creation of the universe? How will the school district adjust to the possibility of lower property tax receipts? Any problems so far with the new high school? Will the district receive any Federal Stimulus funding and if so, what will they do with it? How are the two high schools going to work together?

Be a good citizen and come to this meeting. After all, who is to blame if the schools do things we don't like but we don't make an effort to find out what the candidates stand for or to express our opinion. We all have a responsibility to learn about who is running and their positions.

Thanks to Claire Gluck for her presentation on her career working for the State Department at the last club meeting. It may sometimes seem like it would be all fun and games living abroad, but as we learned from Claire occasionally here are also unpleasant conditions and even danger involved.

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