

# THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 3

The Kendall County Democratic Club meeting for December is cancelled. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for information.

### December 5

Weihnachts Parade in Boerne. Call Josephine Renfroe at 830 249-3318 to help put together or to ride in the Democratic float.

### December 7

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

### December 10

The Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club for December is cancelled. Call Claire Gluck at 210 426-7749 for information.

### December 15

Blue Tuesday get together for Democrats at the Dodging Duck Pub. 6:00 PM. Anything you want to talk about.

### December 17

**Holiday Party** for all Democrats at the home of the King's at 8385 Rolling Acres Trail in Fair Oaks Ranch. 6:00 PM. Bring a small dish of your favorite "finger" type tasty morsels (enough for perhaps 8 or so servings), if you like. Call Gwen at 830 755-4434 for information.

### December 21

First Day of Winter. Get the coats and snow shovels out. Lay in a supply of salt crystals in case the sidewalks freeze over.

### December 25

Christmas Day.

## You're Not All That *Jack Morgan*

In late October, Natalie and I went subterranean for a week or so. Don't think I've ever spent nearly that amount of time "down under," but vacationing in New York City, we did what most people do there: used the subway as our primary mode of travel.

Subways are much maligned and surely not without reason. They tend towards dirty. They're loud, and at times packed like sardine tins, and the stops are sometimes half a dozen blocks from where you'd like them to be. But they're also really fabulous in a whole lot of ways.

They're cheap: buy an \$89 monthly MTA card and you can go anywhere at any time, all day and all night...for the entire month. Many of us pay car loans in the \$350-a-month range. Plus insurance. Plus gasoline. Plus upkeep. So subway savings are fabulous.

They're a lesson in civics: While subway riders tend towards middle and lower classes, a **lot** of suits use the subway too. Riding a subway puts a fry cook next to a stock broker next to a college student next to a hair stylist. And when you ride a subway, you **will** touch the person next to you. Except for the off-hours, you're in very close proximity. So a subway ride is the great leveler, making us all remember whether we want to or not, that we're all made of the same stuff. In this exceptionally materialistic world, where many are measured by the car they've convinced the bank they can afford, subways are a reality check that says **get over yourself; you're not all that.**

They're a reminder that we're all in the same boat: Since all these social classes are forced into subway travel, it doesn't allow total ignorance of one social stratum to grow unchecked about another. Prejudice thrives when people of different stripes have nothing to do with one another, and in a place like New York's subways, that kind of ignorance has a hard time taking root. In other words, Hassidic Jews **will** sit right next to a mini-skirted college student who **will** sit right next to a left wing radical who will sit right next to a business manager.

They're a lesson in good government: New Yorkers figured out a **long** time ago that everyone needed to get from point A to point B, and that an economical, manageable, egalitarian way to do it was to bite the bullet and build public transport. Gouging out mile after mile of tunnels underground is a tough, expensive job. But they did it. And it works safely, cheaply and effectively. Ever been behind the wheel during a 1604/281 North's rush hour standstill? That's a lesson in **bad** government. Allowing urban sprawl carte blanche and giving good community planning not a second thought is what guarantees roadway gridlock.

So, what to take away from this? We here in Texas operate on the assumption that mass transit can't work here. We're just too individualistic to travel with a bunch of strangers and leave our cars behind. I would maintain that the salad days of our economy are over, and that everyone's looking for a way to cut expenses, and to leave a smaller footprint in the process. Each and every day we're writing what our future will be. As suggestions for light rail or other options emerge, please give it a second thought. **A Happy Holidays to one and all!**

## ***Club and Other News***

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**A Message From Our Outgoing President—Mary Lowery.** "Thank all of you for electing me president for the last two years; it has been an honor to serve. I feel there were better qualified people than me, but they chose to stay out. Richard Caldwell is going to need a great deal of support from our members and he has exciting new ideas--come to the January 7 meeting and see. Also, those of you who reserved for November 7 fundraising event (at Spinelli's Boerne Vistro) and did not show up, please get your money to Sarah White ASAP--the club had to pay for your reservation. Kudos to Jack Morgan for his exceptional production on the new River Walk Museum Reach for KLRN. If you didn't see it, look for it to run another time--good work. Wishing all of you a very happy holiday season. Mary Lowery"

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**Just another reminder that the two Democratic club's combined Holiday Party will be held on December 17 starting at 6:00 PM at the King's house in Fair Oaks Ranch. Attendees are asked to bring a small dish of tasty morsel's (perhaps enough for 8 or so people) that can be eaten with your fingers while standing or visiting with others (sit down space for eating is limited). Drinks will be provided. The address of the King's is 8385 Rolling Acres Trail, Fair Oaks Ranch. Home phone is 830 755-4434.**

Most are aware by now that **Bill White** is being urged by both statewide and national Democratic leaders to run for Texas Governor instead of the U.S. Senate. Kay Bailey Hutchinson has changed her mind about resigning from the Senate. She now says she will not resign until after the March Republican primary, leaving the idea of holding a special election to replace her in limbo. White is expected to make a decision about making this change any day now. The thought among political consultants is that now that Hutchinson is running 12 points behind Perry in Republican opinion polls (she once led by 20 points) she will stay in the Senate if she loses the March Republican primary. **Most think that in a White/Perry match up for Governor, White will be an exceptionally strong candidate and may well be the statewide favorite.**

**Our Democratic County Chairman, John Weir, is looking for people willing to become Precinct Chairs.** He has several precincts without active chairmen. Having an active chairman in every precinct is essential for a successful get-out-the-vote program. John is now in the midst of ramping up to hold the Democratic primary election next March and needs help now. If you would like to help John out either as a precinct chair or in some other capacity, please give John a call at 830 755-2387.

There seems to be growing sentiment in Washington that the recovery is not only going too slow, but that it is too uneven. Wall Street and the banks are generally doing great but people are still losing jobs and the number of housing foreclosures is increasing. More needs to be done to create jobs for working people. Secretary of the Treasury Geithner really took it on the chin at a recent congressional hearing for putting too much emphasis on bailing out Wall Street and not paying enough attention to helping working people.

**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. Until January, **Sarah White is still 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**