



From the President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is starting New Year off in good health! Many of our members were traveling, and I hope everyone has arrived home safely.

Looking back over December

Many thanks to Josephine Renfroe and her family, Richard Caldwell, John Weir, Daniel Boone, and everyone who participated in the Democratic entry in Boerne's Weihnachtsfest parade.

Also, a heartfelt thank you to Gwen and Bill King for hosting the Kendall County Democrats' holiday party. Their home was beautifully decorated for the season and everyone enjoyed their warm hospitality.

Looking Ahead to 2010

The primaries are only 2 months away—March 2—and we Democrats have some important choices to make. There are now only a few candidates for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Tom Schieffer, whom we met in July at our wine-tasting, has dropped out, as has Kinky Friedman. Former Houston mayor Bill White, whom we met at the Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, has

switched from running for U.S. Senate to the gubernatorial race and is considered the front-runner. Houston businessman Farouk Shami entered the Democratic race and has begun advertising. Also Felix Alvarado, whom we met at the KCDC's November fundraising dinner, is still in the race.

Former Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earl has filed for the Lt. Governor's race and is the only Democrat on the ballot so far. Rumored to be considering the race are labor organizer Linda Chavez-Thompson of San Antonio; Marc Katz, an Austin restaurateur; and State Senator Leticia Van De Putte of San Antonio.

For State Board of Education, District 5, we have two excellent choices: Dr. Daniel Boone and Dr. Rebecca Bell-Metereau. Lainey Melnick is running unopposed in the primary for U.S. Congress. We even have a Democrat running for a position in Kendall County! Attorney Josue Martinez is running for Justice of the Peace in County precinct 2.

On the other side of the aisle, it should be fascinating to watch Governor Perry and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison fight it out for the Republican nomination for Governor.

Claire

January Program

At our January meeting we will learn more about the upcoming races and look back at the electoral success of the many women candidates supported by Annie's List in 2008 and 2009. Genevieve Van Cleve, Deputy Political Director of Annie's List, will be with us at our January 14th meeting at 10:00 at the Holiday Inn Express in Boerne.

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Phone numbers and email addresses available in club directory

Mark Your Calendar:

January 7, 7:00 p.m.: KCDC meeting at the BISD Administration Building on Johns Road.

January 14, 10:30 a.m.: KCADW meeting at the Holiday Inn. Come hear the Deputy Political Director of Annie’s List speak about the organization’s program and the Democratic women it is supporting for office in Texas.

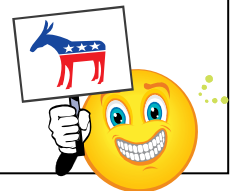
January 19, 6:00 p.m.: Blue Tuesday group meets at the Dodging Duck on River Road in Boerne Boerne

January 21, 11:00 a.m.: The KCADW Board meeting at Stu Adamslundy’s home.

February 16-26: Early voting for March 2 primary elections.

Are you receiving the *Voice* in the mail? Since you signed up, have you gotten connected to the Internet so that you could receive it online? If so, consider switching over to the electronic version. You will save the club the cost of printing and mailing and save some trees, too. Call Susanne Rupp, 698-0559.

This newsletter is intended to reach people interested in the work of the Democratic Party in general and of Kendall County Area Democratic Women specifically. To be removed from this mailing list, please contact the editor at srupp@hughes.net or 210-698-0559.



Membership Report

Sharon Huckabay
Fair Oaks Ranch

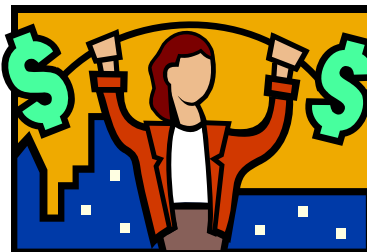
Marilyn Schwethelm
Comfort

Focus on The Future

Please plan on attending January's meeting, as we will be seeking consensus on the issue of KCADW's future.

The issue: in light of all circumstances, what is the best way for KCADW to accomplish its purpose—i.e., promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women in Texas politics and government?

- Reality Check: Like it or not, Kendall County (KC) is not one of the Texas counties trending blue in any significant way—and most likely, it won't trend blue in any significant way anytime soon. This is the key fact-of-life, or paradigm, that underpins everything else. Bottom line—Kendall County is not a target-rich environment when it comes to getting Democratic candidates elected. There just aren't very many Democratic votes coming out of Kendall County.
- In light of Kendall County's "redness," the question is how can KCADW best promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women in Texas politics?
- In short, what's the best way for KCADW (and KC Democrats) to achieve relevance?
- This state-of-affairs is at the heart of why KCADW has traditionally focused on fundraising. Fundraising has evolved as the best way to render Kendall County relevant to Democratic candidates and Democratic Party efforts statewide—primarily because it allows the group to contribute money to support Democratic candidates, especially women, around the state. Thus, key questions are:
 - Is fundraising the best way KCADW can promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women (and men) in Texas politics and government?
 - If fundraising is the best way forward, can and should the ERD be continued in its present form, in light of all that it requires, or should it be modified to accommodate current circumstances, or should some other ("easier") event replace it?
 - Are **YOU** willing to help with the ERD and other fundraising events?
 - If fundraising is not the best way forward, what is? In lieu of fundraising, how can KCADW effectively promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women (and men) in Texas politics and government?



Building a Press for the People

By Jade Kurian

This article was written at my request to build on the remarks given at the ER Dinner by Paul Adrian, son of our own Gwen Adrian—Editor

He had tilled the rocky Hill Country soil and planted rows and rows of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. It was a ritual of spring. He loaded the pick-up with mulch and with his wife's help, he filled the garden with a protective layer of cedar. In a state stricken by a drought the likes of which had not been seen for nearly a hundred years, he hoped the mulch would help conserve water. He also had hopes for a great harvest. But because of worsening drought conditions, within two months, the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District was forced to impose stringent restrictions. He could water his garden only once a week. He tried covering the tomatoes with shades. But in the Texas heat, without water, nothing could save them. Soon, it wouldn't just be the vegetables at risk. By August, his well had run dry. He would pay \$175 every week for two thousand gallons of water to be trucked in; now, he and his family rationed water.

I wish this were the story of a man I casually spoke to at the grocery store. This is my father-in-law's story. Erle Adrian knows he's not alone. Homeowners throughout Kendall County faced the same dilemma this summer. Water is more and more a precious resource, but at the same time explosive population and undaunted development race across this rural landscape. A hot summer is tough enough, but add to that thousands of new wells being drilled right now in this region and you have the recipe for a parched disaster, especially when some use water in a way that seems inappropriate to those more familiar to living in a dry part of the world, to sustain thick lawns, 80,000 gallon pools, and expansive golf courses.

Texas state officials admit that the state's water situation is dire and is likely to get worse, but how often do you see stories about water in the media? Who is investigating how the water is being used and what controls, if any, should be created to safeguard supplies?

The stories appear all too infrequently because of another drought, one that means you get less information on issues that impact your life. Newspapers are shrinking or going out of business. Just check the *San Antonio Express News*. It's not quite the size it was a year ago, much less a decade ago. How many reporter by-lines can you count in a day? Around the country, it's a staggering casualty count. The demise of the *Boston Globe*, the city's 137-year-old newspaper is unthinkable for Bostonians, yet its owner, the *New York Times*, threatened to shut it down, urging concessions from its union. Presses stopped this year for good at Denver's *Rocky Mountain News*, a paper that began printing two years before the Civil War. The presses also stopped at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and the *Christian Science Monitor* and with reduced editorial staffs both now make content available only online. Both print and television news outlets are in trouble, a problem created by a devout dependence on advertising as a single and diminishing revenue stream.

Paul Adrian, my husband, a longtime journalist, believes the crumbling structures of journalism can have immense implications for democracy. That's why he quit a job that he loved as an investigative reporter at the Dallas-based KDFW Fox station and enrolled at Harvard. He realized that the mainstream news industry had cut so deeply into its staffs that it was no longer able to report fully on basic and crucial issues, like the environment, education and health care. As a result, he thought there was a social mission and opportunity for an entrepreneur. At the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, he honed new skills and worked tirelessly to create a news team of the future, one that would establish niche news beats and that could dig deeply into specific issues.

The question remains: how do you pay for good journalism, especially when the system that has produced journalism for decades is in shambles? We believe *you* are the answer. Instead of relying on a few payers with an agenda, like advertisers, we believe that the communities who benefit the most from credible .



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and objective journalism can provide the support that will guarantee their access to information

What do I mean by this? As mentioned earlier, there's a drought of beat investigative reporting. The mainstream media is simply not footing the bill for stories about people like you, who live in an area plagued by water shortages and rapid development. The media also fail to pay for in-depth stories on the impact of natural gas drilling near Dallas/Ft. Worth, or proposed uranium mining near Goliad, or the dozen coal-fired power plants soon to be built in Texas.



So, let's hope for a recovery in the traditional media, but not depend on them. Our idea, at www.pressforthePeople.com, is to sign up hundreds of people who want to see environmental stories produced in Texas. If each subscriber would pay a little per month, like buying a couple of coffees at Starbuck's, it would support a robust team of reporters who could explore issues regularly missed today. Because professional and objective reporters will produce the stories, the stories can be distributed to major media print and broadcast outlets. As a result, your support will have introduced stories into the public conversation that would not have existed otherwise. Although we're using the environment as an example, this

strategy will be used to produce in-depth reporting in many areas, also including health care, education, politics and energy.

We're lucky to have a phenomenal team of people working with us, including former Dallas news anchor Terri Chappell, Austin-based author Jim Moore (*Bush's Brain*), British publisher Dan Hiscocks and one of the world's premier social network web developers, Ben Werdmuller, of Oxford, England. We look to your help as we establish not only subscribers, but also donors and investors. Please visit us at pressforthePeople.com, take our survey on the state of journalism, and join our press for change, press for democracy, and [pressforthePeople](http://pressforthePeople.com).

As I look over my father-in-law's garden today, there is dew on the ground, maybe hope for his fall planting. But that's the thing with the rain, isn't it? It's not guaranteed. These days, neither is good journalism.

(Jade Kurian is a longtime television and print journalist and a founding team member at www.pressforthePeople.com. You can e-mail her at jade@pressforthepeople.com or jadekurian@mac.com)

Dr. Maya Angelou to Headline Planned Parenthood Fundraiser

The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Texas is holding its annual fundraising luncheon on April 14, 2010. World-renowned author, educator, civil-rights activist and poet Dr. Maya Angelou will be the guest speaker. One of Dr. Angelou's best-loved books, *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was nominated for a National Book Award, and her volume of poetry, *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

KCADW is sponsoring at least one table for this fundraiser—and possibly two if there is sufficient interest among our members. If we can fill two tables, tickets will be \$125 each. If we fill only one table, tickets are \$150 each. Each attendee will be paying for her own ticket, so no club moneys will be used, and approximately \$40 per person will be tax deductible.

All proceeds benefit the Planned Parenthood Trust and will be used to fund family planning, annual exams, and cancer screening and treatment for low-income, uninsured women throughout our community. San Antonio ranks among the top 20 urban areas in the country for uninsured adults. Thus Planned Parenthood is often a woman's only healthcare provider. By sponsoring at least one table at this event, KCADW will help ensure that vulnerable women can continue to rely on Planned Parenthood for the life-changing, life-saving services upon which their futures often depend.

Please contact Cindy Offutt by phone or email if you would like to join us!

Hold Them Accountable: How Our Representatives Voted in Washington

Thanks to Gwen King for keeping us up to date on how our legislators voted.

In the U.S. Senate

Amendment to clarify coverage for preventive services for women

Vote **Agreed to** (61-39). The Senate adopted this amendment to the health care reform bill, which aims to guarantee that women of all ages receive an annual women's health exam at no cost. The Senate is still debating this bill.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **NO**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

Motion to Table Nelson Amendment; Abortion Funding

Vote **Agreed to** (54-45, 1 not voting). During debate of the health care reform bill, the Senate rejected this amendment that would have prohibited federal funding of abortion coverage.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **NO**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

FY2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Vote **Agreed to** (57-35, 8 not voting). The Senate gave final approval to this \$446.8 billion bill that combines 6 unfinished 2010 fiscal year spending bills. The bills included are Transportation/HUD; Military Construction/Veterans Affairs; Labor/HHS; State/Foreign Operations; Commerce/Justice/Science; and Financial Services. The bill now goes to the President.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **NO**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Vote **Agreed to** (88-10, 2 not voting). The Senate gave final approval to this bill funding the Department of Defense through September 2010. The bill now goes to the President.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **YES**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **YES**

Cloture Motion; Reid Amendment. to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Vote **Agreed to** (60-40). The Senate agreed to this motion to invoke cloture on an amendment making changes to the \$871 billion health care bill. The vote allows debate to proceed and prevents a filibuster.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **NO**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

In the U.S. House of Representatives

Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009

Vote **passed** (225-200, 9 not voting). The House approved this legislation that would lower the maximum rate of estate and gift taxes to 45% after 2009. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

Tax Extenders Act of 2009

Vote **passed** (241-181, 12 not voting). The House voted to extend a number of expiring tax cuts. The bill now awaits Senate action.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Vote **passed** (395-34, 5 not voting). The House approved this defense spending bill, sending it to the Senate for final passage.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **YES**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

FY2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Vote **Passed** (221-202, 1 present, 10 not voting). The Senate gave final approval to this \$446.8 billion bill that combines 6 unfinished 2010 fiscal year spending bills. The bills included are Transportation/HUD; Military Construction/Veterans Affairs; Labor/HHS; State/Foreign Operations; Commerce/Justice/Science; and Financial Services. The Senate gave final approval to the bill on Sunday.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009

Vote **passed** (223-202, 9 not voting). This House bill would overhaul financial services regulations and place new controls on institutions deemed to pose a risk to the entire financial system. The bill now awaits Senate action.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

Jobs for Main Street Act

Vote **passed** (217-212, 6 not voting). The House passed this \$154 billion jobs bill which is partially paid for by unspent money from last year's Troubled Asset Relief Program. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

Local Dems enjoying the 2009 Holiday Party . . .



History of Leon Springs Book Wins Awards

The authors of *The History of Leon Springs*, one of whom, Marlene Richardson, was our speaker for our November 2008 meeting, have recently received two awards for their book. The Boerne Area Historical Society chose it as their honoree of the year. Also, the Texas State Genealogical Society honored it as their Grand Prize winner this year!

Local Writer on Trying Terrorists in Civilian Court

In an excerpt from her article in the Boerne Star, November 27, 2009, Kathy Bandujo comments on the current controversy over using federal courts vs. military commissions to try the 9/11 terrorists:

One of the goals of terrorists is to disrupt the American way of life, to bring down our system of government. If we circumvent our judicial system to deal with them, in an odd way they are achieving one of their goals. We would be setting aside a bedrock principle of our nation ... why exactly? Because these men are too dangerous? Because they did something too monstrous for the court system to handle? We have already tried and convicted one person involved in the 9/11 attacks, Zacarias Moussaoui, in federal court. As Republican Rudy Giuliani so aptly said at the time, "I think there is value in demonstrating to people what America is like. It does show that we have a legal system that we follow, that we respect it. And it is exactly what is missing in the parts of the world or a lot of the parts of the world that are breeding terrorism."

Kendall County Area Democratic Women
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