



DEMOCRAT

Central Baltimore County's Democratic Club Newsletter

REP. SARBANES FIRED UP SUPPORTERS AT OUR ANNUAL BBQ FUNDRAISER

IN THIS ISSUE

OFA Needs You!

This month, CBCDC will be joining the folks at the Towson OFA office for "Dialing for Dems". Phone banking is a great way to help the Obama campaign and other Democrats reach critical swing voters, but it isn't the only way you can help.

Office manager (and CBCDC Board Member) Vivienne Davis says the office needs plenty of help and there are a number of ways to get involved that don't involve calling or canvassing. Specifically, they are in desperate need of:

1. Volunteers to input data. The OFA team is putting together a database of potential Democratic volunteers and needs your help for this critical effort.
2. Volunteers to address and stamp post cards to welcome newly registered

Democrats to the Baltimore County Democratic Party. We will follow up with phone calls informing these new Democrats about volunteer opportunities. We will begin this project in a few weeks.

The office is located at:

301 Allegheny Ave.

Towson, MD 21204

If you can lend a hand for one of these activities (or join them for one of their weekly phone banks – 6-9 PM every Wednesday and Thursday), stop in or call the office at **410-252-1302**. Vivienne could sure use a hand!



Jim Brochin Responds

Jim Brochin responds to claims that he put conservative voters ahead of Baltimore City's welfare.

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What Liberal Bias?

Jim Kehl discusses the so-called "Liberal Bias" of MSNB and the Baltimore Sun and concludes the only bias is towards accurate reporting.

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President's Letter

By Anne Neal

Thank you for making our annual Backyard BBQ a success. I'm sorry a family obligation caused me to miss it, but I have heard from many that the food and the company were great. Thanks so much to **David Kosak and Stephanie Binetti** for hosting. **Congressman Sarbanes** attended and rallied the group. We appreciate him taking the time from his very busy schedule. Congressional candidate Wendy Rosen and Delegate Lafferty also joined us.



301 Allegheny Ave.

Our July, August, September and October meetings will be held at the Baltimore County Democratic Headquarters at 301 Allegheny Avenue in Towson. The entrance to parking is off Bosley and the entrance to HQ is from the parking lot. As many of you know, our regular meeting place is quite hot. The HQ location will be much more comfortable and is set up for calling. **For the July, August and October meetings, we will socialize at 6:30 p.m., have a brief business meeting at 7 p.m.** and then those who wish to will phone bank for President Obama. For those who do not wish

to call, there will be other things to do that will be helpful to local and national campaigns.

In September, **Attorney General Doug Gansler** will be our speaker. This will give us a chance to talk to him about his plans to run for Governor. I'm sure he will also add interesting insight to the legal issues facing Maryland.

I'm sure most of us were glad to see that the **Supreme Court ruling regarding the Affordable Care Act.** However, this decision also fired up the Republicans so we need to match that effort. **Please contribute what you can monetarily and give what you can of your time.** Maryland is surrounded by swing states and we need to duplicate our efforts in 2008 when we were instrumental in getting out the vote in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Please contact Vivienne Davis if you have any time to contribute to the effort. [Vedavis3@verizon.net](mailto:vedavis3@verizon.net) 410-252-1302. She could really use the help at Headquarters and can also set you up for phone banking.

SUBMISSION POLICY

This newsletter is created by a handful of volunteers who make every attempt to publish factual information, and who wish to encourage the free exchange of information and opinions. However, the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the CBCDC or official policies of the club. All images taken from public domain, press kits or used with permission. Please send submissions to newsletter editor at stegmata@gmail.com. The deadline for all submissions is 14 days before the monthly meeting or the 23rd of each month.

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 10 & Aug 14 - Dial for Dems

Come volunteer at the Baltimore County Democratic Party office and make phone calls for President Obama and our Democratic team. 2012 is an incredibly important election and CBCDC is going to do its part.



Sept. 11 - Doug Gansler

Attorney General – and likely 2014 Gubernatorial candidate – Doug Gansler visits CBCDC for our September meeting.

News & Notes

CBCDC Welcomes Our New Treasurer!

The CBCDC Executive Board is proud to introduce John Gontrum as our new treasurer. John is a familiar face to many in the club, regularly attending our monthly meetings and traveling across the state with Peter Franchot as part of his day job in the Comptrollers office. John will serve the remainder of Jon Christiana's term. Welcome aboard, John!

WRITE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

Want to write for the CBCDC newsletter? Contact our editor, Matt Stegman, at stegmata@gmail.com and let him know what you're interested in. You can be the envy of your friends and family and have your words read by dozens of your fellow Central Baltimore County Democrats.

The Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee Needs You!

... to volunteer at the Maryland State Fair! If you can lend a hand at the Maryland Democrats booth at the Timonium Fairgrounds, contact Scott Sokol at ssokol310@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed for all dates and times, so give whatever time you can spare.



The fair runs August 24th through September 2nd. It's a great time and volunteers get free admission to the Fair.



CBCDC was joined by Del. Cardin at the Towson 4th of July Parade!

JOIN BCYD FOR A HIGHWAY CLEANUP!

BCYD will be doing a highway cleanup with the Back River Restoration Committee on July 14th. Come out and lend a hand for this good cause



What: Route 702 Highway Cleanup with Back River Restoration Committee
When: July 14th at 9am until Noon
Where: Dunkin Donuts on Rt. 702 (1541 Hyde Park Rd, Essex, MD 21221)
Why: To prevent litter and trash from flowing in Back River, and eventually the Bay.

Everyone can lend a hand, not just Young Dems. To sign up or for more info, contact BCYD president Sean Rutherford at: sruth7502@yahoo.com

Don't Forget:

I'M IN!



CBCDC's July, August, September, and October meetings will not take place at the Carver Center. We'll be at the Baltimore County OFA office at:

301 Allegheny Ave.

Towson, MD 21202

Contact a board member if you need directions.

Liberal Bias at MSNBC and the *Baltimore Sun*

Op-Ed by Jim Kehl

Republicans and other right-wingers have charged that MSNBC and the *Baltimore Sun* have a liberal bias. The reasons these individuals have for this belief is that some MSNBC political shows and *Sun* editorials base their opinions on progressive values and frequently endorse Democratic Party candidates. These reasons are factually correct. However, I contend that MSNBC political shows, the *Baltimore Sun* and other ostensible “liberal” media organs allow conservatives a chance to voice dissenting opinions and that the opinions expressed on MSNBC and by the *Sun* usually reflect the application of progressive values to verifiable facts. This is not true of conservative newspapers, radio and television shows, which overwhelmingly dominate the media.

On cable television, MSNBC is widely regarded as the liberal equivalent of Fox News. This is a false equivalency for two reasons. First, MSNBC has a conservative opinion program named “Morning Joe.” In contrast, the opinion programs on Fox News are all conservative (despite Bill O’ Reilly’s word play that he is a “traditionalist”). Second, the MSNBC progressive hosts have conservative guests and allow those conservatives to express their opinions without interrupting or shouting over them. The Fox News programs rarely have guests that express opinions different from the conservative hosts. On the unusual occasions when a Fox News guest disagrees with the Fox News host, the host interrupts the guest,

distorts what the guest says or cuts the guest’s microphone off. These instances have never occurred on the Rachel Maddow show or the Ed show. In fact, Rachel Maddow always makes a point of asking her guests if she has properly described their opinions.

Similarly, the *Baltimore Sun* has regular conservative columnists, such as former Governor Robert Ehrlich and Marta Mossburg, and frequently presents conservative guest columnists, such as Professor Richard Vatz. Moreover, the *Sun*’s opinion section contains letters from readers who frequently accuse the newspaper of a liberal bias and who disagree with the progressive views expressed in the newspaper. In fact, I think the *Sun* publishes more letters from conservative readers than it does letters from readers with progressive opinions. This characteristic is not demonstrated by conservative newspapers, such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Times*. It is certainly not demonstrated by local conservative radio stations, although I do note that WBAL hosts sometimes have Democrats as guests.

The major problem I have with the conservative letters published in the *Sun* is that these letters either contain assertions not supported by facts or reflect poor analytical reasoning and logic. Two recent letters illustrate these points. Two anti-Obama letters stated that our



president was chief executive for the “Socialist segment” of our population and that the *Sun* was stupid for “propagating” that the private sector was “fine” because the country is in “a pathetic mess.” No definition of the Socialist population segment was provided and no facts were presented that supported the opinion that the private sector was not fine. In contrast, another letter pointed out that Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated that 2,735,999 jobs were added during President Obama’s term and that the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,785,000 during that time.

These statistics were starkly contrasted with the results under the previous Republican administration. This letter also noted that the stock market has increased by almost 50% in value since President Obama assumed office. In summary, the conservative Republican letters did not even explain what they were talking about whereas the pro-Obama letter supported its conclusions with documented facts. The conservative letters consisted of unexplained and unsupported claims whereas the progressive letter supported its conclusions with verifiable facts.

Setting the Record Straight

Op-Ed by Senator Jim Brochin, Dist. 42

Sen. Brochin asked for an opportunity to respond to an article that appeared in our June issue (Jim Brochin: Putting Republican Votes Ahead of Baltimore's Welfare).

One of the most frustrating things about being in politics is when people publish untruths about you. It hurts even more when they are in the same political party as you're in. Warren Harding once said, "I have no trouble with my enemies. I can take care of my enemies in a fight. But my friends...they're the ones who keep me walking the floor at nights!"

Such was the case last month when newsletter editor Matt Stegman put my picture next to Delegate McDonough's picture and compared me to the right wing ideology, which I have spent most of my career fighting. Now, in the interest of democracy and fairness, I'd like the opportunity to set the record straight.

First and foremost, I made it very clear from the beginning that Delegate McDonough's comments about "mobs of black youths" was totally inappropriate and that calling Baltimore City and the Inner Harbor area a "no-travel zone" was counterproductive towards economic development and tourism in the city. Where I do



think Delegate McDonough is correct is that the Baltimore City Police Department needs help. You only have to go to New York or Boston and see the enhanced police protection in tourist destinations to realize that feeling safe is as important as being safe. Both of these cities do an outstanding job of making you feel that way. We in Maryland have a State Police force that has an exemplary reputation. They are well trained and could supplement the city's police department in tourist areas which would help make the city safe, and just as importantly, make us feel safe.

The second point of contention that I have with Mr. Stegman's attack piece is his assertion that I voted against the budget, which in turn was a vote against public safety, education, the environment, social programs, etc. Mr. Stegman is correct that had I voted against the budget, it would have been a vote against these things. However, he made it up. I never voted against the budget. In fact, in my 10 years in

the Senate, I've supported every budget.

When I ran against Martha Klima 10 years ago, the rumor was that once elected I would change parties, and that I wasn't really a Democrat. Now, 10 years later, after casting decisive votes on protecting a woman's right to choose, increasing the minimum wage, forcing companies with government contracts to pay a living wage, embryonic stem cell research, the Healthy Air Act, the Wal-Mart bill, the right to unionize, collective bargaining, and supporting and casting the decisive vote on same-sex marriage, my credentials are still being questioned. I only hope the next time such an attack piece is written the author takes the time to get the facts straight.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the interest of accuracy and fairness, the CBCDC newsletter editorial staff would like to clarify our previous comments regarding Senator Brochin's votes against overturning the cuts in the Doomsday Budget. In last month's issue, we indicated he voted against the budget fix during special session. It is actually slightly more complicated.

During the special session, there were two bills that both needed to pass in order for education, public safety, and local aid spending to be restored. Senator Brochin voted **FOR** the BRFA, which appropriated money for these purposes. However, he voted **AGAINST** the SLRFA, which raised the revenue to actually pay for it.

The editorial staff (also the author of the piece in question) appreciates the Senator taking the time to defend his record, but stands by the accuracy and opinions expressed in the June issue.

Central Baltimore County Democratic Club Annual Membership Form

ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$20 PER MEMBER

Renew online at: <http://www.cbcdc.org/membership.php>

Make Check Payable to the CBCDC

Mail to: CBCDC, Inc., P.O. Box 5194 Lutherville, MD 21094

Note: Dues and donations to CBCDC, Inc. are not tax deductible



___ I (we) would like to help support the CBCDC by renewing my (our) annual dues. Enclosed, please find my (our) annual dues of \$___.

___ I (we) have also included an additional \$___ as a donation to the club and/or the Political Action Committee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

(CBCDC Sends out its monthly newsletter by email to reduce our carbon footprint and save much-needed funds. If you want to receive your copy by mail, please let Judy Harris know: jharris341@aol.com or 410-853-7717.)

DEMOCRAT

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