



DEMOCRAT

Central Baltimore County's Democratic Club Newsletter

JOIN SEN. BEN CARDIN AND REP. JOHN SARBANES AT THE NEXT CBCDC MEETING FEB. 14TH

IN THIS ISSUE

Spend Valentine's Day with Your Congressman

... and your Senator, too! Join Rep. John Sarbanes and Senator Ben Cardin at the next CBCDC meeting on February 14th. It's the perfect date night for any guy or gal that is politically inclined or enjoys the company of good Democrats.

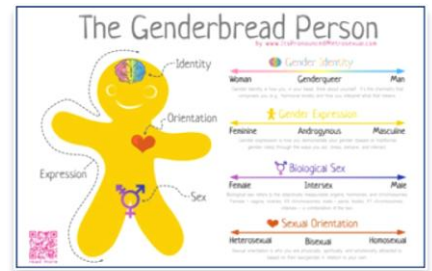
As you may or may not know, the Maryland primary elections are April 3rd and both of our guests have primary challengers. Get the information YOU will need to be an informed voter and hear about some of the unique things Rep. Sarbanes is doing to change the campaign finance landscape. From his campaign team:

"One common refrain that can be heard across the spectrum is that we must reform our political system so that it is more responsive to the needs of average Americans. Yet, as a result of the destructive Supreme Court Citizens United decision, large corporations and monied interests now have a virtually unlimited ability to buy elections and influence public policy. Super PACs and

a flood of anonymous money have been unleashed on our electoral process. We must find a way to reduce the influence of special interests on our political system.

Congressman Sarbanes is building a new model for financing campaigns so we can get government working again for Main Street, instead of Wall Street. Join us to learn more about a movement to change how political campaigns are financed and to make government responsive to the needs of average Americans, not a corporate agenda. Working together, we can build an informed and engaged citizenry, a responsive government, and a better nation. To help put the public interest in front of special interests, go to www.grassrootsdonor.com."

This promises to be one of the biggest, best CBCDC meetings yet, so please join us on the 14th!



Understanding Bill 3-12

Baltimore County is taking the lead on offering legal protections to transgendered people. Dan Ewald explains the bill and the efforts to defeat it.

Page 3



The Problem of Ideology

Jim Kehl talks about the danger of being ideologically rigid, the 1990s, and Jean Paul Sartre.

Page 6

CBCDC Board

President

Anne Neal

Anneneal88@gmail.com 410-913-3344

Vice President

David Kosak

davidskosak@gmail.com 443-895-0816

Treasurer

Jon Christiana

Jonc106@gmail.com 410-949-0488

Co-Secretaries

Judy Harris

Jharris341@aol.com 410-853-7717

Vivienne Davis

410-252-1302 vedavis@comcast.net

Directors at Large

Lori Albin

410-336-8801 lalbin123@comcast.net

Dan Ewald

443-722-7041 Daniel.lory.ewald@gmail.com

Mike Ertel

410-599-6953 mkertel@aol.com

Bob Lever

410-274-6722 leverrobert@aol.com

Jonathan Schwartz

410-960-0737 Jbs4544@gmail.com

Scott Sokol

407-421-0008 ssokol310@aol.com

Matt Stegman

440-413-4822 stegmata@gmail.com

Theresa White

410-790-428 theresa.white@gmail.com

Alan Wojtalik

410-665-0881 alan_wojtalik@hotmail.com

President's Letter

By Anne Neal

We are thrilled to offer an exciting double header at our February meeting. Both **Senator Ben Cardin** and **Congressman John Sarbanes** will be our Valentine's Day guests. We are hoping for a huge turnout to show the Senator and the Congressman how much we appreciate their representation in Washington. Please don't miss this opportunity to chat with and ask questions of these two Maryland stars!

Looking ahead, we welcome **Ken Ulman**, the Howard County Executive on March 13. We'll keep you posted on our plans for April, but our ever-popular **legislative wrapup** will be on the agenda for May.

A few **"Congratulations"** are in order. I was happy to witness **Councilwoman Vicki Almond's** swearing in as the Chairwoman of the Baltimore County Council. Vicki is a great friend to the club and represents the 2nd Councilmatic District well.

I was also pleased to attend the investiture of **Judge Justin King** to the Circuit Court of Baltimore County. I have no doubt that Judge King will be a fine judge, bringing to the bench his intellect, sense of humor and sense of fairness.

Our **January meeting** was a great success. There was much discussion about some of the most important issues on the local and state scene.

The Club voted to overwhelmingly support:

- 1) **Changing the way the Baltimore County School Board is selected;**
- 2) **Marriage equality;**
- 3) **Repealing the death penalty; and**
- 4) **Green energy initiatives.**

We will be watching this legislative session closely to see if our **representatives are listening.**

So far, they seem to be on the right track. **Governor O'Malley** is championing marriage equality and we are hopeful for the passage of that bill. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to give Baltimore County an **elected school board.**

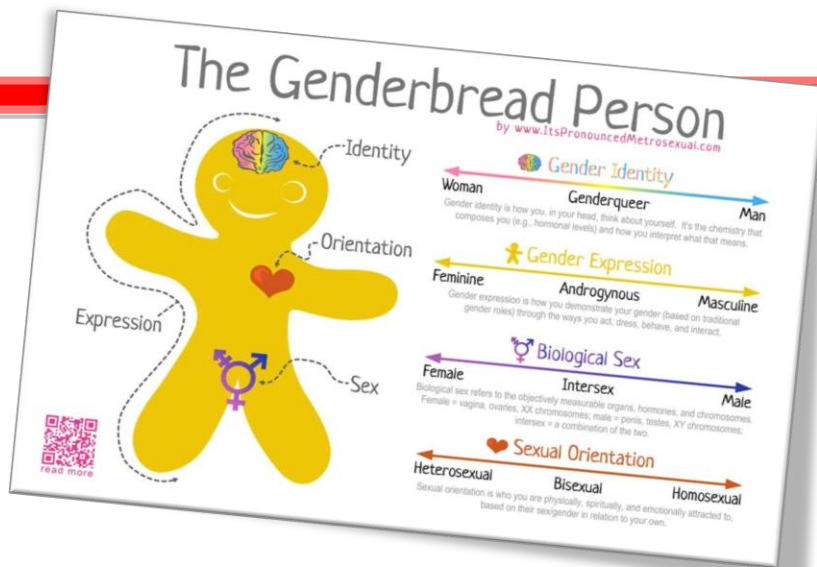
I encourage members to contact your elected officials to let them know that you are paying attention to their progress. **Never forget that they work for you.**

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.

Understanding the Trans Protection Bill

by Dan Ewald



Bill 3-12 protects gender identity and sexual orientation for Baltimore County citizens

While marriage equality is all the rage in politics, our state would not be on the cusp of expanding civil rights if it wasn't for brave citizens who initially fought against discrimination and abusive practices. People were routinely fired if they were discovered to be gay. Eviction notices would be served to lesbian tenants, while teachers and students alike would be bullied in the education system. In Baltimore County, these practices are still legal. Bill 3-12 would correct this.

Bill 3-12 addresses five areas in Baltimore County's Human Relations laws. It would simply add sexual orientation and gender identity/expression to other demographics already protected such as creed or age to the areas of housing, employment, education, public accommodation, and financing.

Now you might be reading and be thinking "Ain't sexuality and gender identity the same?" and "Don't we already protect those areas?" To handle the first question, check out the gingerbread person.

Life exists on a spectrum of possibilities and humanity is no different. The same way that

sexuality is on a

scale (straight, bi, gay), how a person thinks of their gender and expresses it is on a scale, which can lead to a transgender identity. People can also change where they are on each continuum. Throughout his life, Chaz Bono adjusted his positions on the scales until reaching his current happy stable point in life.

While protections are in place on the state level for public workers, it is still legal to discriminate in the private sector on the basis of identity and sexuality, due to how Baltimore County is chartered. Local laws have to be passed to provide further coverage and to fully cover areas outlined by state or federal law. Passage of Bill 3-12 amends county code to match the rest of the state regarding sexual orientation, while joining Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Howard County in extending those protections to the transgender community.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will be out supporting Bill 3-12 on Feb 14, at the Towson Courthouse at 1pm. Foes of equality have already been out in force claiming the bill will lead to child molestation and painting the community as sexual deviants. A final vote is expected on Feb 21.

Press Release from CBCDC Executive Board

At its January 10, 2012 monthly meeting, the **Central Baltimore County Democratic Club (CBCDC)** voted overwhelmingly to endorse the following legislative initiatives:

- 1) extend **EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS** to all Maryland citizens;
- 2) **REPEAL THE DEATH PENALTY** in Maryland;
- 3) change the way the Baltimore County School Board is selected. The club supports a **HYBRID SCHOOL BOARD** selection process whereby 7 members are elected from each Councilmatic District, four are appointed by the Governor and one student is selected;
- 4) establish programs that increase **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**, encourage **RENEWABLE ENERGY**, and promote **GREEN INDUSTRY**.

The CBCDC asks that the necessary bills to carry out these goals be enacted in the 2012 Legislative Session.

Votes to endorse were 93% (marriage equality statement), 90% (death penalty repeal), 87% (school board reform) and 84% (energy goals). Issue statements must be accepted by at least 2/3 of voting members in order to be endorsed as the official Club position.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Feb. 14th General Meeting

Spend a night of love and politics with Baltimore County natives Sen. Ben Cardin and Rep. John Sarbanes



Feb. 25th - YDM Annual Convention

Join young Democrats from across Maryland for workshops, social events, and talks with elected officials. See flier on page 5 for more info.



March 13th General Meeting

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman joins us to talk about his innovative work in Howard County and (just maybe) his plans for 2014.

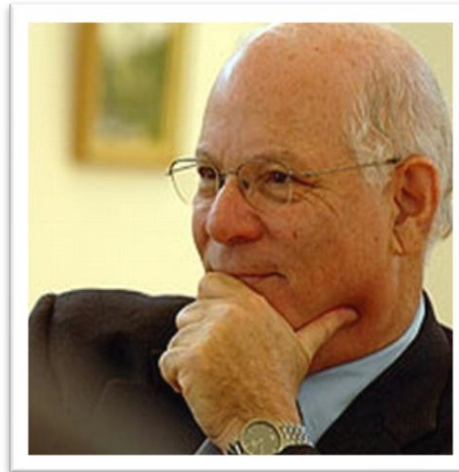


April 3rd - Maryland Primary Election

Your first chance to vote for President Obama in 2012! Many of our Federal officials also have contested primaries, so get out there and let your voice be heard!

Getting to Know Our Guests:

Senator Ben Cardin



Senator Ben Cardin has dedicated his life in public service to the basic belief that by putting principles into action, we can give every Maryland family the opportunity to achieve their dreams. He has become a national leader on fiscal issues, health care, retirement security & the environment. Ben has worked hard in the Senate, and throughout his career, to protect working men and women and their families. His priority, particularly during these tough economic times, is to help create and sustain quality job growth while solving the problems facing middle class families. In 2006, Ben was elected to the U.S. Senate where he serves on the Budget, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Finance, Environment and Public Works (EPW), and Foreign Relations Committees. He chairs the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of EPW and the International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee.

<http://www.bencardin.com>

Rep. John Sarbanes



Congressman John Sarbanes has served in the U.S. Congress since 2007. Born and raised in Baltimore, Congressman Sarbanes has experience working in the private, public and non-profit sectors. In 2006, he was elected to the House of Representatives to represent Maryland's Third Congressional District. In the House of Representatives, he has been appointed to the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he served on the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection. He is currently a member of the Committee on Natural Resources where he serves on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. At the start of the 112th Congress, he was also appointed to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, where he serves on the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation and the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education.

<http://www.johnsarbanes.com/>



THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF MARYLAND PRESENT:

YDM

2012 Statewide Convention



Join YDs from across the state for a two-day politically charged extravaganza that is designed to train and prepare members to win both electoral and legislative battles, and prepare the **next generation of party leaders!**

With over **20 elected and state party leaders** invited as guest speakers, **trainings and workshops** ranging from How to Write Direct Mail to student loans, and the intellectual discourse between **YOUNG progressives** - this is sure to be an empowering event!

Registration is only \$15, which includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and lite fare on Friday night's reception. Register today at: <https://mddems.salsalabs.com/o/3/p/salsa/event/common/public/list?m=1&y=2012>

Date/Time: Feb. 24th 6:30 PM until Feb. 25th 5:00 PM

Location: UMBC - Catonsville
1000 Hilltop Circle
Catonsville, MD 21228

Registration Information: <http://ydmaryland.org/> cost: \$15



The Problem of Ideology

Op-Ed by **Jim Kehl**

It recently occurred to me that political polarization is not caused by different viewpoints on issues.

Instead, many of these differences are caused by ideological beliefs. What do I mean by ideological beliefs? For this purpose, I define an ideological belief as a conviction that purports to be the absolute truth.

For example, a conservative ideological belief asserts that all tax increases are bad and all tax cuts are good. Another example of an ideological belief is the assertion that any regulation of the free markets is bad and any removal of regulation is good. The persons who hold these convictions believe that they are absolute truths. If someone believes that they possess an absolute truth, then anyone who disagrees with that absolute is wrong.

Any experience, evidence or reasoning that differs from or contradicts the "absolute" is automatically invalid. A person who believes he/she possesses an absolute truth has nothing to learn on that subject from other people, from experience or through analytical reasoning. People who believe they hold the absolute truth refuse to compromise or amend their beliefs. If any application of these absolute truths fails to produce

the expected results, the absolute truth is still not questioned.

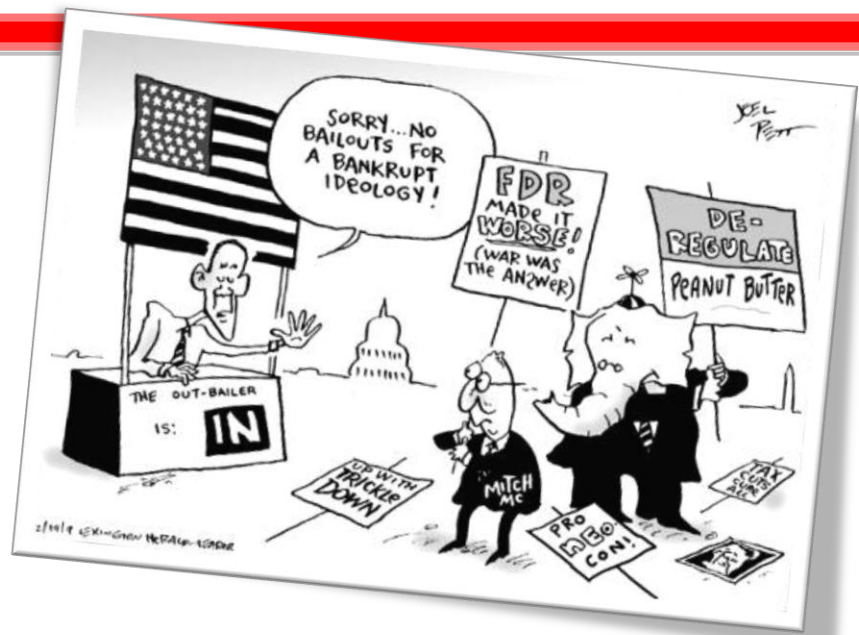
How is this applied to American politics? The past thirty years, with the exception of the period from 1990-2000, have been eras of tax reduction, deregulation and increased debt. The period from 1990-2000 involved some tax increases, spending cuts, and increased regulation. As a result, debt was reduced and the nation was generally prosperous. This changed in 2000 when the Republicans gained control of all three branches of government and proceeded to enact their absolutisms of decreased taxes and deregulation. In fact, they even decreased taxes in a time of war. The result was the current economic meltdown.

Yet I still hear political candidates and pundits advocating that the current economic recession can be solved by engaging in more of the same failed policies. This is the result of ideological beliefs. Even though actual experience has indicated that economic problems similar to our current ones were historically solved by a combination of targeted tax increases, targeted tax and spending cuts and measured regulation, these pundits and

politicians reject these solutions because the solutions contradict their ideological beliefs and are by definition invalid.

Two of the great intellectual giants of the 20th century were Jean Paul Sartre and Simone De Beauvoir. Their contributions to philosophy, literature and political thought reflected their core values of freedom and its accompanying responsibility. One of their greatest contributions may have been that any policy, value or principle has to be validated by experience. I think this principle and the values of responsibility for actions are as valid today as they were during this couple's era.

All of us should heed this lesson. A person can have a certain political philosophy and hold certain beliefs. However, that philosophy and beliefs must constantly be validated by experience and evidence. If reasoning or experience indicates that a belief is not valid, then that belief must be revised. All of us, starting with myself, must be conscious of this in order to avoid becoming ideologues who refuse to alter beliefs that may not apply to a specific situation.



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 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

THE CENTRAL BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRAT
CENTRAL BALTIMORE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. BOX 5194
LUTHERVILLE, MD 2109