



# DEMOCRAT

Central Baltimore County's Democratic Club Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE CBCDC HOLIDAY PARTY IS ON TUESDAY, DEC. 13<sup>TH</sup>!

## IN THIS ISSUE

# P-A-R-T-Y? Because We're Democrats!

Hard to believe, but the Holiday season is here again and with it comes winter weather, time with loved ones, egg nog and the best holiday party a Democrat in central Baltimore County could ask for. That's right, the annual CBCDC Holiday Party returns Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 PM. This year, we'll be at the home of Jon and Carmen Christiana (see flier on page 3 of this newsletter).

As is our tradition, we are asking that everyone who attends the Holiday Party make a donation to a local charity. This year, we will be supporting the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). ACTC is a food pantry that serves people in need in 21 zip codes in and around the Towson area. As more and more people find themselves in financial need, ACTC is being asked to do more with fewer donations than in years past.

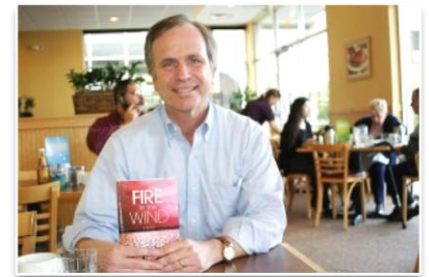
Donations of non-perishable food items are always accepted and appreciated, but monetary donations allow ACTC to

do the most good. ACTC is able to buy food items on a deeply discounted scale so your cash actually provides more food for those in need.

CDCBC Members can go online to [www.actconline.com](http://www.actconline.com) to donate via Pay Pal or bring a check or cash to our holiday party (checks can be made payable to ACTC). Rev. Fred Weimert from Calvary Baptist Church says the majority of the ACTC clients are the working poor. Single parents, families, recent divorcees and the elderly frequent ACTC services. This charity is as local as it gets for CDCBC members.

Please consider learning more about ACTC and giving what you can to this very worthy charitable group.

The Giant grocery stores on York Rd. also have grocery bags prepared for the ACTC. Just go to customer service to pay for the bag. Each bag costs about \$22.00.



## Follow Up With Dana Stein

Missed last month's meeting with Delegate/Author Dana Stein? Del. Stein writes an open letter to the club recapping the issues covered at the meeting and the plot to his novel *Fire in the Wind*.

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## How to be a Convention Delegate

If you missed last month's meeting, you'll want to check out this important information about how you can represent Maryland at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

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## CBCDC Board

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# President's Letter

By Anne Neal

If you missed our November meeting, you missed out on a very thought provoking discussion on climate change, led by **Delegate**

**Dana Stein** from the 11<sup>th</sup> District. We thank Delegate Stein for sharing his insight on this important topic. We also want to thank **Matt Verghese** for updating us on the process for becoming a **delegate to the Democratic National**

**Convention**. There is a blurb in this newsletter recapping that information if you want to be part of history in **Charlotte in 2012**.

A reminder about our **January 10th "Issues" meeting** - we will be discussing the issues that were voted most important to club members. Those issues are: 1) the move to an elected or hybrid **school board**, 2) **same sex marriage**, 3) **renewable energy**, and 4) repealing the **death penalty**. After the discussion, we will vote on the club's position and draft a position **statement** that will be forwarded to elected officials. You must have been a member of the club for at least **30 days** to vote on these issues. You know you want **your voice to be heard** so get those dues in by **December 13 (also the day of the Holiday Party – how convenient!)** Check out the back page of this newsletter for a membership form.

The **CBCDC Holiday Party** is one you really don't want to miss! Great food and great conversation with the most interesting group you'll find in this neck of the woods. We count on seeing you

on December 13 at 6:30 pm at the home of Jon and Carmen Christiana. The address is **9 Ringleaf Ct. Cockeysville 21030**.

If your last name begins with A-M, please bring an **amazing appetizer**. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a **delicious dessert**. The club and board members will provide **enticing entrees and delectable drinks**.



We also ask that you support the **Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC)** this holiday season by either bringing canned goods to the party or by making a donation. Please read the article on the front page about the Center and how you can help. There is **no better time to help** struggling members of our community.

### 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](mailto:stegmata@gmail.com). The deadline for all submissions is 14 days before the monthly meeting or the 23rd of each month.

CBCDC

# Holiday Party

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

The Home of Jon and Carmen Christiana  
9 Ringleaf Ct., Hunt Valley, MD

## Potluck!

Does your last name begin with A – M?

- **Please bring an appetizer!**

Does your last name begin with N – Z?

- **Please bring a dessert!**

The CBCDC Board will bring entrees

**Please bring a donation for the Assistance Center of  
Towson Churches, which serves people in need in  
and around Towson.**

Non-perishable food items are always appreciated, but monetary donations do even more good because ACTC is able to buy deeply discounted food items .

Donate via Paypal at [www.actonline.info](http://www.actonline.info) or bring a check or cash to our holiday party (make checks payable to ACTC).

UPCOMING EVENTS



**December 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party**

In case you missed it elsewhere in this issue! Join us for our annual holiday celebration. Always a good time!



**January 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

We'll be discussing the issues most important to club members (see Anne's letter) and charting a course of action for the club. Speakers TBD.



**January 28<sup>th</sup> Campaign 2012 Volunteer Training**

Join the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee and the Goucher College Dems for workshops to help sharpen your activism skills in preparation of the 2012 election season. Cost is \$10, coffee and lunch will be provided. See flier on next page for details



**February 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

Join us for a night of love and redistricting as we talk about the legislative redistricting process and what it will mean for Central Baltimore County.

# How to Be a Convention Delegate in 2012

Every Democrat is eligible to be a delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC, although it is not an easy process. Maryland Democratic Party Political Director Matt Verghese was at the CBCDC meeting on November 8 to walk us through the steps you need to take.

This year's convention will be exciting as we renominate Barack Obama to be our party's presidential candidate in 2012. National conventions are about Democrats from across the country coming together to show support and unity behind a president who, in the words of Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis, "will get Americans working again, grow the economy and protect our core values."

To be a considered to be a delegate to the 2012 convention, complete the following steps:

1. Visit <http://my.barackobama.com/page/s/delegatereq> and fill out the form to become a pledged Delegate for President Obama. For best consideration, do so before December 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. File a certificate of candidacy and candidate pledge form with the Maryland State Board of Elections between 8 AM on January 3 and 5 PM on January 11, 2012. There is no filing fee.



**2012 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

**Important Notice from the CBCDC Executive Board**

By Anne Neal



We are sad to report that board member Dan Ewald's term will come to an end in the spring of 2012. He is one of our most active members and the Board will really miss him.

This means that we will have an opening on the Board in the spring. If you are interested in serving, please let Jonathan Schwartz, chair of our nominating committee, know. He would love to hear from you! The Board meets once a month and we are always looking for new ideas and new faces so step up! All club members in good standing are encouraged to apply.

Jonathan's can be reached at 410-960-0737 or by email at [Jbs4544@gmail.com](mailto:Jbs4544@gmail.com).

GOUCHER COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AND THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENT:



# Kick it UP



## CAMPAIGN 2012

### Volunteer Training: Preparing for 2012



Multiple workshops designed FOR YOU ...

**PARTICIPATE • ACTIVATE • ENGAGE**

Get ready for Election Season!

**Date/Time:**

Saturday, January 28, 2012 9 AM – 2PM

*On-site registration opens at 8:30 AM*

*(Space is limited – 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve)*

**Location:**

Goucher College

1021 Dulaney Valley Road

Towson, MD 21204

**Registration Information:**

[www.baltcodems.org](http://www.baltcodems.org) cost: \$10.00

*Or make checks payable to BCDCC*

*(Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee)*

**I'M IN!**



Free Parking!  
Lunch and  
Coffee service  
Included!

**Contact** - for more information

Vivienne Davis

Sandy Caslin

[vedavis@comcast.net](mailto:vedavis@comcast.net)

410.661.8899

# Income Tax Policy and Employment

Op-Ed by Jim Kehl



I have not read any articles that discuss the relationship between income tax policy and the rate of employment. This article will attempt to explain that relationship and describe how the changes in income tax laws over the past thirty years have affected the growth of the economy and rate of employment.

When I began my career in 1972, federal income tax rates ranged from 0% to a maximum rate of 70%. There were many more federal income tax brackets than there are today. However, there were also more deductions allowed than there are currently. For example, consumer interest and sales taxes were allowable deductions. The deductibility of losses was not as restricted as it is today.

Despite the high tax rates, many people in the higher tax brackets did not pay taxes on some or all of their income subject to those rates. How did those high income earners avoid taxes at the high rates? They spent their money by investing it in various ventures related to real estate, oil and gas, research and development and other businesses that generated tax deductions that enabled these individuals to reduce their tax bill. This spending and investment created demand for products, services and labor. Some of these investments were abusive "tax shelters." However, the majority of these ventures were legitimate. The high income tax rates of earlier periods motivated taxpayers and businesses subject to those rates to spend and invest their funds rather than pay taxes.

This spending and investment created jobs and demand for products and services.

Ronald Reagan and his supporters altered this policy of high tax rates with many deductions allowed. Several tax bills enacted during the Reagan Administration lowered income tax rates. However, in order to avoid prohibitive decreases in government revenues, many deductions were eliminated and restrictions were placed on the deductibility of losses. As a result, the high income earners had no incentive to invest their funds because their income was no longer subject to high rates and the tax deductions generated by their investments were either eliminated or reduced. Consequently, investment and demand for products, services and labor declined.

This is why the conservative policy of lower tax rates has not provided jobs and other benefits to the economy. In fact, this policy has had the opposite effect. It is also why continuing this policy will not create consumer demand and jobs.

P. S. Several books on current issues and political philosophy have recently become available at your taxpayer funded public library. One of these books is entitled *Patriot Acts* by

Catherine Crier, which discusses current problems and posits solutions. Another book is entitled *What It Means to Be A Democrat* by George McGovern. A third book is named *Back to*

*Work: Why we need Smart Government for a Strong Economy* by President Bill Clinton.

## In Case You Missed Last Meeting...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your November meeting. It's always great to be with fellow Democrats at CBCDC. I enjoyed discussing my novel, *Fire in the Wind*, as well as talking about upcoming legislative issues.

My book focuses on the growing challenges that we face from climate change. My novel is set in 2036 and imagines that coastal flooding, intense drought and severe storms have uprooted thousands. I wrote the novel because I frequently hear that it's hard to visualize what life will be like if the predictions of climate scientists come true. Also, climate change will hit close to home, as Maryland is the third most vulnerable state to the rising seas that global warming will cause.

This is a future that we don't have to face, if we make a swifter transition to renewable energy and we limit carbon emissions. Fortunately, Maryland has been in the forefront in setting ambitious goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Now, if only the country would follow Maryland's lead!

The 2012 legislative session is right around the corner, and we'll be dealing with several important issues – same-sex marriage (which I strongly support), smart growth issues, and whether to increase the gas tax. I look forward to working with you as we strive to advance the Democratic cause, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Delegate Dana M. Stein

# 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](mailto:jharris341@aol.com) or 410-853-7717.)*

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