



NEWSLETTER January, 2008

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January Meeting Agenda

IBEW Hall

Monday, Jan. 21, 2008

6:00 UDC meeting for those interested in organization

7:00 TVDC meet and greet

7:30 business meeting

Financial Report – Jim

Old Business

Election of officers 2008
(for slate see page 2)

Vote on by-law changes as announced in November

Committee Reports

New Business

Sponsorship of AD forum in San Ramon

8:00 Speaker:

Representatives from campaigns of Clinton, Obama, Edwards, and Kucinich

Q&A – discussion

Adjourn

Open season on 2008 TVDC membership dues.

Quick Calendar

Jan. 22, Progressive Book Club, meets at the Livermore Library, 7 PM, **The Shock Doctrine** by Naomi Klein.

Jan. 22, Last day to register to vote in the Feb. 5 primary.

Jan. 26, **January film** at the IBEW, 7 PM. **The Eleanor Roosevelt Story**

Membership Form

Mail to:

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

P.O. Box 1186

Pleasanton, CA 94588

©20 household membership

Cuff Links by Acuff

“The medium is the message,” that profound, prescient theory developed by Marshall McLuhan, of McGill University (whose name I can never remember how to spell despite that I quote him constantly) spun the thread that holds all my connected thoughts together. There are multiple foci.

Start with the outrageous flap in the Democratic Party between the Clinton, Obama and Edwards’ camps about Hillary’s statement that MLK was the inspiration but LBJ engineered and signed into law the Civil Rights legislation. It was the media that created controversy from what should have been agreement. Any time spent on the topic was unworthy of all of them.

Hillary was right. She was thinking like a lawyer and like a seasoned politician. Dr. King was the inspirational spark that initiated an organizational effort to make public the evils of racial discrimination in this country. The marches, the sit-ins, the rallies the speeches, all broadcast by television to a heretofore unwilling to see public created enough of an outrage that LBJ was able to browbeat the Congress into passing legislation to begin a remedy.

He had been developing such legislation but had been unable to get past the block of Southern Democrats. And if you really want to trace the roots of the change, you can credit FDR and Harry Truman with integrating the army. The experience of so many servicemen was kindled into consciousness by the televised brutality that Dr. King exposed.

But nothing really changed until Johnson pushed through legislation to change the law. It is the law that makes things happen. JFK was an inspirational orator who drew a whole generation of young people into civic involvement. He wasn’t much of a legislator, however. He was green, inexperienced and despite his connections, he didn’t have the keys to enough closets with skeletons to make serious legislation happen. It took someone like Johnson who had come up through the trenches, a good ol’ boy who could out talk, out drink and out think any opposition.

Of course, Johnson’s forte was domestic policy and he failed badly in Vietnam, another case on point. All the marches, rallies, protests did nothing until the Nixon administration fell from its own hubris. Sound familiar?

From: Tri-Valley Democratic Club
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To: