

# FOCUS

Democratic Club of Sarasota

An Informed Member is Our Best Voter



Volume 18, Issue 3

March, 2012

## MARCH LUNCHEON PROGRAM

### Bill Cotter: “Same Sex Marriage, the Health Care Mandate & the U.S. Supreme Court”

Democrats living in Florida are often embarrassed by the politics of the state they call home. We have a history of controversies ranging from hanging chads, to disappearing touch-screen votes, to the election of a governor whose company was fined for massive Medicare fraud. And then there’s the gerrymandering that sustains a Republican majority in Tallahassee despite the Democratic lead in voter registration.

In late March, we get to witness one more “brilliant” move by the state of Florida, as the Supreme Court listens to arguments to repeal key components of President Obama’s Affordable Care Act. The Sunshine State is right in the thick of the proceedings with its State of Florida v. US Department of Health and Human Services suit.

We are fortunate that Bill Cotter, who has taught classes on the Supreme Court at the Pierian Spring Academy, will share his expertise on the arguments the Supreme Court will hear and his analysis of the potential outcome. He will also discuss what impact the Court may have on the

same-sex marriage issue.

A Sarasota resident, Cotter’s recent background includes chairing the advisory board for the Oak Foundation, an international philanthropy which funds projects in conservation, human rights, abuse, housing, learning disabilities, and other social justice issues. Prior to that he spent 21 years as President of Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He also worked on international programs for the Ford Foundation, and has lived in Nigeria, Colombia and Venezuela.

Join us on March 10<sup>th</sup> as Bill Cotter helps us to better understand the issues the Supreme Court will consider in these critical decisions.

**LUNCHEON DETAILS: See back page**

NOTE: The luncheon is at the **Laurel Oak Country Club**. Drinks will be available for sale at a bar near the luncheon meeting room.

### Last Month: Edelin: A 2012 loss threatens women’s rights

February luncheon speaker, Dr. Kenneth Edelin, both entertained and horrified attendees with personal anecdotes from his battle for women’s reproductive rights over the past forty years. Edelin, an OB/GYN and past Board Chair of Planned Parenthood, left his audience with three points to take home with them:

1. Those who want to deny women reproductive rights will lie, stretch the truth and distort the language to get their way.
2. There is a resurgence in efforts to deny women access to abortion services and contraception and, ultimately, women’s right to full control over their own lives.
3. We must activate everyone who

cares about women and families to ensure a Democratic victory in 2012. Otherwise women will lose many of the rights they’ve won over the last 40 years.

Ken Edelin became nationally known when he was arrested, tried and convicted of manslaughter after he performed a legal abortion in Boston City Hospital in 1974. He recounted the story in his 2008 book, *Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom*.

He sees the strategies used successfully in his prosecution continuing to be used today. Anti-Choice forces humanize the fetus, insisting on calling it a baby, and they

*(Continued on page 6)*

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*Focus Newsletter is a publication of  
the Democratic Club of Sarasota  
In print since May 1995*

### Newsletter Mission Statement

The mission of the newsletter of the Democratic Club of Sarasota (*FOCUS*) is to promote the growth of the Democratic Party in Sarasota County, to inform Club members about Club events and other local events of interest to Democrats, and to address local, state and national issues of interest to Party members.

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Contact President Mary Clupper if you wish to attend the meeting of the executive committee.

### What do we include in the newsletter?

Democrats have a lot to say – and the Board encourages club members to say it with articles or letters to the editor for our newsletter!

Unfortunately, there is limited space. Dealing with this dilemma, the Board adopted the following list of policies and procedures:

Articles and letters to the editor from club members will be accepted on a space available basis using the following priorities:

1. Local information of immediate importance to club members
2. Articles or letters from members who have not written recently
3. Articles or letters relating to state issues.
4. Articles or letters relating to national issues.

Due to limited space, articles and letters should be written as concisely as possible (between 100 and 150 words) and once submitted, may be edited. Letters to the editor should contain statements of proposed action by the membership.

#### Submission Deadline:

Third Saturday of the month for the next issue

Email submissions to Feedback@SarasotaDems.com

### Federal Government Contact Information

White House Comment Line      202-456-1111  
White House Switchboard      202-456-1414  
(WEB) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>      FAX: 202-456-2461

Bill Nelson (D)      Toll free in Florida: 1-888-671-4091  
United States Senator      202-224-5274  
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.      FAX: 202-228-2183  
Washington, DC 20510      (WEB) <http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Marco Rubio (R)      Toll free in Florida: 1-866-630-7106  
United States Senator      202-224-3041  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.      FAX: 202-228-5171  
Washington, DC 20510      (WEB) <http://rubio.senate.gov>

Vern Buchanan (R)      202-225-5015  
United States Representative      LOCAL: 941-951-6643  
1516 Longworth House Office Bldg.      (WEB) <http://buchanan.house.gov>  
Washington, DC 20515      DC FAX: 202-226-0828

Congress Switchboard      800-962-3524

U.S. Capitol Switchboard — 24 hours a day  
(800) 648-3516 or (800) 839-5276 or (877) 762-8762

### State Government Contact Information

Governor Rick Scott (R)  
Office of the Governor  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001      (WEB) [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com)

#### Senate District 21

Mike Bennett, State Senator (R)      941-727-6349  
3653 Cortez Road West, Suite 90      850-487-5078  
Bradenton, FL 34210      bennett.michael.web@flsenate.gov

#### Senate District 23

Nancy Detert, State Senator (R)      941-480-3547  
417 Commercial Court, Suite D      850-487-5081  
Venice, FL 34292      detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

#### House District 55

Darryl Ervin Rouson, State Rep. (D)      941-708-8570  
302 Manatee Ave E, Suite 304      850-488-0925  
Bradenton, FL 34208-1901      (WEB) [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

#### House District 67

Greg Steube, State Rep. (R)  
5830 Lakewood Ranch Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34240      850-488-6340  
(WEB) [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

#### House District 69

Ray Pilon, State Rep. (R)      941-955-8077  
1660 Ringling Blvd, Ste 310-311      850-488-7754  
Sarasota, FL 34236      (WEB) [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

#### House District 70

Doug Holder, State Rep. (R)      941-918-4028  
8486 South Tamiami Trail      850-488-1171  
Sarasota, FL 34238-2953      (WEB) [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

#### House District 71

Ken Roberson, State Rep. (R)      941-613-0914  
17825 Murdock Circle      850-488-0060  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948      (WEB) [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

### Democratic Party of Sarasota County

HQ: 7358 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota      941-330-9400  
PO Box 5833; Sarasota 34277-5833  
(WEB) [www.sarasotadems.org](http://www.sarasotadems.org)      headquarters@sarasotadems.org

## President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our February luncheon with Dr. Kenneth Edelin. His topic couldn't have been timelier. When we invited him to speak, we didn't know that the health care regulation requiring employers to provide contraception as part of their coverage would be causing such a big controversy. Dr. Edelin's message to us was incredibly inspiring. It was a reminder that the fight may never end and we must stand together for our Democratic ideals and hold the line.

The night before the luncheon, I ran into Club member Carol Buchanan with Dr. Terrence Roberts, who was speaking at a fundraiser for the Alpha Phi Alpha Foundation the next day. I had done some research on Dr. Roberts when I heard he was coming to Sarasota and was sorry that I wasn't going to have the privilege of hearing him speak. Dr. Roberts is one of the group of nine African-American men and women known as the Little Rock Nine. In 1957, not long after the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. the Board of Education*, they courageously integrated Central High School in Little Rock. Since then Dr. Roberts has continued to devote himself to the fight for civil rights.

I was thrilled to get to meet him that Friday night and he came to my mind the next day as I listened to Dr. Edelin. I realized how fortunate we are to live in an area like Sarasota where we have the opportunity to hear and interact with such wonderful contributors and activists like Dr. Roberts and Dr. Edelin and many other local names that you are all familiar with. In the past few months we have been inspired by the eloquence of our Congressional candidate, Keith Fitzgerald, and the passion of the Florida Democratic Party Chair, Rod Smith. And our city was recently visited by Democratic National Chair, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and by the First Lady, Michelle Obama. We may live in a red county, but Democrats and Progressives are not to be counted out.

Four years ago we watched in awe as Barack Obama not only won the presidency of the United States, but also won the state of Florida. He lost Sarasota County by 211 votes. We had won the important battle but, as a volunteer who had made phone calls and knocked on hundreds of doors while canvassing with fellow Obama for America (OFA) colleagues, I wanted more. I kept thinking that, if we had just knocked on a few more doors and made a few more phone calls, Sarasota County could have rallied its first Democratic presidential victory since 1944.

This time around we are poised for that victory. Democrats in Sarasota County are more organized and active than ever before. Thanks to the Tea Partiers and the insanity we have witnessed in Tallahassee and DC the past 3 years, we understand what is at stake. If President Obama doesn't win Sarasota County this year, the only reason will be that we

didn't use every ounce of our energy and resources to help our Democratic organizations influence our friends and neighbors. On an OFA conference call this past week, Mrs. Obama reiterated that volunteers are the heart and soul of the 2012 campaign, just as they were in 2008. She said that, in addition to all the field work that has already started all over the state, we can never underestimate the power of one-on-one conversation.

The current redistricting map for our Congressional District (now to be the 16th CD), put our candidate, Keith Fitzgerald, in a very good position to take over Buchanan's seat. With the district about 48% Democratic, Vern can "go back to his used car lots full time in 2013," as Dr. Edelin put it. Keith has the backing of the DCCC which elevates his campaign to the national level. He is not a long shot in this race. He is the one to win it!

My plea to Sarasota Democrats is to leave your doubts behind. What needs to be accomplished in the next 8 months can be and will be accomplished. I'm already looking forward to the victory party that the Club will host the evening of November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next important way to show your support is to buy your tickets for the Sarasota County Democratic Party's Kennedy King Dinner at Michael's on East on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Visit their website for all the details at [www.sarasotadems.org](http://www.sarasotadems.org) or call their office at 330-9400.

Democratically yours,

Mary



Jan Chester, Senior Vice President/External Affairs of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, and February luncheon speaker, Dr. Kenneth Edelin

### From Your Membership Co-Chairs

Dear Democratic Club Members and Friends,

I want to thank all our guests (and, I hope, future members) who have been attending Democratic Club of Sarasota functions. Many guests fill out the Membership Applications and become members on the spot! We appreciate your support as we have an enormous amount of work to do in the upcoming months.

I also want to thank our loyal membership. We simply cannot do what we are doing in the community without your continuing support. Your membership dues and donations make it possible for us to participate in events throughout Sarasota County.

We recently participated in the West Coast Woman Expo where over 75 organizations mixed and mingled. For some reason our Democratic Club table was extremely popular. I'm not sure if was the Tootsie Rolls or the Obama 2012 bumper stickers we were giving away! We spoke to numerous folks who are committed to getting President

Obama and Senator Nelson reelected as well as working for our local candidates.

The Club is collaborating with a new group called Latinos for Obama. We recently met with the leadership from the Latino community. We discussed our common goals, and began to identify activities to achieve them for the upcoming campaign. If you are interested in getting involved with this group (and speak Spanish) please let me know.

Our Club provided food trays for a Voter Registration drive in Newtown at local barber shops and beauty shops. We have made an ongoing commitment to participate in events in the African-American community.

I want to welcome Georgia Blotzer, a new member of the Club Board and my new Membership Co-Chair. Georgia is incredible and I am so happy (and grateful) that she will be joining me in building up our membership in the upcoming months. Thanks Georgia!

For Membership questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us: JoAnne (joanne@sarasotadems.com) or Georgia (georgia@sarasotadems.com).

JoAnne DeVries & Georgia Blotzer  
Membership Co-Chairs

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- I am registered as a Democrat in Florida.
- I am a Democrat but am registered in a state other than Florida, and I would like to become a Friend of the Democratic Club of Sarasota.

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a term of (circle) 1 yr \$20; 3 yrs \$52; 5 yrs \$80; 10 yrs \$150 or Sustaining Member @ \$200 or more per year

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about volunteering.

Send to: Democratic Club of Sarasota  
Membership Committee  
PO Box 51076  
Sarasota, FL 34232-0329

#### New & Reinstated Club Members and Friends (in January)

- Deborah Ahonen, David Barnett, Ruth Brandwein,
- Denise Candea, Anne Chauvet, Charlie Clifton,
- Cindy Clifton, Celia Cohen, Frank Dougherty,
- Jack Dye, Marcy Dye, Nancy Erickson,
- E. Ronald Fox, Mehdi Gasml, Vicki Hadley,
- Dwight Hoover, Ellen India, Edward James III,
- Iris Leonard, Kate Lippincott, Mary Manilla,
- Judith Marks, Arthur Marks, Marvin Morse,
- Ardell Otten, Forrest Paradise, Greg Parry,
- James Portman, Karen Ray, Valerie Rudd,
- Maureen Simmons, Janet Smith, Wes Snyder,
- Cecilia Trummer, Katherine Watkins,
- Tom Wentzel, Ruth Winter

#### Convention Bound? — Important Dates

- May 5 ..... County caucuses elect delegates to the Democratic National Convention
- June 2-3.... Florida Democratic Party Convention in Tampa
- Sept. 3 ..... Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC begins
- Coming in April FOCUS: Info on becoming a delegate

### A Special Evening of Wine, Cheese & Politics with Jerry Springer: A Club Fundraiser

The Wine, Cheese & Politics meetings have become our most anticipated monthly event. In March, we will add a celebrity flair as we welcome Sarasota resident and avid Democrat — Jerry Springer — on Thursday, March 22.

We all know Jerry as the host of the tawdry daytime talk show, *The Jerry Springer Show*. But his resume also includes actor, television news anchor, and believe it or not — progressive political activist and elected official.

Jerry majored in political science at Tulane University and then received a law degree from Northwestern University in Chicago. Not long after graduating from law school, Jerry met Robert Kennedy at a dinner party and soon signed on to work on his presidential campaign.

After the blow of Kennedy’s assassination, he joined the law firm of Frost and Jacobs in Cincinnati. While there, the 25-year-old Springer led the movement in Ohio to lower the voting age from 21 to 18, which resulted in his Senate Judiciary Committee testimony supporting ratification of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution.

Springer then ran for Congress in Ohio in 1970, almost beating the Republican incumbent, Donald Clancy. In 1971, he won a seat on the Cincinnati City Council and served five terms before becoming mayor at the age of 33, with the largest plurality in the city’s history. He served two terms as Mayor.

After an unsuccessful bid for governor of Ohio in 1982, he was courted by several networks, ultimately signing with

the Cincinnati NBC affiliate WLWT. As its anchor and managing editor, he won multiple Emmy Awards. His success in television news eventually led to *The Jerry Springer Show* and the rest is history.

A frequent guest and political commentator on CNN and other news networks, we have no doubt that Jerry will provide a thought-provoking and entertaining evening of political conversation.

The event is at 1350 Main Street in Downtown Sarasota at 6:30 pm. Reservations are required for this special event, as space is limited. Please make your reservations by e-mailing [rsvp@sarasotadems.com](mailto:rsvp@sarasotadems.com) or leaving a message at 404-4678. Admission is \$40 for prepaid reservations and \$45 for those paying at the door. To prepay, please mail your check made payable to the DCS to: Democratic Club of Sarasota, PO Box 51076, Sarasota, FL 34234.

### Club Elections Postponed; Board Appointed

Democratic Club elections are supposed to be held at the February meeting, but the Democratic Club of Sarasota is so large that achieving the necessary quorum of 20% of the membership is always a challenge, one that was not met at our February luncheon.

Because the election could not be held in February, the previously-elected officers and board members followed the procedure outlined in the Club’s Bylaws and filled vacant positions by appointment. Club elections will be held at the next meeting when there is a quorum.

The current officers and board members are as follows. The end of the term in office is also indicated.

- President: .....Mary Clupper (2014)
- Vice President: .....JoAnne DeVries (2014)
- Corresponding Secretary: Tom Cook (2014)
- Recording Secretary: .....Holly Treadway (2014)
- Board Members:
  - Georgia Blotzer (2015)
  - Tom Brommage (2015)
  - Pat Coville (2014)
  - Ed Henne (2013)
  - Helen Magill (2014)
  - Sacha Rosenfeld (2013)
  - Dick Stammer (2014)
  - Jim Tate (2015)

Tom Brommage’s name and bio were accidentally left out of the February issue.

Tom Brommage is a native New Yorker who has lived in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. After retiring from a career in food service operations management, he has lived in Sarasota for the past 7 years and contributes many hours volunteering for the Democratic Party.



Above: Tom Brommage and Susan Cook  
Below: Gail & Charley Harraway and Mary Cochran



## Bill Tavalga: A Living Legacy



At 90, Bill Tavalga is still on staff at Mote Marine Lab as manager of its research program in sensory biology and behavior. A co-founder of the field of marine bio-acoustics, Bill's current specialization is hearing in herring.

Retiring early from teaching at City University of NY with a research lab at the American Museum of Natural

History, Bill resumed work at Mote where he had been spending research time since its founding by fellow graduate student Eugenie Clark. His current work includes budget duties, program development, proposal reviews for granting agencies — much of the administrative work he aimed to avoid by retiring.

Bill developed Mote's first computer system after building his own computer from a Heath kit. He has written a Russian language word-processing program which he markets commercially. An ardent music lover, he now manages computer operations for Selby Library's Sarasota Music Archive, of which he is vice-president

The son of Russian musicians, Bill himself plays piano, although he foiled his father's plans for him to be a concert pianist. Summering in the Catskills, where his parents produced musical programs for hotels, he spent his childhood free time turning over rocks and making lists, much better preparation for a scientific career.

Bill also puts his computer skills to work producing name tags for Democratic Club events.

—Paula G. John

Editor's Note: "Living Legacies" is an occasional column highlighting the interesting lives and diverse achievements of our members. Email [Feedback@SarasotaDems.com](mailto:Feedback@SarasotaDems.com) with your suggestions of members to interview.



Jacci Tutt and Liz Barber

All Photos this month are by Dick Stammer.

## Last Month: The GOP war against women

(Continued from page 1)

demonize physicians, calling them baby killers. Intimidation is another strategy. Both Edelin's trial almost 40 years ago and Dr. George Tiller's assassination in 2009 made doctors think twice about providing abortions — even when medically necessary.

After the 2010 elections, as John Boehner was about to become Speaker of the House, he met with Randall Terry, the anti-abortion extremist who heads Operation Rescue. Terry pressed for a radical anti-abortion strategy that included defunding Planned Parenthood. The third bill introduced in the House under Boehner (HR 3) outlawed all taxpayer funding of abortions. Not only does that deny abortion coverage to Medicaid recipients, but also military women and federal employees.

The second bill introduced was to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Edelin characterized ACA as the single greatest advance in women's health care in 50 years because it covers annual exams, STD screening and contraceptives without a co-pay.

In the 14 months since the Republican "tsunami" of 2010, we've seen anti-woman and anti-choice measures introduced in Congress and in many states. "Personhood" laws would outlaw many forms of contraception. Ultrasound laws increase both the financial and emotional cost to women seeking abortions.

Here in Florida, a new Constitutional Amendment 6 will be on the November ballot. Not only will it prohibit public funding of abortions, but it will reduce *women's* Constitutional privacy protections.

And, in our Congressional district, Vern Buchanan's voting record has been distinctly anti-choice. He even voted to end Medicaid coverage of reproductive health care, including Pap smears, breast exams and family planning services.

A key element of the anti-choice strategy is to have us fight one of their onerous restrictions all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where they expect to have the votes to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If President Obama isn't re-elected, that's very likely to happen.

Edelin cited a strategy he and Pro-Choice affiliates used in 1989 to elect a pro-choice governor in Virginia. "IDEA." ID=Identify pro-choice voters, including pro-choice Republican women. E=Educate them on the issue. A=Activate them as supporters and voters.

The Republican war on the Affordable Care Act and reproductive rights is a women's rights issue. Edelin said that a woman should be the only person deciding her reproductive future — not a doctor, not a court, not the government. American women need to get serious about winning the 2012 election.

—Debbie Trice

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This information is presented as a guide only. While we do the best we can to present dates and times with accuracy, event times and venues do change. Please check with the event sponsor to confirm the details surrounding the event. Note: all telephone numbers are 941 Area Code, unless otherwise noted.

To request that your event be listed, email Tom Cook at [willardcook@mac.com](mailto:willardcook@mac.com).

### DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SARASOTA EVENTS

#### 10 Mar (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon

Bill Cotter will speak on the topic "Same Sex Marriage and the Health Care Mandate: What will the Supreme Court Do?" at the luncheon meeting which begins at 11:30 am at Laurel Oak Country Club, 2700 Gary Player Blvd in Sarasota. (If there is a quorum, club elections will also be held.) Cost: \$23 for members; \$25 for non-members and walk-ins. Reservations (due by Mar. 7): 379-9233 or [reserve@sarasotadems.com](mailto:reserve@sarasotadems.com)

#### 22 Mar (Thur): Wine, Cheese & Politics

Jerry Springer, former political reporter, commentator, news anchor, political campaign adviser and Cincinnati Mayor, will speak at this special gathering. Info: page 5 RSVP required: [rsvp@sarasotadems.com](mailto:rsvp@sarasotadems.com) or 404-4678

### CLUB-SPONSORED OUTREACH EVENTS

#### 9-10 Mar (Fri-Sat): Englewood Music Festival

Info: Norma Dayton at [ohpiffle@yahoo.com](mailto:ohpiffle@yahoo.com)

#### 10-11 Mar (Sat-Sun): Celebrate Wellness Fest

Join us between 10 am and 6 pm at Phillippi Estate Park in Sarasota for Sarasota County's unique, interactive, educational event devoted wholly to health and wellness. Info: [www.celebratewellnessfest.com](http://www.celebratewellnessfest.com)

#### 16-25 Mar (Fri-Sun): Sarasota County Fair

Volunteer to staff the Democratic Party booth at the Sarasota County Fair. Sign up for a shift at [www.sarasotadems.org/countyfair](http://www.sarasotadems.org/countyfair). Please indicate if you are certified to register voters with "VR" after your name. Info: [jdv.devries8@gmail.com](mailto:jdv.devries8@gmail.com).

### OTHER EVENTS

#### Sarasota-Manatee Democratic Meetups

Info: visit <http://democrat.meetup.com>

#### 4 Mar (Sun): SCDP Kennedy-King Dinner

With a focus on "Civil Rights: The Struggle Continues," Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, and Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida, will be the keynote speakers at the Democratic Party's annual fundraiser at Michael's On East. Cost: \$100. Reservations (due by Feb. 25) may be made online at [www.sarasotadems.org/KK2012](http://www.sarasotadems.org/KK2012). Info: 330-9400

#### 6 Mar (Tue): Movie Screening in Venice

"Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" will be shown at 5:45-7:45 pm at the Jacaranda Library in

Venice. Sponsored by SAFE. Info: 330-9400

#### 7 Mar (Wed): Movie Screening in Sarasota

"Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" will be shown at 5:45-7:45 pm at the Fruitville Library in Sarasota. Sponsored by SAFE. Info: 330-9400

#### 7 Mar (Wed): Keith Fitzgerald for Congress Reception

Meet our candidate at 6:00-8:00 pm at the Flying Dog Café, 500 Tallevast Rd in Sarasota. Food and drinks are available to purchase. No Cover or Minimum Contribution. Info & RSVP: Steven Norris at 725-4130 or [Steve52n@aol.com](mailto:Steve52n@aol.com)

#### 13 Mar (Tue): Longboat Key Democratic Club

Dr. Ayse Somersan will speak at the regular luncheon meeting which begins at 12:00 noon at the Harbourside Dining Room of the Longboat Key Club and Resort. Mail check for \$23 per person to LBK Democratic Club, PO Box 8025, Longboat Key 34228 for receipt by Feb. 9. Info: Jane Albaum at 362-0520

#### 14 Mar (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party (SCDP)

This month's meeting is at the Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St in Sarasota. Come at 6:30 to socialize prior to the meeting at 7:00-8:30 pm. All Democrats are welcome. Info: 330-9400, [info@sarasotadems.org](mailto:info@sarasotadems.org) or [www.sarasotadems.org](http://www.sarasotadems.org)

#### 17 Mar (Sat): Venice Area Democratic Club

Economist Ayse Somersan will be the speaker at the regular monthly meeting at 10:30 am at Naar Hall, 620 Shamrock Blvd in Venice. Info: 492-5965 or [erniezav@yahoo.com](mailto:erniezav@yahoo.com)

#### 17 Mar (Sat): St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser for Keith Fitzgerald

Join Keith in celebrating St. Patrick's Day (and driving out all the snakes) at 12:00-3:00 pm at Spanish Point, 337 N. Tamiami Trail in Osprey. Info & RSVP: Julia Gill at [julia.gill.07@gmail.com](mailto:julia.gill.07@gmail.com) or (850) 559-8914. (Paid for by Keith Fitzgerald for Congress)

#### 31 Mar (Sat): VADC Annual Spring Luncheon

Kelly Kirschner, President of Unidos Now, will speak at the Venice Area Democratic Club's annual luncheon at 12:00-2:30 pm at the Jacaranda West Country Club, 1901 Jacaranda Blvd in Venice. Cost: \$25 per person (advance purchase req'd) Info: 493-5087, 492-5965 or [ohpiffle@yahoo.com](mailto:ohpiffle@yahoo.com)



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**RESERVATIONS:**

Call: 379-9233

Email: [reserve@sarasotadems.com](mailto:reserve@sarasotadems.com)

Email reservations (only) will receive confirmation.  
If no reply, please re-send.

**MENU CHOICES:**

★★★ **No Substitutions** ★★★

- Tuna Salad Stuffed Tomato w/ fresh fruit
- Honey Pecan Chicken w/rosemary roasted potatoes & vegetable
- Vegetable Pasta Primavera

Dessert: Tiramisu

Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

**DEADLINE:**

Wednesday evening, March 7

**LATE FEE:**

Late cancellations and no-shows will be billed.  
Late reservations, if accepted, will be charged \$25.  
Walk-ins will be charged \$25, if accommodated.

This Month's Luncheon Meeting

Bill Cotter: "Same Sex Marriage, the Health Care Mandate & the U.S. Supreme Court"

Saturday, March 10, 2012

11:30 Social Hour — 12:00 Lunch and Program  
(check-in opens at 11:00)

Members: \$23

Non-Members \$25

(Please make out check in advance to DCS and show last names of everyone included in the check)

**Laurel Oak Country Club**  
2700 Gary Player Blvd., Sarasota  
Phone: 378-3608

**Travel Directions:**

The entrance to Laurel Oaks is on Bee Ridge Road about 2 miles east of I-75 (across from Bent Tree). At the traffic light, turn left onto Gary Player Blvd. and stop at the guard gate. Then continue on Gary Player to the Country Club.