



BLUE NOTES

Central Committee to meet Jan. 22

Stacey Shinn, an organizer and lobbyist with Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN), will address the Douglas County Democratic Central Committee Thursday, January 22, at Democratic headquarters.

Shinn's topic: the current legislative landscape. She'll provide insight for potential activity and participation.

The PLAN Web Site (<http://www.planevada.org/about-us/>) states, "The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada was founded in 1994 to bring together diverse and potentially competing organizations into one cohesive force for social and environmental justice in Nevada. Since 1994, our organization has grown from 12 original founding member groups to a current membership of over 30 organizations."

You can also read her blog at <https://twitter.com/StaceyShinn>.

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. The DCDCC meets at 7 p.m. at 1513 US Highway 395 N. in Gardnerville.

Be sure to bring a friend!



Stacey Shinn



Member Profile: JoEtta Brown



JoEtta Brown

Editor's note: Blue Notes regularly profiles one of our Douglas County Democrats.

Shout it from the rooftops — Douglas County Planning Commissioner JoEtta Brown is a proud Democrat.

In her role with the county, she helped to determine the age standards for senior citizens. That was key to creation of the first affordable housing project for seniors in Nevada.

She and her late husband, James, moved to the Silver State 15 years ago after having lived in Southern California for more than 40 years. Before the move, she served on the Mayors Council under Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

But she held politics at bay for three decades, until she retired from the banking business. As a banker, however, she represented the industry in various governmental entities. “That made me think one day I did want to run for office,” she said.

And she did, tossing her hat into the ring in the 2006 race for Nevada State Assembly’s 39th District. She lost to James Settelmeyer. In a profile of Brown appearing in the Nevada Appeal, the small district was described as “one of the reddest districts in Nevada.”

Any regrets looking back at her candidacy? “No. I did everything that was in my plan,” she said. “We knew what the odds were. We knew what we were going into. The main reason I ran for office was to help energize the Democrats ... not just in Douglas County but in (all of) Nevada.

“We did not whisper ‘I am a Democrat.’ We proudly and boldly said, ‘I am a Democrat.’ I didn’t mind debating. The Democratic voice was heard, loud and clear, and I haven’t wavered.”

Brown currently serves as the executive vice president of the Alliance of Retired Americans, a position that puts her on the organization’s national board. “I’m very excited about that,” she said.

She attributes much of her leadership talent to Soroptimist International, for which she once served as a governor for a coastal region spanning much of Southern California and a portion of Arizona. “I learned accountability and how to conduct workshops in Soroptimist,” she said. “I enjoyed it. Professionally, it really helped build my foundation.”

Asked if she was to be given a “magic wand,” what might she change about our party? “Everything can change,” she said. “I would want us to be more energized, have more pride, speak up more and be more inclusive.

“Given what has happened across the country, with Republicans taking over,” she continued, “we are in a very dangerous situation. We should be scared to death. We need to be more active. We need to talk to more people about the issues. There’s a clear line between what Republicans and Democrats stand for.

“One of our biggest enemies,” she said, “is ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council). The average American doesn’t know what it is and what it stands for. They are frightening.”

(The ALEC Web Site states “Help ALEC return sovereignty to the states” and claims there is a “wave of criminal laws that threaten liberty.”)

Continued on Page 3

JoEtta Brown profile *(continued from Page 2)*

Brown said there's a lot of work ahead on tough issues facing Nevada. "Nevada is still at a crossroads," she said.

After listening to the Governor's State of the State address earlier this month, she said "They're still talking about the same issues: lack of money, poor education, health care. These have been issues since I came to Nevada. We're still at the bottom of every list you can think of."

She'd like to change that.

Brown remains steadfast that raising taxes for the average Nevadan is not the answer. "We should look at our tax base," she said. "It is antiquated."

She believes the current formulas give an advantage to the big corporations, and thus hurt small business.

So where to save? "We should have always looked at the mining tax and the room tax (for income)," she insisted. To

his credit, she noted the governor "finally agreed some taxes should not sunset."

Brown on the need to compromise: "We have to find common ground. We're going backwards in meeting the challenges that we had at a crossroads four, five, six years ago. So the common ground is our education."

She called for more transparency in government. "That's not just a buzzword. It should actually exist, but doesn't.

"Once we find the common ground, we should respect the differences and work for the solutions that benefit us all," she said.

"I'm really dedicated to seniors, to children, to housing and a better quality of life for all of us," the one-time candidate for the state Assembly said. "Does that make me a liberal? Probably — and I'm proud to be that and to be a Democrat."

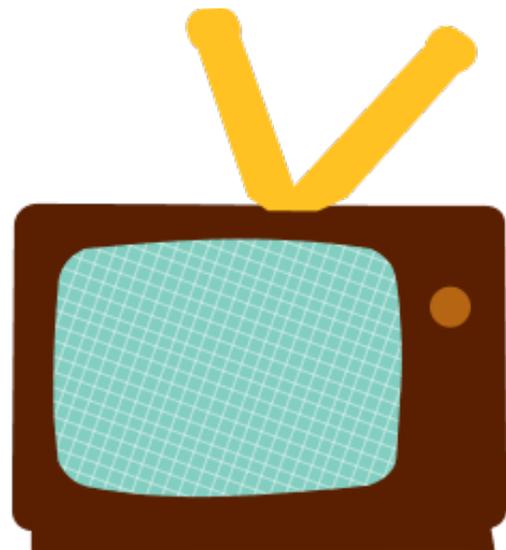
It's a party!

Join fellow Douglas County Democrats at a "State of the Union Watch Party."

Watch President Obama deliver his final State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress.

It's Tuesday night, January 20.

Information: Call Kimi Cole
(775) 721-1212



From the Chair ...

By Kimi Cole



Let's go paint something ... maybe a bit more blue!

1958 — I remember it like it was, well, a really long time ago! Very few specifics really stand out about that time in my life, except for time spent with a very best friend who was the son of our next-door neighbors.

Neither of our families had an abundance of money, but that never seemed to matter in the least to a couple adventurous four-year-olds. We always found ways to keep our time occupied, whether it was playing games, throwing rocks at cans, or scouting around the vast couple acres surrounding our duplex. At the time, it seemed like the whole world was there for us to explore.

On one of the property boundaries there was an abandoned irrigation ditch that gathered its fair share of refuse. Although cast-off items were certainly somebody's throwaways, we saw them as treasures that maybe we could figure out how to play with, or use in a fort that we constructed. We had our own private haven that was all of 50 feet from our parents' front doors.

One day, when we went out to play, we discovered someone had tossed several old paint cans in the ditch, probably hoping to save a trip all the way out to the town dump. With our adventurous minds in full gear, we agreed that maybe we could paint something! Whatever we thought we might be able to paint totally escapes my mind now, but I'm sure it must have needed paint.

I started opening cans first, only to find to my disappointment that whatever liquid remained in the bottom of the first can looked old, separated and yucky. I impatiently opened another can, and then another, only to find older, separated paint remains. I glanced over at my friend. He had found a stick, grabbed the first can I opened and was patiently stirring away at the goo in the

bottom.

I watched, wondering what he thought he might accomplish. With steady persistence, in a short time he showed me that, indeed, there was now some colorful, useable paint in the bottom of the can. He kept stirring. I opened more cans. When they were all opened (at least the ones that still had the appearance of liquid in the bottom), I grabbed a stick and started stirring myself. Before long, we had a bright array of colorful paint, just waiting for us to paint whatever we thought we should paint. I can only imagine there were some interestingly colored bushes and rocks around the property after our little afternoon of youthful artistry.

Somehow that lesson has stayed with me through life. Often I see others in such a hurry, discarding things that don't immediately grab their attention as perfect and ready to go. And often, I've been able to pick up discarded ideas, patiently stir for a little bit, and create new colors to add to the scene.

How often do most of us quickly cast aside "old cans of paint" scrambling to find something more perfect and made-to-order?

In the political realm, how often do we encounter new ideas (or candidates) that aren't perfectly, completely as we'd imagined they should be, and simply brush them off, without even attempting to vet their merits or capabilities?

Perhaps it's time to slow down now and then, take a second look inside the "cans," and maybe even do a little stirring here and there.

I'll bet if we look at the road ahead with a little of that perspective, we can figure out all manners of ways to create a more beautiful world.

Leaning a bit to the left

By Pat Stanley

I'm a "newbie" to the world of politics. Before retiring I was a journalist, which meant I could not reveal "my colors." On a really good day I'd get calls from readers upset that I was just too damned liberal, then calls from an angry reader asking if I was a member of the John Birch society. I'd realize I must have done something right.

But now I'm retired, and free to express my views. Yes, they are liberal!

My first venture was to attend a Douglas County Democratic Central Committee meeting. Before I could blink I was a member. Now I am a member of the Nevada State Central Committee.

Being a novice means I am just learning.

But I'm not a newbie to writing, so let's give this a try. If it works, you'll see more of my thoughts. If not, that's OK. I don't bruise that easily.

My first brush with the world of public service came in 1961, when I spent a summer in Washington, D.C., with my uncle, who happened to be Secretary of State to President Truman. Seems my father's sister married a lawyer who became a successful statesman. I was a wide-eyed kid who got to brush elbows with some big political guns (politicians and journalists alike). I even got to photograph President Kennedy signing a bill in the Oval Office. I'll include that picture with this article. On that same day I met Pierre Salinger, then JFK's press secretary. Our paths were to cross decades later when he spoke to a civics class in Napa, CA, where I was a newspaper columnist. I wanted to give him a copy of the picture I took of him in the White House with his trademark cigar dangling from his mouth. Instead, he autographed it for me. The photo now hangs on the wall of my home office — right beside my picture of his boss.

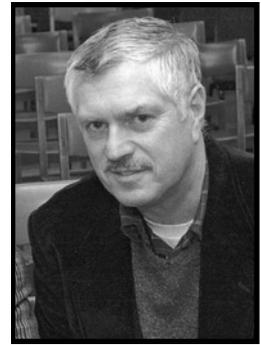
I dabbled a bit in politics in college, founding the Monterey County (California) Young Democrats and working on the reelection campaign for Gov. Edmund (Pat) Brown.

Then I started my career in radio, television and newspaper, and politics had to take a back seat.

Now that I am trying to get active in politics on the very local level, I must say I am in love with the Rural Nevada Democratic Caucus credo. Not familiar with it? I'll print it on page 6 of this edition of Blue Notes.

If I get to do another column, I think I'll write about apathy, the malady that cost us so many elective offices two months ago.

Until then, since I literally live one day at a time, here's wishing you all another 24!



RIGHT — President John F. Kennedy signs a bill in the Oval Office in 1961.

Photo by Pat Stanley



Rural Nevada Democratic Caucus credo

We Democrats are the oldest political party in America and the youngest in spirit. We will remain so, because we enjoy the challenge of government.

Time and again, for almost two centuries, the Democratic Party has made government work — to build and defend a nation, to encourage commerce, to educate our children, to promote equal opportunity, to advance science and industry, to support the arts and humanities, to restore the land, to develop and conserve our human and natural resources, to preserve and enhance our built environment, to relieve poverty, to explore space. We have reached difficult and vital goals.

We recognize that the capacity of government is limited but we regard democratic government as a force for good and a source of hope.

At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction, that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society.

We believe it is the responsibility of government to help us achieve this fair society.

A society where the elderly and the disabled can lead lives of dignity and where Social Security remains an unshakable commitment;

A society where all people can find jobs in a growing full-employment economy;

A society where all workers are guaranteed without question the legal right to join unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively for decent wages and conditions of employment;

A society where taxes are clearly based on ability to pay;

A society where the equal rights of women are guaranteed in the Constitution;

A society where the civil rights of minorities are fully secured and where no one is denied the opportunity for a better life;

A society where both public and private discrimination based upon race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, philosophical persuasion or physical disability are condemned and where our government moves aggressively to end such discrimination through lawful means;

A society where we recognize that the strengthening of the family and the protection of children are essential to the health of the nation;

A society where a sound education, proper nutrition, quality medical care, affordable housing, safe streets and a healthy environment are possible for every citizen;

A society where the livelihoods of our family farmers are as stable as the values they instill in the American character;

A society where a strong national defense is a common effort, where promoting human rights is a basic value of our foreign policy, and where we ensure that future by ending the nuclear arms race.

This is our purpose and our promise.



Your DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC: Kimi Cole (kimimcole@gmail.com)
First Vice Chair: Pending nomination
Second Vice Chair (Campaign Liaison): Pending nomination
Secretary: Katherine Winans
Treasurer: Eric Griffin
Member-at-large: Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Member-at-large: Gim Hollister

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration Committee: Nancy Downey (data base maintenance, etc.)

Timely Ticklers

January 20 — Tuesday
State of the Union Watch
Party- 5:30 p.m. to 7:30
p.m.
Information: Call Kimi
Cole (775) 721-1212

January 22 — Thursday
Douglas Democrats
Monthly Meeting-
Social time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting begins: 7:00 p.m.
Stacey Shinn of PLAN
discusses current
environment at the
Legislature
1513 US Highway 395 N.

February 2 — Friday
11:30 a.m.
DCDW luncheon
Speaker: Fred Lokken
Carson Valley Inn

February 2 — Monday
78th session Nevada State
Legislature opens/Carson
City- Join local and
statewide Democrats to
show our spirit!