



DEMOCRAT

Central Baltimore County's Democratic Club Newsletter

MARYLAND'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION STARTS JANUARY 8TH

IN THIS ISSUE

New Year, Same Great CBCDC Programs

Happy New Year! Your friends at the Central Baltimore County Democratic Club have been hard at work since our Holiday Party putting together a great lineup of speakers for 2014.

We kick things off this month with Delegate Heather Mizeur, candidate for Governor. In the months ahead, we'll also host candidates for delegate, county council, and all of the Democratic candidates for Attorney General.

This is also a great time to mention the importance of membership. Your dues allow us to host our website, put on programs, and provide refreshments for meetings. Also, only dues-paying members can vote on endorsements prior to the primary in June.

At only \$20 for the year, our club is the best deal in town for people who want to meet interesting politicians, activists, and people of note from around our state.

Join us January 14th beginning at 6:30 for the meeting as we kick off another great year of CBCDC programming!

NEWSLETTER 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.



Meet Our Guest

We're joined by gubernatorial candidate Heather Mizeur.

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America Hope for Change

Jim Kehl looks at the reality behind Gov. Bob Ehrlich's latest book.

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President's Letter

By Anne Neal

We almost didn't have the best party of the Holiday Season because of the weather.

Fortunately, our wonderful hosts, Christine and Ed Crawford, invited us to reschedule and we had the best party of the Holiday Season!

Thank you to Chris and Ed! As always our members came through with great food and there was lots of spirited conversation. You can't keep a good party down! We also want to thank our members for their generous donations to the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.

On January 14, we have the last of our gubernatorial forums. Delegate Heather Mizeur joins us. Please come for socializing and snacks at 6:30 pm. We expect the meeting to start by 7 pm.

Looking down the road to Election Day, we welcome Comptroller Peter Franchot in February. In March, we'll hear from local Baltimore County Council candidates. Because there are so many important races this year, we scheduled two meetings for

April. On April 8, we will host the Attorney General candidates and on April 29, we welcome candidates from the 42nd and the 11th Districts. May 13 is the date for our endorsement meeting.



There are lots of good reasons to pay your CBCDC membership dues. A really good one is that you can't vote at the endorsement meeting in May unless you are an active member. We'll keep reminding you!

We're always interested in ideas for meeting programs. Please contact me or one of our Board members if there is a speaker you'd like to hear or a topic you would like to see covered. We're booked through May but would love ideas for later meetings.

CBCDC had a great 2013 and we look forward to continuing to keep you in the know in 2014. Happy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 14th General Meeting

Join us at 301 Allegheny Ave. as we welcome gubernatorial candidate Heather Mizeur.



January 8th - Opening Day of the 2013 Legislative Session

The annual 90 day legislative session kicks off in Annapolis.



January 8th - Baltimore County Young Dems General Meeting



February 11th General Meeting

We're joined by Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Meet Our Guest

Named twice to Maryland's Top 100 Women list, Heather Mizeur has been called an "audacious risk-taker," a "hero to a wide swath of Democrats," and "one of the canniest politicians in Maryland today."

Her fifteen years of experience in policy has made her a progressive powerhouse in Annapolis, where she expanded health care to children, protected reproductive rights for women, safeguarded the environment and brought new technology jobs to Maryland.

Her political know-how has proven she can win the tough races. In 2006, Heather garnered the most votes in a seven-way primary and defeated two incumbents to capture her seat in the House of Delegates. Her emotional floor speech during the same-sex marriage debate helped swing the vote to make Maryland the eighth state to pass Marriage Equality.

Never one to shy away from her progressive principles, Heather was championed by the Daily Record as a "Maryland Health Care Hero" and the Baltimore Sun called her "one of the leading environmental advocates in the General Assembly." She has received NARAL's Choice Advocate Award, National Alliance on Mental Illness Montgomery County's State Hero Award, and the Legislator of the Year Award from the Maryland Association of Resources for Family and Youth.

Learn more about Heather and her campaign at www.heathermizeur.com



Review of *America Hope for Change*

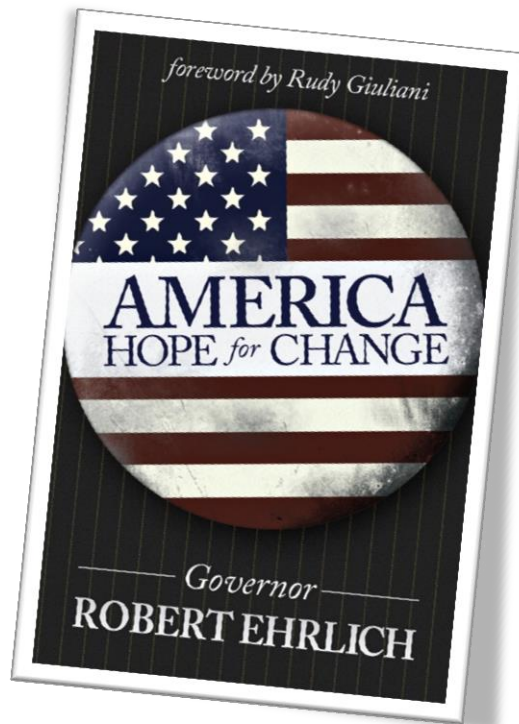
Op-Ed by Jim Kehl

Ronald M. Shapiro has written four books about the art of negotiation. One of the principles espoused in some of those books is that a negotiator should not only understand his/her own interests, but should also understand the interests of the other negotiating party. One of the ways this understanding is achieved is by listening. This advice can also be applied to politics. It is important for each one of us to understand not only what we believe and why we believe it, but also to understand what the other side believes and why that side believes its assertions. With those thoughts in mind, I borrowed a copy of Robert Ehrlich's new book entitled *America Hope for Change* from the local library. As an aside, I think the Baltimore County library is a great use of tax dollars and a great resource for current political books.

In an ideal world, I would present each of Ehrlich's opinions and then discuss why I agree or disagree with his viewpoints. Unfortunately, there is neither the time nor the space to provide such a comprehensive review. I will thus only discuss selective portions of his book. As with any book, I highly recommend that each person read the book and form his/her own opinions. My purposes for discussing this book are 1) to make people aware of a current political book written by a former governor and 2) to stimulate interest in current political issues.

Some of my disagreements with matters discussed in Ehrlich's book may be disagreements with the factual descriptions rather than differences of opinions. For instance, Rudy Giuliani states in the book's introduction that, while he was governor and navigating "dangerous waters with aplomb and success," Ehrlich "transformed a huge budget deficit to surplus." I don't know what Giuliani is talking about. The budgets enacted each year of Governor Ehrlich's term were balanced. But all budgets passed during every year of every other governor's term were also balanced. Balanced budgets are not a choice because they are required by state law. There was no "transformation" during Ehrlich's term. In fact, he did not solve the state's "structural deficit," which refers to the condition where future state expenditures are projected to exceed future state revenues. That situation was addressed, but not necessarily resolved, by the O'Malley-Brown Administration in subsequent budgets.

Governor Ehrlich's second book does not discuss his term of governor very much. When promulgating his opinion that disparities among people's incomes are "predictable and



acceptable," he did say that convincing people of this view was "much more easily said than done in the context of a difficult political

campaign conducted in a dark blue state against veteran practitioners (and exploiters) of class envy. As you have seen from my resume-been there, done that." First, I think almost everyone acknowledges the fact that there are disparities among incomes of individuals and businesses. I don't know how much "convincing" is needed for people to accept that as a fact. Second, this passage causes me to wonder if Ehrlich has fully come to terms with one of the reasons for his electoral defeats.

This reason was his inability to compromise and negotiate with his opponents in order to pass significant legislation. His failure to keep his campaign promise to legalize slot machines is a prime example. If he would have allowed a small increase in Maryland's sales tax, then slots would have been legalized during his term. He acknowledged this on one of his radio programs. Passage of legislation that legalized slots would have been a significant accomplishment that may have enhanced his chances of reelection. Instead of acknowledging his refusal to work with his opponents as a factor in his defeats, Ehrlich instead blames those defeats on a "left leaning media" and "veteran practitioners (and exploiters) of class envy." Ehrlich even describes Romney's defeat as an "unexpected result" that "was accomplished by means of a grossly transparent campaign of class warfare, guilt by association, and character assassination." Has the thought ever crossed his mind that Romney-Ryan may have run a poor campaign and had bad ideas? Why was Romney's defeat "unexpected" when few polls conducted during the campaign showed him ahead?

Politics is the art of compromise and negotiation. Ehrlich's two books convey his ideas. However, I don't know if his proposed methods for implementing his ideas are practical. It seems that he would benefit from studying the art of negotiation.

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.)

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