



## WDRC Newsletter

### Congratulations to President Obama on Receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

by Jack Kurzweil

By awarding President Barack Obama the Nobel Peace Prize, the world has taken note of the change of direction of his administration from that of George W. Bush and is giving him encouragement and support to continue on the road to peace and social justice.

The Nobel Committee has taken note of President Obama's:

1. apology to the world for torture and Guantanamo;
2. announcement of his desire for a nuclear free world;
3. Cairo speech in which he paid respect to the Muslim world;
4. abandonment of a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic;
5. commitment to direct bi-lateral negotiations with Iran and North Korea;
6. opposition to settlement expansion on the West Bank and commitment to a two state solution;

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### The Battle for Healthcare Reform

Take Action Now: Call our Representatives in Congress to VOTE FOR the Weiner and Kucinich Amendments

In the surprising twists and turns in the health care debate, it is expected that in next two to three weeks the House of Representatives will take an up-or-down vote on Rep. Anthony Weiner's (D-NY) amendment to substitute a national Medicare for All/single payer program for H.R. 3200.

H.R. 3200, the Health Care Reform bill approved by the House of Representatives, would keep the insurance industries in charge of the country's healthcare system. Weiner's amendment would delete most of the language in the House bill (H.R. 3200) and instead substitute language from H.R. 676, the single-payer bill introduced by Reps. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio)."

According to a press release from the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP): "The Weiner amendment, unlike the House leadership's bill, assures universal, comprehensive, and high-quality coverage, free choice of doctor and hospital, and no co-pays or deductibles through a publicly financed system similar to Medicare. Dr. Quentin Young, national coordinator of PNHP, said that because of massive savings on

private insurance overhead and paperwork, the amendment would entail no increase in U.S. health spending, in contrast to the House bill's \$1 trillion price tag over 10 years."

And while the individual mandate approach to reform embodied in the Senate Finance bill would leave 25 million Americans uninsured, single payer would assure coverage for every American, as even President Obama has admitted.

This is a first - single payer has never before been voted on by either house of Congress. We need a massive show of



*House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to bring single-payer up for a floor vote.*

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### Lakoff Initiative

## One Sentence Can Change California History

The Wellstone Club has endorsed a revolutionary initiative proposed by George Lakoff for the November 2010 ballot. It is one sentence, 14 words:

*"All legislative actions on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote."*

If it passes the initiative would end the tyranny of conservative minority rule that has gripped California for decades and threatens to make us the first failed state in the country.

Right now, a small minority of legislators (1/3 plus 1) of either the assembly or senate can block the will of the majority. It has led to the closing of our state parks, public libraries, and fire departments. It has decimated our educational system and social safety net.

George Lakoff, the author of the initiative, is Richard and Rhoda Goldman

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### Topic for October 22nd WDRC Meeting

## "Working for Medical Security – Medicare for All"

Michael Lighty, National Policy Director for the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, and board member of Progressive Democrats of America will be the guest speaker at the next WDRC

Membership meeting, October 22, 6:45 pm.

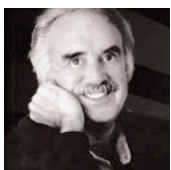
Michael Lighty has his finger on the pulse of the sad journey of health care reform in Washington. Learn first

hand C.N.A.'s "12 Step Program" toward achieving "Single Payer +Plus." Michael will make compelling arguments about how and why we must continue to fight for the right of all residents of the US to have access to affordable, quality health care, despite the backtracking of Democrats and the outrageous attacks of Republicans.

CDP Chair John Burton will make a special guest appearance at 7 pm to give us update on the political climate.



*Michael Lighty*



*John Burton*



The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club (WDRC) is composed of individuals working together to renew and invigorate the Democratic Party. **Our goals are to:**

1. **BUILD A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT** for progressive change.
2. **TRANSFORM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** to make it a consistent vehicle for the articulation and mobilization of populist and progressive values and political power; and
3. **ELECT DEMOCRATS TO ALL OFFICES** up and down the ballot and end the right wing stranglehold of our government in Congress.

Check our website for further information:  
[www.wellstoneclub.org](http://www.wellstoneclub.org)

## Join Us!

If you share our passion for peace, freedom, civil liberties, racial and gender equality, a sustainable environment and economic justice, help us renew America's Democracy. **We meet every 4th Thursday of the month.**  
[info@wellstoneclub.org](mailto:info@wellstoneclub.org).

The WDRC Newsletter is published once a month and is put together by the Communications Committee.

Editors: **Vicki Cosgrove, Nancy Friedman, Jack Kurzweil, Judy Pope and Ces Rosales**

To send comments, articles or letters to the editors, contact [communications@wellstoneclub.org](mailto:communications@wellstoneclub.org)

or snail mail to:  
WDRC Newsletter Committee  
P.O. Box 65  
Berkeley, CA 94701

## The Battle for ...

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support for the concept of a single payer system. We especially need to hold our representatives accountable on this issue.

In anticipation of this House vote, we have to step up the pressures on our representatives in Congress. Congresswoman Barbara Lee has been a steadfast supporter of HR 676 and we should send her messages of support to continue the fight for single-payer. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi must vote for the Weiner amendment.

We must also urge our Representatives to vote for the Kucinich amendment. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) has secured a provision in H.R. 3200 that would remove

federal barriers to individual states adopting single-payer systems. The amendment, also known as the state option, would greatly strengthen California's drive to pass state SB 810 and implement a state version of single payer.

Please call Lee and Pelosi, and ask them to vote FOR the Kucinich and Weiner amendments. Then call Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and ask that they make sure health care reform allows for state option.

The Congressional Switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.

Further information is also available from our own WDRC Health Committee. Please contact [Healthcare@WellstoneClub.org](mailto:Healthcare@WellstoneClub.org).

## Nobel Peace Award ...

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7. repositioning of the US into an advocate for measures to ameliorate climate change

Recognizing the institutionalized power of the military - industrial complex, the foreign policy establishment, and corporate America in the halls of power, it is incumbent on progressives and all Ameri-

cans of good will to give voice to the demand that this course be continued.

At this moment, the urgent issue is to prevent further escalation of the war in Afghanistan and move to an exit strategy. That war contains within it an inexorable logic: continuation and escalation will undermine all of the progressive initiatives that the Obama administration has taken; ending that war will open the door for further progress toward a peaceful world."

## One Sentence ...

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Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley. In the Huffington Post: [www.huffingtonpost.com/george-lakoff/ending-minority-rule-in-c\\_b\\_298493.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-lakoff/ending-minority-rule-in-c_b_298493.html) he

says his initiative will restore government that empowers and protects its citizens:

"How does minority rule happen? By trickery. Don't be fooled. The way a minority of one-third plus one comes to run the show is by imposing a 2/3 rule. It may sound

more democratic, but it is less democratic. It allows a minority to rule by gridlock, by thwarting the will of the majority in the legislature, and hence, a majority of the voters in the state ... Democracy means majority rule. One sentence will do the job.

"Of course, there will be a blowback.

*The way a minority of one-third plus one comes to run the show is by imposing a 2/3 rule. It may sound more democratic, but it is less democratic. It allows a minority to rule by gridlock, by thwarting the will of the majority.*

Conservatives will say, as they always do, that this is just a ruse to raise taxes.

"But this is about democracy, not about how or whether revenues are raised. What the majority of citizens want, a majority of elected representatives will enact."

Lakoff has titled his initiative the California Democracy Act, Already filed with the Secretary of State, the initiative has been

endorsed by Congressional candidate John Garamendi and Assemblymembers Nancy Skinner, Alberto Torrico and Joan Buchanan.

The campaign backing the initiative, the California Majority Rule campaign, first needs to raise \$35,000 to conduct a public opinion poll to

aid in message strategy and convince elected officials, unions and other key stakeholders that this is a viable strategy.

WDRC urges its members to DONATE to this campaign. To DONATE, click on this link [www.actblue.com/page/george-lakoffmajorityrulepoll](http://www.actblue.com/page/george-lakoffmajorityrulepoll)

# 2nd Annual Award Reception Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

Please join WDRC and our Event Co-Hosts:

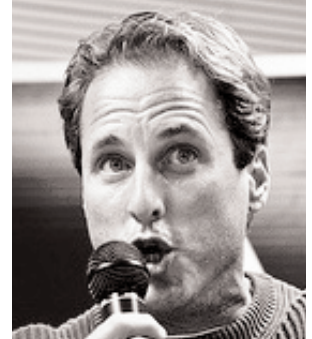
- **Congresswoman Barbara Lee**
- **Senator Loni Hancock**
- **Assemblymember Nancy Skinner**
- **Assemblymember Sandre Swanson**
- **Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson**
- **Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates**



## in Honoring CA Secretary of State **Debra Bowen**

**Thursday, November 12  
5:30-7:30 PM**

**The Silver Dragon Restaurant  
835 Webster St., Oakland**



Presenting the award will be  
**David Wellstone**  
co-chair, Wellstone Action and Paul and Sheila Wellstone's oldest son.

The Wellstone Club is excited to present its second "Wellstone Award" to Debra Bowen, our state leader in the fight to ensure that every citizen gets to vote, and every voter's ballot is counted. She has set a national standard in the battle against voter suppression and illegal efforts to manipulate our democratic process.

Please make checks out to "WDRC-PAC."

People can also rsvp and pay online at our website ([www.wellstoneclub.org](http://www.wellstoneclub.org)). Click on the "donate" button.

From there, fill out the form and in the field for "Donation-specific campaign" enter "Awards Reception."

Individual Ticket (\$25); Friends of the Club (\$50-99) "Friends" will be listed by name in the program and receive 1 ticket

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP to: Dan Barki, Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club, P.O. Box 65, Berkeley, CA 94701 or  
email: [treasurer@wellstoneclub.org](mailto:treasurer@wellstoneclub.org).

**(For questions about event sponsorship, contact Nicky González Yuen 510-549-0180 or email: [Nickygy@mac.com](mailto:Nickygy@mac.com))**

WDRC-PAC FEC# C00404525; FPPC# 1301157



## Afghanistan Moratorium

### 1. No Funding for Escalation in Afghanistan

Rep. Barbara Lee has introduced HR 3699, legislation to refuse funding for any troop escalation in Afghanistan. Titled "To prohibit any increase in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan" and introduced on Oct 1 with 21 cosponsors, this resolution can be very important in tipping the balance of the current debate on the war. Please email your support to Congresswoman Lee and contact your friends across the country, asking them to urge their Representatives to add their names as cosponsors.

### 2. OCTOBER 17, 2009

A National Day of Local & Regional

Actions Against the Wars in Afghanistan & Iraq.

Berkeley Action Against the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will hold a "War is Just a Racket Day - A Reading and Sing-Along." Saturday October 17, 2009, noon to 3 pm at Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza. Check <[www.october17.org](http://www.october17.org)>.

### 3. House Party With Rebecca Griffin, Thursday, Oct. 29th.

Rebecca Griffin, Political Director, Peace Action West will talk about her trip to Iran as an observer of the recent elections at a House Party on Thursday, October 29th, at 7PM. She will provide her observations about the nature of the elections and the character of opposition politics in Iran

Please contact Linda Spangler [lin-das@pol.net](mailto:lin-das@pol.net) if you wish to participate.

### 4. Meet Malalai Joya, Sunday, November 8th

Malalai Joya, "an Afghan politician who has been called 'the bravest woman in Afghanistan.'" Will be hosted by Grandmothers Against the War on Nov. 8th, 2:30-4:30 PM at the Northbrae community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. As an elected member of the Wolesi Jirga from Farah province, she has publicly denounced the presence of warlords and war criminals in the parliament.

### Join the Direct Action for Single Payer

**Wed., Oct. 28, at 7:30 AM.**

Gather at 425 Market St. (offices of United Healthcare).

To receive updates or get involved in planning (we need lots of help!), please contact

[ActForSinglePayer@gmail.com](mailto:ActForSinglePayer@gmail.com)

## Next WDRC Meeting

**Thursday, October 22, 2009**

**6:45PM – 9:00PM**

**Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street**

(between Telegraph and Broadway)

### Agenda

## "Working for Medical Security – Medicare for All"

Featured Guest:

**Michael Lighty**, National Policy Director for the California Nurses Association/  
National Nurses Organizing Committee

With Special Guest Appearance at 7 pm

**John Burton**, Chair of The California Democratic Party

**Come and join us at 6PM for a pot luck!**  
**GOOD FOOD! GREAT COMPANY!**

## Sustain WDRC

### Sign on to our Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

The Club has monthly expenses that need to be covered like Humanist Hall Rental, Website Maintenance, Postage for Mailing and Printing and Miscellaneous items. In addition, we need additional money to support and expand Club activities.

Please contact Club Treasurer, Dan Barki <[treasurer@wellstoneclub.org](mailto:treasurer@wellstoneclub.org)> and let him know how much you want to contribute each month. Its easy - and safe!

**Support US Now!**