

Moloney serious about victory

Recognized by name and sight eight months before election

by Bernie Jackson

We Libertarians are just as susceptible as anyone to the notion that third-party candidates don't win. When I started working on Mike Moloney's campaign for Congress last June, I expected we'd fill out the forms, strive for some token press attention, and be happy we had helped to build the party.



But something amazing has been happening. Mike has campaigned by standing on busy El Camino street corners from San Mateo to Millbrae, four days a week (except for our recent rain), holding a sign that says, "Moloney for Congress 1998 ... He will tell you the truth." Drivers honk and wave, pedestrians stop to talk politics, and every week, I see more and more evidence that Mike has built up strong name recognition in his district. Here are just a few examples:

A teenager asks for Mike's autograph, saying "everybody's talking about you." In a diner, the cashier recognizes Mike and asks, "How's the campaign?" even though they've never met. Two church elders spot Mike as he eats lunch at Fresh Choice, and they sit down with him for a foreign policy discussion. Near an apartment building, Mike generates so much horn-honking that the manager comes to investigate. In a coffee shop, a stranger engages Mike in some small talk, and when Mike reveals that he's running for Congress, she says, "I know who you are, Moloney. You're famous." The list of evidence goes on and on.

Meanwhile, the incumbent Tom Lantos is taking a beating in the press and in the minds of the public. He disgusted news editors and talk show hosts when he publicly likened Republicans to Nazis, called for the U.S. to "finish off" Iraq even if it means "vast" civilian casualties, and was formally charged with assault by a British reporter who claims Lantos punched him in the chest. In Mike's El Camino travels, he finds that the voters are fed up with Lantos' hawkish foreign policy and dogmatic support for old-style Democratic programs. A comment to Mike from a passing pedestrian sums it up: "I hope you beat that SOB Lantos." And so far, there is no Republican candidate in sight.

Mike Moloney needs to turn his popularity into votes. Those people who call him "famous" need to spread the word to those who may not have passed him on El Camino. When would-be volunteers ask Mike how they can help out, he tells them to get him five votes and send as many people as possible to his Web site (<http://www.moloney98.org>). He encourages them to take the initiative and be creative: write letters to the editor, call radio talk shows, even make a Moloney sign. I hope the Libertarians of San Mateo County will be among Mike Moloney's most active advocates.



McKean birthday cause for SMLP social event

by Robert Giedt

Hope you have **Sunday, March 15** circled in red, white *and* blue on your calendar! That afternoon, the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County will be hosting a party celebrating the birthday of Tom McKean, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence:

Sunday, March 15, 25 pm
Howard Johnson's
2110 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo

On the agenda: Informal conversation, light refreshments; and a brief presentation by Steve Marsland on what happened to Tom McKean and other signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Call Barbara Less (Activities Chair) for more info. 650/355-9069. No RSVP needed, just drop on by. We'd love to see you there!

Now is your chance to volunteer for liberty!

by Steve Marsland

Are you retired, a student or a homemaker? Do you have some time to work on what you believe in--smaller government and more individual liberty? Would you like to work on fun projects, doing what you enjoy, to help the cause of freedom? Would you like to meet and work with other volunteers for liberty, who share your values and beliefs?

Or do you know a retired person, student or homemaker with some time, who may not be a Libertarian but is interested in getting involved in helping make our world better? Many people who help us are not Libertarians. They believe in equal opportunity for all

political messages, or know and respect Libertarians, or just would like to get more involved with other people.

If you know someone who can help us, call me at 650/738-5926 and let's get them involved. Or call me if you want to get involved yourself. Whether you have just an hour a week or can devote your energies full time, we have important projects that need your help:

1. Our national and state candidates are building their organizations and welcome your involvement.
2. The party is becoming more active, reaching out to party members and registered Libertarians alike. Just us in activating our membership!
3. We are in the planning stages for a Tax Day (April 15) event--get in on the ground floor!

Participation is fun. You set your own level of involvement. You meet other interesting Libertarians who share your views. You make new friends. You meet and influence our candidates. And you find yourself enjoying your new hobby! Just call me and let me know how you'd like to get involved. And you'll find yourself having a lot of fun working on what you believe in. Or call me and give me the name of a friend you think might want the chance to help.

Thanks to Libertarians who put their time behind what they believe in, today we have the largest and most influential Libertarian movement ever. With your help, our influence and impact will grow larger. I look forward to hearing from you.

"No government can continue good, but under the control of the people."
Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 1819

Jefferson Club Luncheon

The Jefferson Club is proud to present Peter Thiel, Principal, Thiel Capital International, LLC to speak on:

"Crony Capitalism: The IMF and East Asia."

Friday, March 13, 12 noon
Ming's Villa in Palo Alto
\$20 fee for food and room

(For more information and for reservations, see <http://www.ipser.com/jeffersonclub>.)

"Crony capitalism" is the oxymoron used to describe the misguided policy of state intervention in markets which has triggered an economic crisis in East Asia, with repercussions throughout the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is attempting to soften the impact of this crisis by loaning billions of dollars to East Asian governments and companies at significantly below-market rates. But at what cost? Mr. Thiel will explain why the IMF's interventionist approach merely replicates the crony capitalism that caused the crisis in the first place albeit on a grander scale. He will discuss the likely consequences of the IMF's iatrogenic policies and outline the laissez-faire capitalist alternative: an unhampered global economy, made possible by combining free trade with emerging technologies.

Mr. Thiel heads up Thiel Capital International, LLC, a global hedge fund, and is also a research fellow at the Independent Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Northern California.

Mr. Thiel is a television commentator for C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" and PBS's "Debates Debates." He has written about public policy issues for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Times*, and *Policy Review*.

February meeting notes

by Christopher Schmidt

February's meeting--in the café for the last time--was mostly dedicated to discussion of ongoing projects.

"Free the People" initiative

We debated a proposal to insert a copy of the "Free the People" initiative (which would prohibit state taxation of income) in this issue of the *San Mateo Libertarian*, but decided to save our limited resources for projects with more clear-cut benefits. If you'd like to circulate the petition yourself, call David Bonino at 408/458-5259.

Report from the LP state convention

I described some of the happenings at the LP state convention in Los Angeles in February. I liked all of the speakers, but especially David Rider--the San Diego Libertarian who has frustrated city attempts to issue bonds without a vote of the people. I also related my impressions of the platform amendment process (mostly favorable).

[Libertarian talk show host Larry Elder also gave a speech at the convention which is currently (hopefully) being rebroadcast this month on C-SPAN. According to Chris, this was an excellent talk. Keep an eye out for it! Ed]

Social event preparation

Barbara Less presented her plans for the "Tom McKean Birthday" get-together and we divvied-up food and drink duties. She volunteered to telephone members and petition-signers to invite them.

Judicial Committee

We abortively elected a judicial committee--realizing afterward that no notice in the newsletter had been given. The judicial committee will be decided upon in the March business meeting.

Other business

We voted unanimously to discontinue the Speakers Committee (although Frank will continue to invite speakers when needed) and the Speakers Bureau (since Mike is now busy with his congressional campaign).

Mike introduced John Brosnan, who (in the process of circulating Mike's petitions) registered 20 new libertarians!

Mike and Bernie updated us on the progress of Mike's campaign.

Report from LP of San Francisco meeting

by Steve Marsland

The SF region currently has a chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. They elected a newsletter chair during the meeting. According to records, they have about 200 party members and approximately 1,800 registered libertarians in the region.

On the business side, their organization was financially stable. I urged them to first focus on filling out their organization with all officers and then move to activate their membership with activities.

They also plan to participate in Tax Protest Day, but have not yet decided on a course of action. I plan to discuss this with the Santa Clara chair and see what we can do together on the Peninsula.

In addition, several things were discussed in the meeting:

1. The Green Party attended and gave us the name of the San Mateo Green Party leader. They said they plan to support proportional representation.
2. Valid political parties apparently have the right to meet in a government building once a month. Libraries will often make meeting rooms available at low or no cost to political organizations.
3. There used to be a donation blank on the California state tax form where people could contribute to the political party of their choice (up to \$25). This was a major source of funding for the Green Party which has now been lost.
4. Supposedly, government ballot mailers are willing to include (for free) a fundraising letter and return envelope in absentee ballots being sent to registered Libertarians. If true, this would be a great low-cost way to conduct fundraising efforts.

"I consider the people who constitute a society or nation as the source of all authority in that nation; as free to transact their common concerns by any agents they think proper; to change these agents under the authority of the nation are the acts of the nation, are obligatory on them and enure to their use, and can in no wise be annulled or affected by any change in the form of the government or of the persons administering it."

Thomas Jefferson: *Opinion on French Treaties*, 1793

Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:

Wednesday, March 18

Prime Time Athletic Club

1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame (between Broadway and Millbrae Avenue)

Informal chat/dinner: 6:30-7:30pm in the cafe

Business meeting: 7:30-9:00pm in the multipurpose room.

Business agenda:

1. Election of Judicial Committee/Chair
2. Steve Marsland's campaign status/strategy.
3. Review results of March social event.
4. Plan goals for 1998 membership growth.
5. Decide on Tax Day Protest event (if any).