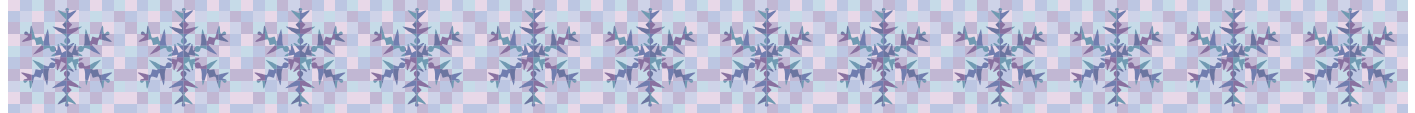


# Sun City Democrats

[www.suncitydems.org](http://www.suncitydems.org)

January 2011



## General Meeting:

The General Meeting is typically on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information on the Sun City Democrats, please contact President **Roe Mackey** at 864-7948 or Communications Chair **Betty Dougherty** at 864-1582.

**PLEASE NOTE!** *We will be meeting in a new location in 2011!* The newest facility in Sun City is the **Cowan Creek Amenity Center** at **1433 Cool Spring Way**, and we have reserved the **Florence/Georgetown Rooms** for all our regular meetings. A map and directions are provided on page 8.

**ALSO PLEASE NOTE** that the **January** meeting date has been moved ahead one week, from the first Saturday to the **second Saturday, January 8**, so as not to interfere with the New Year holiday.

## Saturday, January 8, 2010

**9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 Business Meeting**

**Place: Cowan Creek Amenity Center,**  
Florence / Georgetown Rooms

**Program: Walt Herbert**



We received rave reviews when Walt spoke at the October 2, 2010 Sun City Democrats meeting. We are fortunate to have him return this month to speak on **Social Justice and the Financial Meltdown**.

## **SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2011 OFFICERS**

President: **Roe Mackey** 864-7948

Vice-President: **Duane Florschuetz** 868-2621

Secretary: **Bonnie Boorman** 863-2387

Treasurer: **Sheridan Moore** 869-4825

Communication: **Betty Dougherty** 864-1582

Website Editor: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

Newsletter Editor: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

Groups/Education: **Nita Hornbeck** 869-4825

Hospitality: **Pat Prudhom** 686-0506

Meeting Setup: **Fred Becker** 864-0704

Coffee: **George Wagner** 864-0641

Meeting Food: **Bettie Horn Bendewald** 931-0981

IMPACT: **Dwaine Boydston** 240-5161

Membership: **Larry Hilliard** 591-7052

Database: **Frank Wentworth** 864-3385

Programs: **Billie Reaney** 869-2690

Special Events: This position is vacant.

Past President: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

**Walter Herbert** accepted the Herman Brown Chair in English at Southwestern University in 1975. In 1981 he was appointed University Scholar at Southwestern; and in 2006 he retired from the active faculty at Southwestern, and was named Professor of English Emeritus. He received the William C. Finch Distinguished Professorship at Southwestern.

Herbert's most recent book is ***Faith Based War: From 9/11 to Catastrophic Success in Iraq***, Equinox Press (2009).





## Precinct 396 January Report ~ Billie Reaney, Precinct 396 Chair

Republicans who will control the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress have pledged to their base that they will repeal “**Obamacare**” (their word) and also cut the Federal Deficit. It is not possible to do both. **Obamacare** is, and from its beginning, has been a deficit reduction bill (138 billion over the next 10 years). Our teetering, unsupportable deficit will not be meaningfully reduced without it. The Deficit Commission report issued in December enshrined **Obamacare** as a necessary ingredient in any successful plan to reduce the deficit.

Republicans voters still believe all the myths, misinformation, scary claims and downright lies about **Obamacare**. So do their Congressmen and women who represent them - the Tea-ers. They will spend many hours posturing and haranguing about repeal in order to appease their ill-informed base. Repeal will not happen.

Here are some facts you might find useful when talking to your Republican friends. **Obamacare** enables insurance coverage for 33,000,000. Twenty four million of them will pay insurance premiums to insurance providers. (Calculate: 24 million x your annual healthcare premiums!) Your taxes and inflated hospital charges will no longer pay for the uninsured. There will be no uninsured. Their bills will go to their insurance providers. **Obamacare** is a 4-way win. 1.) Uninsured get covered, insurance. 2.) Insurance companies get mega-billions. 3.) Family healthcare costs diminish by \$2000 annually (according to the Actuary of Commonwealth Fund). And 4.) **Obamacare** slashes the Federal deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars.

So Democrats took a shellacking in the last election and elections have consequences. What did the voters signal they wanted from the Republican Congress? Cut the deficit? Or slash the president by killing **Obamacare**? You can't do both. But it should be an interesting year as we watch them trying to figure out which priority will prevail.

**Editor's NOTE:** As Billie indicates above, the Republicans have used the term “**Obamacare**” with disdain, hoping to make the public think it's a bad thing. Let's refuse to let them own that word! Turning the GOP negative spin on **Obamacare** into a very positive one is the ultimate sweet revenge. See the next article by **George Lakoff** about the importance of “words”.



### Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats – and now DUES ARE DUE!

The **Sun City Democrats** provide many activities and services for members. We have educational meetings, provide speakers, social events, maintain a website, and a monthly newsletter. We exist only because of loyal volunteers.

Sun City Democrats' annual dues are **\$12** per member. You may pay at the sign-in table at the meetings or mail a check made out to **Sun City Democrats to: Sun City Democrats; 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120; PMB #432; Georgetown TX 78633.**

**NOTE:** Any dues paid now will make your membership valid through **2011**. What a bargain! Applications are available online at [www.suncitydems.org](http://www.suncitydems.org) or click here:

[Sun City Democrats Membership Application](#)

### Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats Political Action Committee ~ IMPACT:

Our PAC is known as **IMPACT: Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas**. **IMPACT** is the only legal way that the Sun City Democrats may contribute to candidates. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer, **Dwaine Boydston, 722 Independence Creek Lane, Georgetown TX 78633**. **NOTE: This is a new address for IMPACT contributions.**

### Williamson County Democratic Party:

#### **Precinct 381**

~**Kay Walker**, Precinct Chair

864-2874 [kaywalker@suddenlink.net](mailto:kaywalker@suddenlink.net)

**(NOTE: See Kay's Report on Page 5.)**

#### **Precinct 394**

~**Dwaine Boydston**, Precinct Chair

431-4412 [dwayne.boydstun@gmail.com](mailto:dwayne.boydstun@gmail.com)

#### **Precinct 396**

~**Billie Reaney**, Precinct Chair

868-0098 [billie\\_reaney@msn.com](mailto:billie_reaney@msn.com)

**(NOTE: See Billie's Report on This Page.)**

#### **Precinct 399**

~**Bill Blair**, Precinct Chair

868-9180 [billblair3@verizon.net](mailto:billblair3@verizon.net)

## Untellable Truths

Common Dreams.org, December 10, 2010

~ George Lakoff

The conservative message machine has so dominated political discourse that they have changed the meaning of words and made some truths untellable by political leaders in present discourse. It takes a major communication effort to change that.

Here are just a few examples of presently untellable truths:

\* There is a **Principle of Conservation of Government**: If conservatives succeed in cutting government by the people for the public good, our lives will still be governed, but now by corporations. We will have government by corporations for corporate profit. It will not be a kind government. It will be a cruel government, a government of foreclosures, outsourcing, union busting, outrageous payments for every little thing, and pension eliminations.

\* The moral missions of government include the **protection and empowerment of citizens**. Protection includes health care, social security, safe food, consumer protection, environmental protection, job protection, etc. Empowerment is what makes a decent life possible -- roads and infrastructure, communication and energy systems, education, etc. No business can function without them. This has not been discussed adequately. Government serving those moral missions is what makes freedom, fairness, and prosperity possible. Conservatives do not believe in those moral missions of government, and when in power, they subvert the ability of government to carry out those moral missions.

\* The moral missions of government impose a **distinction between necessities and services**. Government has a moral mission to provide necessities: Adequate food, water, housing, transportation, education, infrastructure (roads and bridges, sewers, public buildings), medical care, care for elders, the disabled, environmental protection, food safety, clean air, and so on. *Necessities* should never be subordinated to private profit. The public should never be put at the mercy of private profit. Public funds for necessities should never be diverted to private profit.

\* *Services* are very different; they start where necessities end. Private service industries exist to provide services - car rentals, parking lots, hair salons, gardening, painting, plumbing, fast food, auto repair, clothes cleaning, and so on. It is time to stop speaking of government "services" and speak instead of government providing *necessities*. Similarly, "spending" does not suggest providing necessities. "Spending" suggests *services* that could just as well be eliminated or provided by private industry. Economists should drop the term "spending" when discussing necessities.

\* The **market is supposed to be "efficient" at distributing goods and services**, and sometimes, with appropriate competition, it is. But the market is most often *inefficient* at providing necessities, because every

dollar that goes to profit is a dollar that does not go to necessities. Health care is a perfect example.

\* **Public servant pensions have been earned**. Public servants have taken lower salaries in return for better benefits later in life. They have earned those pensions through years of hard work at low salaries. Pensions were ways for both corporations and governments to pay lower salaries. Responsible institutions, public and private, took the money saved by committing to pensions and invested it so that the money would be there later. Those corporations and governments that took the money and ran are now going broke. Those institutions (both companies and governments) are now blaming the unions who negotiated deferred earnings in the form of pensions or benefits for the lack of money to pay pensions. But the institutions themselves (e.g., general motors) are to blame for not putting those deferred salary payments aside and investing them safely.

\* **Education is a public good, not a private good**. It benefits all of us to live in a country with educated people. It benefits corporations to have educated employees. It benefits democracy to have educated citizens. But conservatives are only considering education as a means to make money and hence as a private good. This leads them to eliminate the public funding of education, which is a major disaster for all of us, not just those who will either be denied an education or who will be forced into unconscionable debt.

\* **Huge discrepancies in wealth are a danger to democracy** and a cause for major public alarm. The enormous accumulation of wealth at the top of American society means unfair access to scarce resources, a restriction on access to necessities for many, and a grossly unfair distribution of power -- power over the media and political power.

\* Tax "cuts," "breaks," and "loopholes" sound good (wouldn't you like one?) even for super-wealthy individuals and corporations. What they really mean is that **money is being transferred from poorer people to richer people**: The poor and middle are giving money to the rich! Why? Money that would otherwise go to their necessities: food, education, health, housing, safety, and so on is instead going into the pockets of super-wealthy people who don't need it.

\* Markets in a democracy have a fundamentally moral as well as economic function. Working people who produce goods and services are necessary for businesses and should be paid in line with profits and productivity. Salary scales in private industry are a matter of public, not just private concern. **Middle-class salaries have not gone up in 30 years, while the income of the top 1 percent has zoomed upward astronomically**. This is a moral issue.

\* **Carbon-based fuels -- oil, coal, natural gas -- are deadly**. They bring death to people and animals and destruction to nature. We are not paying for their true cost because they are being subsidized: tens of billions of dollars for naval protection of tankers, hundreds of billions for oil leases, hundreds of billions in destruction of nature, as in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska coast.

Death comes from the poisoning of air and water through pollution and natural gas fracking. And global warming pollution destroys nature itself -- the ice cap, the creation of violent storms, floods, deserts, the blowing up of hilltops. The salesmen of death -- the oil and coal companies -- are profiting hugely from our payouts to them via subsidies and high prices. And with the money ordinary citizens are giving to them in subsidies, they are corrupting the political process, influencing political leaders not to deal with global warming -- our greatest threat. We are dependent on them for energy, to a large extent because they have politically blocked the development of alternatives for decades.

\* What is called **"school failure" is actually a failure of citizens to pay for and do what is needed for excellent schools:** early childhood education, better training and pay for teachers, a culture of learning in place a culture of entertainment, a poverty-free economy.

\* **Taxpayers pay for business perks.** Because business can deduct the costs of doing business, taxpayers wind up paying a significant percentage of business write-offs -- extravagant offices, business cars and jets, first-class and business-class flights, meetings at expensive lodges and spas, and so on. Businesses regularly rip off taxpayers through tax deductions.

\* **The economic crisis and the ecological crisis are the same crisis.** It has been caused by short-term greed. Thomas Friedman has described it well. The causes of both are the same: Underestimation of risk. Privatization of profit. Socialization of Loss. But that truth lies outside of public discourse.

\* **Low-paid immigrant workers make the lifestyles of the middle and upper classes possible.** Those workers deserve *gratitude* -- as well as health care, education for their kids, and decent housing.



Notice that it takes a paragraph to tell each of these truths. Each paragraph creates a frame required for the truth to be told. Words are defined in terms of such conceptual frames. Without the frames in common understanding, there are presently no simple commonplace words to express the frames. **Such words have to be invented and will only come into common use when these presently untellable truths become commonplace truths.** Try to imagine how public understanding would have to be enhanced for expressions like the following to come into normal public discourse:

- \* **greed crisis** in place of *economic crisis*
- \* **blessed immigrants** in place of *illegal immigrants*
- \* **government for profit** in place of *privatization*
- \* **public theft** in place of *tax breaks*
- \* **failing citizens** in place of *failing schools*
- \* **corporate cruelty** in place of *profit maximization*
- \* **deadly coal** in place of *clean coal*

Presidents can have a discourse-changing power if they know how to use it and care to use it. But they cannot do it alone.

If there is a teachable communication moment for President Obama, this is it. **Bring back "empathy" -- "the most important thing my mother taught me." Speak of "empathy" for "people who are hurting."** Say again how empathy is basis of democracy ("caring for your fellow citizens"), how we have a responsibility to act on that empathy: social as well as personal responsibility. Bring the central role of empathy in democracy to the media. And make it clear that personal responsibility alone is anti-patriotic, the opposite of what America is fundamentally about. That is the first step in telling our most important untellable truths. And it is a necessary step in loosening the conservative grip on public discourse.

For videos of the president speaking about empathy, Google: Obama Empathy Youtube, and Obama Empathy Speeches.

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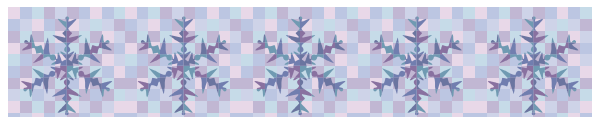
**George Lakoff** is Richard and Rhoda Goldman Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of [The Political Mind](#) and [Don't Think of an Elephant!](#)

Article printed from [www.CommonDreams.org](http://www.CommonDreams.org)

Read the [complete](#) article here:

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2010/12/10-0>

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# Precinct 381 January Report

~ Kay Walker, Precinct 381 Chair

## Is anyone out there getting paranoid besides me?

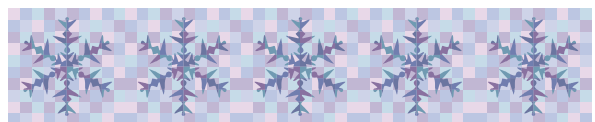
Do you believe that just because you suspect the "R"s are out to get you, may just mean they really are? Or at least that they deserve watching? This appears to be a really busy week in Washington, and I am getting brain-dead trying to keep in my mind just which bills are passed, defeated, overturned, and/or delayed. So I made a table to keep it all straight and help watch Congress and the Courts. **Table below is for Federal.**

Incidentally, there is already back-tracking on the declaration that the new Bush-era Tax Cut Extension Bill will "lower everyone's taxes". Today I read, "Actually lower middle class Americans will pay higher taxes. Families making less than \$40,000 and individuals making less than \$20,000 will lose funds they received from the "Make work pay" refundable tax credit that wasn't part of the deal."

Bill	House	Senate	Courts
Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (Health Care Overhaul)-specifically mandatory insurance	3/21/2010 Pass	12/24/2009 Pass	12/13/2010 court in VA declared it unconstitutional. Justice Dept. plans to intercede.
Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (Health Care Overhaul)-specifically mandate to expand Medicare	3/21/2010 Pass	12/24/2009 Pass	12/16/2010 Court in FL plans to declare unconstitutional. Texas one of 20 states to refuse.
Bush-era Tax Cuts 2 year extension, Unemployment benefits 13 mo extension, Payroll tax 2% reduction 1yr	12/16/2010 Pass	12/15/2010 Pass	
Nuclear Arms Reduction Pact with Russia			
Repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell	12/15/2010 Pass	12/18/2010 Pass	
Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors Act (Dream Act)	12/9/10 Pass	9/2010 Fail. Revote scheduled 12/16/2010 but delayed.	

## Preliminary table for the Texas Legislature 2011:

Bill	House	Senate	TX Supreme Ct
Repeal Open Beaches Act of 1959 (public no longer guaranteed access to Texas beaches)			11/5/2010 ruled to repeal in case called Severence vs. Patterson. 12/10/2010 Att. Gen'l filed motion to rehear
HB 17 Arizona-like Immigration law			
SB 130 & HB 85 further restrict abortions			
HB 86 Allow guns on college campuses			
HB 16 Require photo ID to vote			
HB 176 English only on official documents & signs			
SB 139 no straight party voting			
SB 138 No cell phone use while driving			
SB 128 prohibit lawmakers from lobbying in legislature for 4 yrs.			
Redistricting			
Cap on property tax			
Refuse to expand Medicaid as required in Obama Health Care Bill			
Pass budget re \$25 billion shortfall			
Create 50 year TX water plan			



# Study Confirms That Fox News Makes You Stupid

~ By Mark Howard, News Corpse Editor  
Posted on AlterNet, December 15, 2010  
<http://www.alternet.org/story/149193>

*A new survey of American voters shows that Fox News viewers are significantly more misinformed than consumers of news from other sources.*

Yet another study has been released proving that watching **Fox News** is detrimental to your intelligence. World Public Opinion, a project managed by the **Program on International Policy Attitudes** at the University of Maryland, conducted a survey of American voters that shows that Fox News viewers are significantly more misinformed than consumers of news from other sources. What's more, the study shows that greater exposure to Fox News increases misinformation.

**So the more you watch, the less you know.** Or to be precise, the more you think you know that is actually false. This study corroborates a previous PIPA study that focused on the Iraq war with similar results. And there was an NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll that demonstrated the break with reality on the part of Fox viewers with regard to health care. The body of evidence that Fox News is nothing but a propaganda machine dedicated to lies is growing by the day.

In eight of the nine questions below, Fox News placed first in the percentage of those who were misinformed (they placed second in the question on TARP). That's a pretty high batting average for **journalistic fraud**. Here is a list of what Fox News viewers believe that just ain't so:

- 91 percent believe the stimulus legislation lost jobs
- 72 percent believe the health reform law will increase the deficit
- 72 percent believe the economy is getting worse
- 60 percent believe climate change is not occurring
- 49 percent believe income taxes have gone up
- 63 percent believe the stimulus legislation did not include any tax cuts
- 56 percent believe Obama initiated the GM/Chrysler bailout
- 38 percent believe that most Republicans opposed TARP
- 63 percent believe Obama was not born in the U.S. (or that it is unclear)

The conclusion is inescapable. Fox News is deliberately misinforming its viewers and it is doing so for a reason. Every issue above is one in which the Republican Party had a vested interest. **The GOP benefited from the ignorance that Fox News helped to proliferate.** The results were apparent in the election last month as voters based their decisions on demonstrably false information fed to them by Fox News.

By the way, the rest of the media was not blameless. CNN and the broadcast network news operations fared only slightly better in many cases. Even **MSNBC, which had the best record of accurately informing viewers,** has a ways to go before it can brag about it.



The conclusions in this study need to be disseminated as broadly as possible. Fox's competitors need to report these results and produce ad campaigns featuring them. Newspapers and magazines need to publish the study across the country. This is big news and it is critical that the nation be advised that a major news enterprise is poisoning their minds.

**This is not an isolated review of Fox's performance.** It has been corroborated time and time again. The fact that Fox News is so blatantly dishonest, and the effects of that dishonesty have become ingrained in an electorate that has been purposefully deceived, needs to be made known to every American. **Our democracy cannot function if voters are making choices based on lies.** We have the evidence that Fox is tilting the scales and we must now make certain its corporate owners do not get away with it.

*Mark Howard is an artist, author, and the publisher of the News Corpse blog.*

Read the complete World Public Opinion study here: [http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/dec10/Misinformation\\_Dec10\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/dec10/Misinformation_Dec10_rpt.pdf)



## Note to Democrats: Remember Where You Came From...

RudePundit.org, November 15, 2010

~ The Rude Pundit

"This is the only place in American history where we used our Air Force to bomb our own people," the old woman said, gesturing at a ridge on **Blair Mountain, West Virginia**, puffing on a cigarette. "To protect the property of the coal barons." We ran into a group of elderly people who wanted to see the mountain before it was blown up. It's why we were there, too.

Where we were standing, more than 10,000 coal miners fought a battle with the hired thugs of the coal companies. The miners were marching to Logan in order to free union organizers and end martial law in Mingo County. The Sheriff of Logan County, in cahoots with the mine owners, decided that the miners would not make it to Mingo and would not succeed in unionizing. **Sheriff Chafin** was able to raise a force of around 3000 men because volunteers came from outside West Virginia to shoot the supposed communists. So volatile was the situation that **Mother Jones** herself urged the miners not to march. But for five days, the two sides fought on Blair Mountain, ending only when federal troops arrived to take the side of the coal companies. **It was the largest battle on American soil other than the Civil War.**

The woman wasn't entirely right. While the fairly new Army Air Corps had planes go out on reconnaissance missions, the bombs that were dropped on the miners from the air were homemade and came from private planes that the coal barons had hired. The miners turned back and the United Mine Workers Association lost its chance to unionize the southern coalfields of West Virginia for another 15 years. In fact, the union went from 50,000 members to 10,000 members, part of an ongoing effort to crush unions during the 1920s, under Republican presidents. Union membership did not climb until **FDR** came into office and the **National Labor Relations Act** was passed.

These days, the very real war against unions, where federal and state troops were often used to break up strikes against railroads, factories, and mines, is more or less forgotten, even though it occurred less than a century ago. Heck, we can't remember five years ago anymore. Why should that history matter?

It matters because there was a time, yes, distant, but not so distant, when to be a Democrat meant you fought for the cause of making the lives of the poor and disenfranchised better. And that "fighting" meant fighting; it meant being willing to take a bullet or a bomb if that's what was needed. Now we're not at that point by any stretch of the imagination. But when's the last time Democrats went on a crusade to help the poor? When is the last time the poor or the workers decided to fight for their rights (other than the right not to buy health insurance)? Now, it's all about the mythical middle class or about how much money rich people need in order to,

maybe, perhaps, if we're nice and grovel, create a job or two.

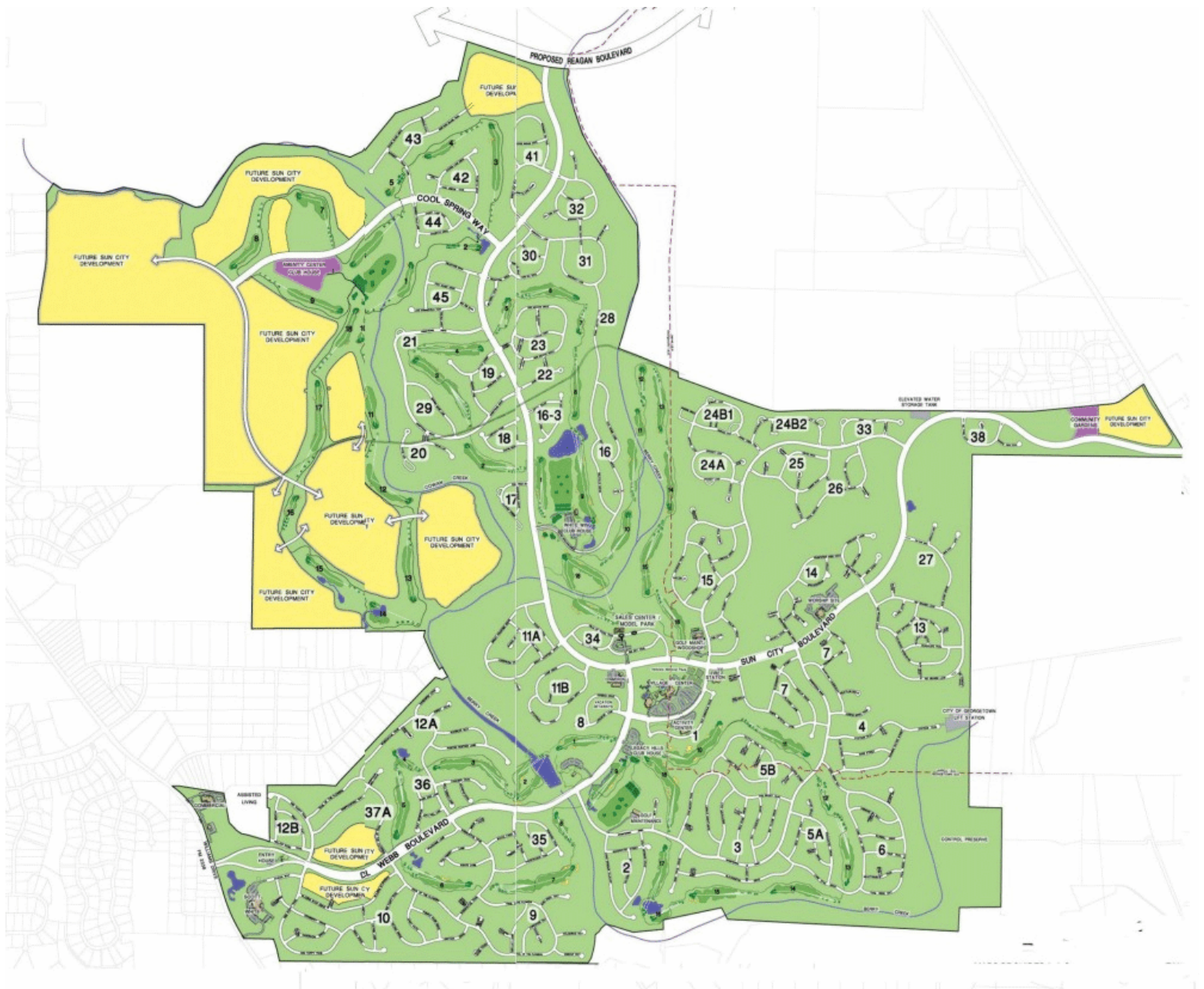
If you wanted to measure how degraded the Democratic Party has become, simply compare what they once fought for, the poverty programs and civil rights, to what is being fought over now: whether or not to give a three-year tax cut to people making more than a quarter of a million bucks a year, something that the majority of the nation doesn't support. Meanwhile, most Democrats are going along with extending tax cuts to the middle class, even if the end result is gutting programs for the poor.

**What the miners at Blair Mountain fought for were the rights to speak and to assemble.** They wanted better work conditions and wages. Now, **the descendants of those workers are brainwashed into thinking that tax breaks for millionaires will somehow make their lives better.** If there is a soul left to be found in the Democratic Party, as our leaders compromise away every principle that once energized us, it is by returning to directly improving the lives of the poor in the nation.

A single [marker](#) is all that exists to show where thousands of Americans fought each other. After years of work, Blair Mountain was placed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in March 2009, protecting it from the mountaintop removal that has torn up the gorgeous landscape of West Virginia. However, lawyers from the coal companies, including **Massey Energy**, made a case that landowners weren't properly notified and that some objected (including, surprisingly, dead ones). And **Blair Mountain was [delisted](#) in December 2009.**

Yes, the battle goes on to preserve the site, but chances are that Massey is going to dynamite the mountain to get to the coal there. It will erase for good a part of our American history, a part of our people's history, that was already forgotten, a history that ought to energize Democrats time and again, but instead it's just easier to desecrate the dead.





**Directions to Cowan Creek Amenity Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Sun City Texas**

From Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville or Georgetown:

Take Williams Drive (RR2338) exit 261a off I-35, turn left over freeway. Turn right at Del Webb Boulevard. Turn left at Sun City Boulevard. Turn left on Cool Spring Way. The Cowan Creek Amenity Center will be on the left. It is indicated on the map above as **"Amenity Center Club House"** in the purple area on the upper left.

From Salado, Temple, Waco or Georgetown (North):

Take the Florence/Killeen (195) exit 265 off I-35 and turn right. Turn left into Sun City on Sun City Boulevard. Follow Sun City Boulevard past the Sun City Village Center, and turn left on Cool Spring Way. The Cowan Creek Amenity Center will be on the left. It is indicated on the map above as **"Amenity Center Club House"** in the purple area on the upper left.

