

# Sun City Democrats

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

December 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, please contact President **Roe Mackey** at 512-864-7948 or Communications Chair **Kay Walker** at 512-864-2874.

**NOTE:** There will not be a "regular" first Saturday morning General Meeting in December. Instead we are having an evening Holiday Party.

## Thursday, December 8, 2011

**Time:** 5:00 to 9:00 PM or maybe longer ...

**Location:** Ruby's Café & Bakery,  
305 Limestone Terrace in Jarrell, TX

**Event:** Sun City Democrats' Holiday Party



The following is the menu for our **Holiday Dinner & Social**: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Roast Beef Au Jus. The sides for both selections will be: Grilled Potatoes, Green Beans, Very Nutty Salad and rolls; dessert will be a parfait served in a flute glass (sugar free upon request). Coffee, tea, water and ice will be provided; but BYOB if desired. The room is large enough that we can stay and dance if we wish; a variety of music will be provided. **All this for only \$17 per person!**

**The deadline for sign-up is December 1.** At the end of this newsletter, we have provided a flyer and with a tear-off portion to make it easy for you to fill in and mail to Billie. Or you can leave your check on **Billie Reaney's** front porch at **721 Texas Drive** in Sun City. Don't forget to sign the form with your name, contact info, and select an entrée and dessert.

**Interested in car pooling to Jarrell?**

Call **Billie Reaney** at 512-868-0098.



## SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2012 OFFICERS

President: **Billie Reaney** 868-0098

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

Secretary: **Bonnie Boorman** 863-2387

Treasurer: **Pat Hilliard** 591-7052

Communication: **Kay Walker** 864-2874

Facebook Editor: **Larry Hilliard** 591-7052

Newsletter Editor: **This position is vacant.**

Website Editor: **This position is vacant.**

Issues Group: **This position is vacant.**

Hospitality: **Pat Prudhom** 686-0506

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

Coffee: **George Wagner** 864-0641

IMPACT: **Dwaine Boydston** 431-4412

Membership: **Larry Hilliard** 591-7052

Database: **Frank Wentworth** 864-3385

Programs: **This position is vacant.**

Special Events: **This position is vacant.**

Past President: **Roe Mackey** 864-7948





### Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats

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 and those who pay dues each year.

#### **LAST CALL for a REAL DEAL on DUES:**

If you pay your dues (currently \$12) before the end of this year, it will be good for the 2012 year as well. However, if you prefer to wait until after January 2012, dues will then be \$20 per person. Join now for a real bonus!

Mail your check made out to **Sun City Democrats** to: **Sun City Democrats; 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120; PMB #432; Georgetown TX 78633**. A membership application should accompany your check; they 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; 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120; PMB #475; Georgetown TX 78633**. **Dwaine Boydston** is our **IMPACT** Treasurer: [treasurer.impact@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.impact@gmail.com) or 512-431-4412.

### Williamson County Democratic Party:

#### **Precinct 381**

~**Kay Walker**, Precinct Chair  
864-2874 [kaywalker@suddenlink.net](mailto:kaywalker@suddenlink.net)

#### **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)

#### **Precinct 399**

~This position is available! Please contact one of the other precinct chairs listed above.

### Saturday, January 7, 2012

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

**Location: Sun City Cowan Creek Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Florence/Georgetown Rooms**

**Speaker: Royger Harris** is a repeat speaker for us. He is an investigator in **Jana Duty's** County Attorney's office, and he gives us great insight into what is going on behind the scenes in Williamson County government. The problems in the **Williamson County Criminal Justice** system, the **Michael Morton** exoneration, and District Attorney **John Bradley** will surely be a part of this free-form discussion.

### Saturday, February 4, 2012

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

**Location: Sun City Cowan Creek Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Florence/Georgetown Rooms**

**Speaker: Professor Eric Selbin**, Southwestern University Political Science Dept, will speak on **Occupy Wall Street**.

### Saturday, March 3, 2012

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

**Location: Sun City Cowan Creek Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Florence/Georgetown Rooms**

**Speaker: Wallace Jefferson**, Chief Justice of **Texas Supreme Court**, will speak on his new project to create a commission to study wrongful convictions.

### **SPECIAL EVENT:**

### Wednesday, March 28, 2012

**Time: Tentative 5:00 PM Start Time**

**Location: Sun City Social Center Ballroom**

**Speaker: James Kenneth Galbraith**, Texas' best known economist, writes frequently for mainstream publications and is a frequent expert guest on TV. He is currently a Professor at the **Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs** and Chairman of the Department of Government, **University of Texas** at Austin, as well as the holder of other academic appointments.

### Saturday, April 7, 2012

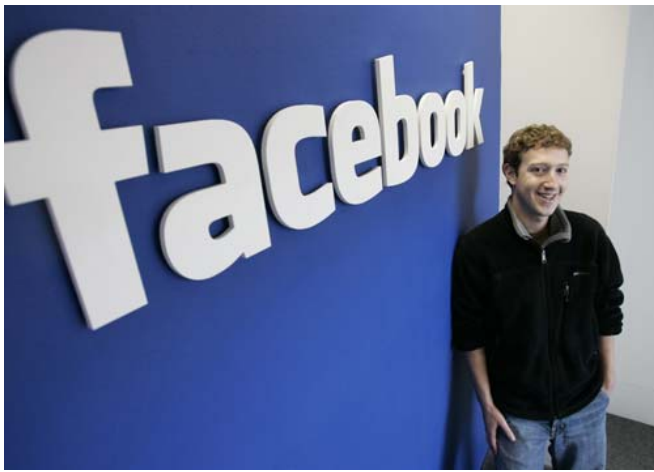
**Time: 9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Meeting**

**Location: Sun City Cowan Creek Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Florence/Georgetown Rooms**

**Speaker: Jana Duty**, Williamson County Attorney



Obama family at lighting of the National Christmas Tree 12-2010



Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, which he founded in 2004.

## Sun City Democrats Facebook Page

~ Larry Hilliard

Membership Chair, Sun City Democrats  
Facebook Editor, Sun City Democrats

The **Sun City Democrats Facebook Group** is off to an enthusiastic start! **We have almost 20 participants, but would like many more.** This is a "closed" group which means that, unless you have been approved to join the group, you can't post or see what the members post.

At this time, anyone who is a member of the Sun City Democrats or receives our newsletter will be approved to join. All you have to do is go to the search block on your Facebook page, type in "**Sun City Democrats**" and then request to join. Try it for a month and see what you think. You can always leave the group at any time.

This is an excellent way to share information, discuss current issues of interest to Democrats, participate in "2-minute activist" opportunities and find out about events. All members are encouraged to post, but it is not a requirement.

**Hope to see you on Facebook!**



## Presidential Debate Schedule Set

~ Robin Marty

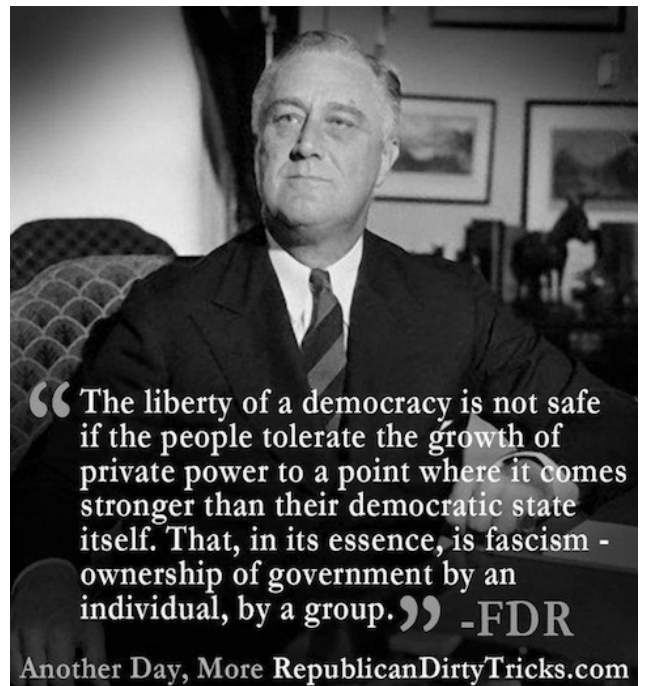
Care2, [www.care.com/causes/](http://www.care.com/causes/)

For those of us who just can't wait to see **President Barack Obama** and whoever wins the GOP nomination battle it out on stage, the dates are set:

- **Wednesday, October 3**, at the University of Denver, Colorado
- **Tuesday, October 16**, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York
- **Monday, October 22**, at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida

The vice presidential debate has also been scheduled, and will be held on **October 11** at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

Now all we need are some topics for the events. (Jobs?) **And, of course, a Republican candidate.**



## twitter gems

**@rationalists:** Rick Perry hopes the lamestream media won't twist his words by repeating them verbatim.

**@TeachersJourney:** GOP claims ending Big Oil subsidies will cost jobs. ExxonMobil alone will be forced to layoff about 60 congressmen.

**@LOLGOP:** I'm much more afraid of Gingrich, Cain, Perry, Santorum or Bachmann having nuclear weapons than I am of Iran.

**@OntieC:** I return to TX once a year. Sort of like a flu shot to re-immunize myself. TX man asked me: Do you remember why you left TX? Me: Every day.

## Wal-Mart vs The Morons

~ Jodi Salyers

Kudos to Wal-Mart Watch, <http://walmartwatch.org/>

*I received an email from an acquaintance recently, with the above enticing subject line. The primary message was how wonderful it would be if the United States government was run more like Wal-Mart; you know, that wonderful corporation / person. YES, I could have just deleted it quietly; but NO, I had to respond. I feel that if someone invades my mailbox with unsolicited propaganda, then I have every right to respond and a personal responsibility to set them straight. Amazingly enough, so far I've not lost a single friend; well, at least not that I know of. Here is my response (with a LOT of help from the Wal-Mart Watch organization):*

**Well, if the GOP comes back into power, I can guarantee that the United States WILL be run like Wal-Mart. And you think that's a good thing, right? Let's take a closer look at just what Wal-Mart's impact is on our communities:**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT:** Wal-Mart passes on significant costs to many of the states and communities where it operates because so many of the company's Associates and their families participate in publicly-funded health care and other public assistance programs because of lack of affordable health care from Wal-Mart. At the same time, Wal-Mart sends much of its revenue out of local communities, while local businesses keep more consumer dollars in the local economy. Wal-Mart has created a new kind of blight by leaving vacant, abandoned stores throughout the country.

**CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY:** Because Wal-Mart is the world's largest retailer, it sets industry standards for wages, benefits and corporate responsibilities that impact millions of retail workers, their families and communities. As Wal-Mart's influence continues to grow at home and abroad, policymakers, media and others are asking questions about the impact of Wal-Mart in our community. Unfortunately this impact all too often includes lowering of standards that hurt communities and families.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD:** In recent years, Wal-Mart has begun efforts to become a more environmentally responsible company. The company marks this initiative as one of their flagship efforts. But these efforts do little to counteract Wal-Mart's basic formula of large format stores combined with imports from overseas.

**IMPACT ON OTHER BUSINESSES:** From small businesses to major chains, all grocery and retail establishments that compete with Wal-Mart are impacted by the company. Competitors are often forced to lower wages and standards. By using a model based on low-wages, high-efficiency transportation, and imported goods, Wal-Mart has a history of destroying once thriving downtowns across rural America. Because Wal-Mart has saturated rural and suburban America, the

company's new growth area in the U.S. is urban communities. Additionally, Wal-Mart's scale gives it unprecedented control over how suppliers do business. Therefore, the company's policies have repercussion across the entire supply system.

**POLITICAL POWER:** Wal-Mart has a sophisticated and massive lobbying effort to influence policy makers at every level. Wal-Mart and organizations directly affiliated with Wal-Mart have sought to advance goals such as school vouchers, entering urban communities, restricting tariff protections, limiting port security, eliminating the estate tax, oppose strong worker protections, and obtaining lucrative subsidies.

**Now let's see how Wal-Mart (or to use your same analogy, the USA) treats its employees (or us, the citizens of the USA):**

**BENEFITS:** Wal-Mart's benefits are oftentimes too expensive for Associates to take advantage of and are substandard to those offered in unionized grocery stores. The company has recently cut two of its longstanding benefits: they have eliminated their profit sharing program; and, as of 2011, no new employees will receive an extra dollar an hour for time worked on Sundays.

**HEALTH CARE:** Across the country, tens of thousands of Wal-Mart Associates qualify for state-run health care programs. In states which release such data, Wal-Mart has more employees on public healthcare rolls than any other employer in almost all cases.

**WAGES:** Wal-Mart is the world's retail industry leader, a position that allows the company to set industry standards for wages, benefits and beyond. By offering what amounts to poverty jobs for most of its Associates, Wal-Mart fails to use its dominant position to raise standards for American retail workers. Wal-Mart's average sales Associate makes \$8.81 per hour, according to IBIS World, an independent market research group. This translates to annual pay of \$15,576, based upon Wal-Mart's full-time status of 34 hours per week, well below the poverty line for a family of four. This trend is especially troubling since retail jobs are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. economy.

**WORKPLACE CONDITIONS:** Wal-Mart is currently the defendant in the largest class action gender discrimination case in the history of the United States. And the company has settled countless cases for wage and hour law violations. Learn more about the disrespect and unsafe conditions Wal-Mart Associates face, especially working WOMEN.

**Be careful what you wish for!**



# Sun City Democrats Holiday Party

The following is the menu for our Holiday Party: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Roast Beef Au Jus. The sides for both selections will be: Grilled Potatoes, Green Beans, Very Nutty Salad and rolls. Dessert will be a Parfait served in a flute glass (sugar free available upon request). Coffee, tea, water and ice will be provided; but BYOB if desired. *All this for only \$17 per person!*

The room is large enough that we can stay and dance if we wish. Join us for a festive way to start the holiday season!



Location: **Ruby's Café Restaurant & Bakery**  
305 Limestone Terrace; Jarrell, TX  
Date: December 8, 2011  
Time: 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM Happy Hour  
Cost: \$17.00 per person; includes tax and tip.  
RSVP: Mail your check, made out to *Sun City Democrats*, to: **Billie Reaney, 721 Texas Drive** (in Sun City), **Georgetown, TX 78633**. Include the form below with your name, contact, entrée and dessert.  
CarPool Info: Call Billie: **512-868-0098** for information.  
DEADLINE: Please note the deadline is December 1.

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

Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Beef: \_\_\_\_\_ Parfait: \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar free: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Beef: \_\_\_\_\_ Parfait: \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar free: \_\_\_\_\_