

February 2008 * Our 84th Year



Upcoming Programs in Brief

February 19, 2008

Ismael Guerrero
Executive Director, Denver Housing Authority
“Moving Forward”

March 4, 2008

Bert Melcher
“I-70 Improvements and Environmental Concerns”

March 11, 2008

Prof. Jim Griesemer
Chair, Colorado Constitutional Panel

March 25, 2008

Chris Martinez
Fast Tracks Update

April 1, 2008

Richard Scharf
President, Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

April 8, 2008

Bill Lindsey
Chair, Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform

*Check our website at www.cityclubofdenver.org for
program updates*

Seeking New Board Members for 2008-2009

The City Club of Denver is seeking nominations for Board members for program year 2008-2009. Board Members serve three-year terms, with three new members elected each year. Board members commit their time, energy and enthusiasm to our Club. If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like to nominate a fellow Club member, please contact any of the current Board members (contact information on page 3).

Message From the President Steve Wright

The City Club of Denver is more than half-way through another successful program year. After a break for the holidays, we were excited to have Governor Bill Ritter get 2008 off to an enthusiastic start with an insightful update on the affairs of the State of Colorado – and a look to his agenda for the upcoming year. Since then we’ve heard about the Denver Center for Performing Arts, the Democratic National Convention that will come to Denver in August, the economy in Colorado and about some of the trends and issues in the Colorado legislature. You can read a bit more about some of these programs on page 2 of this Chronicle. I hope you’re as excited as I am about the continued high quality of our programs.

As we look to Spring, the Board of Directors intends to hold a “retreat” to discuss what changes we might make to strengthen and grow our Club. We want to look at and discuss new ideas for increasing our membership; possible partnerships with other organizations in the city; occasional alternative formats to our weekly luncheons; and any other ideas we or you may have. We’re also interested in looking at other city clubs across the country for ideas on how we may do better. Please contact me or any of our Board members with your ideas at any time.

Finally, we were saddened to learn of the recent passing of two of our members, Herrick Roth and Floyd Tanaka. Herrick and Floyd were both leaders in our community and loved by many. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all our Club members, our condolences to their families.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next luncheon.

Steve Wright



City Club Programs

The Program Committee continues to work hard at lining up interesting programs for you. A few of our recent programs are summarized below. As you can see from the list of upcoming programs on page 1, we have a great schedule over the coming months, with a few holes remaining. If you have any suggestions for those remaining dates, please contact our Program Committee Co-Chairs Mary Ann Valeska or John Head.

- On January 8, in what was a bit of a preview of his State of the State Address, **Governor Bill Ritter** touched on the three key areas of most critical need for the State, namely education; healthcare; and transportation – all with critical funding needs for future sustainability, and to maintain Colorado’s national prominence as a place to do business and raise future generations. He discussed the many challenges to accomplish this – specifically related to future funding needs and current state constitutional constraints. It was also interesting to hear the Governor tie in many not-so-direct issues facing the state that would have significant impacts on how the State can and will address funding these three major issues – such as corrections and the dramatic increase in the prison populations and how finding positive ways to reduce recidivism would have an astounding impact in saving corrections’ dollars that could be used for education, healthcare and transportation needs.
- City Club members and guests learned about plans for the 2008 Democratic National Convention from President/Chair of the Board of the Host Committee **Elbra Wedgeworth**, and CEO of the Host Committee **Mike Dino** on January 29. Both speakers spoke with enthusiasm about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Denver and the entire region, to take place in August 2008. They noted that Denver will see up to 35,000 visitors, including 6,000 delegates and 15,000 members



Mike Dino and Elbra Wedgeworth with the DNC, pictured with City Club president Steve Wright (far left) and member Mike Henry (far right).

of the media, plus up to another 35,000 protesters. The event is expected to generate \$150 to \$200 million for the region. Elbra and Mike then answered questions from the audience on security preparations, hotels and other logistical issues, volunteer opportunities, and how organizers are working to make this the “greenest” convention in history.

- On January 15, **Prof. John Straayer** provided City Club members with his thoughts on why the Colorado legislature has gone “to the donkeys” and why it is unlikely that the elephants will take back either the Colorado House or Senate anytime soon. He spoke about the evolution of the Colorado Republican party over the past 35 years, and noted that the values and goals of the Republican party in Colorado today are not the same as they were in the 1970s. Prof. Straayer also gave his predictions for a number of 2008 races, including his belief that Congressman Mark Udall will win the Colorado Senate seat and that Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave will have a tough fight against Democrat Betsey Markey.



John Straayer from the Department of Political Science at CSU (left) with one of his political science students, Steve Strong.

- On January 22, Chairman of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts **Dan Ritchie** talked to members about the facility, which encompasses Denver Center Theatre Company, Denver Center Attractions, the Education Department and the National Center for Voice & Speech. The DCPA’s primary focus is live theatrical productions. Ritchie spoke about some of the improvements that he hopes to see at the DCPA, and also about plans to renovate and update Boettcher Hall, which is part of the larger Denver Arts Complex.



Thank You to our Sponsors!

The City Club thanks our corporate sponsors Koncilja & Associates, P.C. and Isaacson Rosenbaum P.C. for their support. We also thank the Denver Daily News, our media sponsor.

The City Club is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, and survives in part due to contributions from our members and members of the community. Please consider giving a donation to help support City Club's mission of public discourse.

Watch for a Special Event Announcement!

Your Special Events Co-Chairs, Inta Morris and Jeff Thompson, are working on another event for the Spring to follow on our very successful December event at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Stay tuned for an announcement.

2007-2008 City Club Officers

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- Jeff Thompson, Fundraising/Sponsorship/Special Events Co-Chair, Jeff.Thompson@uch.edu
- Frances Koncilja, Ex Officio/Nominations Committee
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The Democratic National Convention in Denver: Then and Now

In August 2008, Denver will host the Democratic National Convention (see summary of presentation by Elbra Wedgeworth and Mike Dino at the City Club on opposite page). The last time Denver hosted the DNC was in 1908. That year, the Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan to run against Republican William Howard Taft. Bryan lost to Taft in the general election. What did Denver look like in 1908 and what did that Convention look like ?

- The Mayor of Denver was Robert Speer, who is responsible for many of Denver's trees, parks, and waterways.
- For delegates coming to Denver, a train ticket from the most distant points cost around \$79. At the time, rooms at the Brown Palace cost \$1.50 per night. During the Convention, hotels raised their prices to astronomical rates of \$20 per night to up to hundreds of dollars for luxury suites.
- With the exception of Kansas City in 1900 and three times in St. Louis, the Convention had never been west of the Mississippi River.
- The first session of the convention opened in Denver Auditorium with a crowd of 14,000. The Auditorium, now the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, had been built for the convention and completed in just eight months.
- Women would not be able to vote for another decade, but Colorado nonetheless included two women in their delegation, along with one woman from Wyoming and two from Utah. Only two of the Democratic delegates were African-Americans, the first two ever to attend a Democratic National Convention.
- Republicans had held control of the presidency and Congress for 12 years. Democrats thought that by 1908, the country was ready for a change.
- Some of the contentious issues of the day included immigration (from China and other Asian countries); the economy (in the aftermath of the Panic of 1907); the growth of government (with Democrats complaining about the Republican budget that amounted to a \$60 million deficit); and complaints about an unpopular and expensive war (the Philippine War).
- The Democrats' platform included admission into the Union for Arizona and New Mexico.



Please Consider Bringing a Guest to Lunch

We know that the most effective way to get new members is through existing members who bring guests and recruit friends and colleagues to the Club. We've had a number of guests at our programs this year, and we'd like to thank those members who brought them. We'd also like to encourage those of you who may not have brought a guest recently to consider doing so.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming member, please let one of our Membership Committee co-Chairs know, they'll take it from there. The co-chairs of the Membership Committee are Kathy Holmes (kathy-holmes@comcast.net; (303) 399-3314) and Bill Slamkowski (bslamkowski@hkh-law.com; 720-289-3228).

New Members of the City Club

On behalf of all the members of our Club, the Board of Directors welcomes the following new members who have joined the City Club since December 2007*. We hope you are enjoying your membership in the City Club!

- **Heidi Majerik**, Director of Development for Forest City Stapleton, was referred by Club member Tom Gleason, who also works for Forest City Stapleton. Heidi has been with the company about six years and was with the first wave of employees, so she has seen a lot. She works on residential programs, community planning and entitlements. Heidi is very excited about joining the City Club. She likes the programs and thinks that our communications about upcoming programs are excellent.

- **Rahul Kashyap** moved to Colorado from the suburbs of Boston in 1998. He was attracted to the year-round outdoors lifestyle in Colorado. He and his wife, Beth, love to ski, snowshoe, travel, and take their dog, Pedro, out for walks in Washington Park. He is also a horrible golfer who aspires to get better. He joined City Club to become better informed about civic issues that affect Denver and Colorado. He enjoys discussing those issues with others who are passionate about helping our city thrive. Rahul works for a fiduciary investment management and wealth advisory firm called Halbert Hargrove, which helps endowments, foundations, retirement plans, and individuals deal with issues that affect their wealth and missions.

- **Ann Marie Tague and Berkley Tague** moved back to Denver in April. They had lived in the Northeast and in Madison, Wisconsin for about 40 years. After growing up in Denver, they learned how to ski in Vermont. Berkley worked for AT&T for 40 years and consulted for about ten years. Before that he was in the military. He attended East High school. Ann Marie and Berkley heard about the City Club from member Pearl Alperstein, who is their neighbor.

Say hello to our new members and make them feel at home!

*We apologize for any mistakes in this list; please let us know if we inadvertently missed your name or otherwise have incorrect information so that we may correct our records.

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