

**General Meeting – February 13**

Forum of Democratic Candidates for City Council & Endorsement Vote

**President's Message:****What's Important to You?**

In April our city will get to choose the new majority on the City Council. With three open seats we have the

choice to significantly alter the complexion of our local government. Each of the candidates will have ideas and issues that are important to him or her. When considering who you will vote to endorse at our next meeting and who to vote for in April I ask you to consider the following issues.

First, how open is the candidate to increasing public comment and participation in the key decisions of our city? In the past some Council members have stated that compliance with the Brown Act is enough. It's rare that the public has more than a week's notice that an issue will be considered. I assert that, except for a rare emergency, it should be possible for the Council agenda to be published two weeks in advance. This would give more opportunity for the community to be aware that an issue may be coming up and have time to re-arrange our schedules to appear.

Second, how open is the candidate to having items agendaized for the Council by just one council member? It has been recent

practice for the Council to only put items on the agenda when three members agree. This stifles the discussion of issues that may be important to a minority of the Council.

Third, what are the candidate's plans for involving the public in the budget process for the city? Our current budget process allows public comment but not true public involvement. The priorities and levels of funding for budget items are set by city staff before the public has a chance to be involved. While the current process can be completed in a relatively short time there is much about the budget that the public never gets a chance to understand. I suggest that workshops for the public be set up by departments to explain their budgets and invite ideas on what the public's priorities might be. It's difficult for public oversight to work if the public doesn't get fully informed on what's in the budget.

What issues are important to you: Greening the City? Levels and types of development? Replacement of senior staff? Infrastructure maintenance? I'm sure all these and more are on many of your minds. Be sure to come to our meeting on February 13 and determine for yourself where the Democratic candidates stand.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:30 PM Wednesday,
February 13, 2008**

7:00 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

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Club Notes

Renew your membership!
2008 dues must be paid to get a ballot at our February meeting.

Electronic Newsletter:

Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Join the Culver City Peace

Vigil: Protest the Iraq war every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

February Meeting Sponsor:

Lee Welinsky

New Members:

Amanda Greene

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

Statements from the Democratic Candidates for City Council

From Loni Anderson:

As your City Councilmember I will work to make our City better. With vision and focus I will fight PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, ENHANCE OUR SCHOOLS and seek a BALANCED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT.

I will listen and be the VOICE for CULVER CITY. Count on me to find ways to IMPROVE TRAFFIC and SUPPORT our POLICE, FIRE and PUBLIC services.

Some of the ways I've given my service are -

- * Co-Chair Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - * District 1 Manager Culver City CERT
 - * United Postal Workers Union Shop Steward
- For a New Vision and Voice for Culver City Vote for Loni Anderson April 8th 2008

From Christopher Armenta:

Personal Data:

Current Elected City Clerk / Accountant

Married; 1 Child; 30 yr. Resident; Homeowner

B.S., Accounting, C.S.U., Los Angeles

Culver City High School Graduate

Endorsements:

Congresswoman, Diane Watson

Assemblymember, Karen Bass

Board of Equalization Member, Judy Chu

Councilmember, Gary Silbiger

School Board Members Sandra Davis & Steve Gourley

Two terms ago, I promised that I would run clean and efficient elections, be present at city council meetings, and bring transparency to city government. In each case, I have delivered. As my term expires, I ask for your support in my bid for City Councilmember.

Let's move forward together!

www.votearmenta.com

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

At our general meeting on January 9 the members voted in by acclamation the entire board including for 2nd V.P. Laura Stuart. Congratulations everyone elected and re-elected.

From Jeff Cooper:

My family and I moved to Culver City over 20 years ago, drawn by the community feel, quality schools and safe environment. I am running for city council to maintain those values that are still important to me - to protect our quality of life.

I have a proven record of working to make our city better.

- Founding member, Friends of the Culver City Dog park
- Chair, Culver City Parks/Recreation Commission
- Producer, Culver City Car Show
- Chair, Western Hemisphere Marathon
- Saved Green Space at Culver City Park

Your vote for Jeff Cooper is a vote for a healthy Culver City.

From Gary Russell, AIA:

I have been a 20 year resident of this City and thoroughly enjoy living here. I plan to be that individual on our City Council who will provide the leadership to make our City the greenest in America; at a minimum, require new buildings to become LEED certified, and that the City develops a plan to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 2% in each of the coming years. A vote for me is a vote for a more eco-friendly City. For more information please go to www.culvercitycouncil.com.

From Andrew Weissman:

Culver City faces many challenges. From decades of community service, I have the knowledge and experience to confront these challenges.

As Planning Commissioner, I've fought to ensure that our infrastructure will not be overwhelmed by unrestricted development. As Chair of the Charter Review Committee, I pushed for additional accountability, more efficient government, and clear ethics rules. As a former Parks Commissioner, I know the importance of protecting and expanding our recreational resources.

With your vote I will continue to fight for responsible economic development, done correctly, to fund the police, fire and municipal services Culver City residents expect.

**Join us for a
FUNdraiser at the
Actors' Gang**

This year our Club continues to put the FUN in "FUNdraising", with our upcoming special events in February. The first event is our "Afternoon At The Actors' Gang", Sunday February 17.

We're taking over the theatre for one performance of their play, "Carnage, A Comedy" -- co-written by Adam Simon and Tim Robbins. This is a revival of a raucous satire about televangelism and the state of religion in America.

Tickets are:
\$99 (Including Pre-theatre reception at **2 PM**, plus priority theatre seating)
\$50 (Pre-theatre reception at **2 PM**, plus reserved seating)
\$30 (Performance only)

Curtain goes up at **3 PM**.

Share this great afternoon with all of your Democratic friends, and help the Club.
For tickets, please call Ronnie Jayne at 310-836-7557.

**Celebrate at the Club
Officers' Installation
Luncheon with Mark
Ridley-Thomas**



Our second special event this month is our Annual Installation of Club Officers' Luncheon

**on Sunday February 24
from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM.**

We are pleased to announce that our Board will be installed by our **State Senator, Mark Ridley-Thomas**. Cheer in the new and continuing Board members and visit with your friends.

This time we're planning a delicious 3-course sit-down lunch at the Culver City Radisson Hotel, Ballroom A, 6161 Centinela Blvd.

Lunch (with a choice of either Chicken Marsala or an amazing Vegetarian dish), including salad, main course, dessert, coffee, tea, and iced tea is \$ 35 per person.

We have a lot of surprises planned for this event, so don't miss it! We also have space available in our Program Book.

For information about the Luncheon and ad placement, please call Ronnie Jayne at 310-836-7557.

2008 Club Officers and Committee
Chairs:

President: Greg Valtierra
President@CCDemClub.Org

First Vice President: Ronnie Jayne
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

Second VP: Laura Stuart
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org

Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org

Recording Secretary: Sally Gardner

Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky

Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra (Interim)

Publicity: Karlo Silbiger

Reservations for the Installation Luncheon

Yes, of course I'll be attending the Board Installation Luncheon!

Name(s) _____
 Phone # _____

- ✓ I would like to order _____ tickets for the Luncheon @ \$ 35 each.
- ✓ I have an enclosed a check (payable to **Culver City Democratic Club**) for the following amount \$ _____.

PLEASE MAIL TO:
Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231

- America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.
- A president either is constantly on top of events or, if he hesitates, events will soon be on top of him.

Harry S. Truman

Renew your membership!

2008 dues must be paid by renewing members before the vote to get a ballot at the general meeting. New and lapsed members must have paid dues at least 25 days in advance to vote at a meeting.

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 517

Upcoming Events

► **Sunday, February 17**

Afternoon at the Actor's Gang FUNdraiser:

See "Carnage, A Comedy" the rival of the raucous satire about televangelism and the state of religion in America.

\$99 - Priority seating with Pre-Performance reception 2 PM

\$50 - Reserved seating w/ Pre-Performance Reception 2 PM

\$30 - Performance Only 3 PM

To purchase call Ronnie Jayne at (310) 836-7557 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Tickets held for Will Call.

► **Sunday, February 24**

Officer Installation

Luncheon:

A delicious 3-course sit down lunch at the Culver City Radisson Hotel – Ballroom A, 6161 Centinela Blvd, 11 AM – 2 PM. Cheer in the new and continuing Board members as they're installed by our **State Senator, Mark Ridley-Thomas**. Other surprises in store.

Lunch is just \$35!

Show your support and buy an ad in the Program.

For seats or ad placement call Ronnie Jayne at (310) 836-7557

► **Saturday, February 23**

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at Tom and Ronnie's home. All members welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

February 13 - Meeting Program:

Forum of Democratic Candidates for City Council & Endorsement Vote

Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: _____

Membership Dues:

Member \$30

Student \$20

Supporting Member \$75

Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

Please renew for 2008 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, 2008.