



# Active Democrat

General Meeting – April 9

## The Entrada Project & Forum for County Supervisor Candidates, Endorsements for County Central Committee and Congress

NOTE: Business on Entrada will start at 7:30 Sharp!

President's Message:



### Decisions, Decisions...

April will be a busy month for us Democrats in Culver City. We vote for our new Council members in the city election on April 8. At our

meeting on April 9 we will decide who the club will endorse for the elections in June. We will have the candidates, or designated representative, for County Supervisor at our meeting. The candidates for the County Central Committee will make presentations and we will be voting on our endorsement for our Congressional Representative. Also, this month we will be discussing the proposed Entrada Office Building project and voting to take a position on the project. In addition, the City's Redevelopment Agency consisting of our City Council members will possibly be deciding on the Entrada Project on April 14.

The votes for endorsement and positions we take in the club are important in providing a voice for us as a body. Often the voice of an organization is taken more seriously than the voice of a single person or unaffiliated individuals.

Nevertheless, it's clear to me that merely taking positions, passing resolutions, and endorsing are not enough.

In our City Council meetings, despite whatever positions organizations may take, the Council members seem to be swayed most effectively by large numbers of citizens turning up at the meetings. We have taken positions on issues before the Council and when we've had a significant turnout of supporters we have usually prevailed. When we haven't had significant turnout we have had difficulty seeing our position taken seriously.

I urge you to come to our meeting on April 9 and be sure to bring your friends and neighbors. All the items we will be discussing at the meeting are important for all of Culver City. Even more importantly be prepared to back up the decisions of the club beyond our club meeting. Be ready to show the City Council that we are serious. Plan on attending the Council meeting on April 14 when we will present our position on the Entrada Project to the Council. Action by you will make all the difference.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:30 PM Wednesday, April 9, 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 General Meeting.

### **Electronic Newsletter:**

Submit your email address to [Info@CCDemClub.org](mailto: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.

**Meeting Sponsors:**  
Roger Maxwell - March

Joel Forman - April

Club Endorses Christopher Armenta and Andrew Weissman for City Council

Vote YES on W

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

## Letters to the Editor:

### Report on the Culver City Peace Vigil:

March 19, 2008 is the day we mourned five years in Iraq, nearly 4,000 US deaths, more than 30,000 US soldiers injured, about 100,000 Iraqi deaths and over one million Iraqi's displaced from their homes and their communities, not to mention the unknown amount of US taxpayer's treasure. We met on the corner of Culver and Washington, at the Culver hotel. There were approximately 65 people holding signs urging Peace, Out of Iraq, Impeachment, Enough, etc.

The drivers and pedestrians passing by showed enthusiastic support of our peace vigil. As always, Culver City residents, and those who work in Culver City expressed their agreement by honking and making the eternal peace sign. Usually, we have 6 to 8 participants, but this time, due to the 5th year in Iraq, a listing on the KPFK calendar, and a notice by moveon.com, there were 65 attendees. Amazing! That says something special about our community.

The Culver City Peace Vigil was organized by James and Susan Anderson last July, and has met every Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 ever since, until Wednesday, March 19th. We will resume our Friday Peace Vigils on Friday, March 29th, at the same time, on the East side of the Culver Hotel. Please join us. You'll meet like minded, wonderful people, and will walk away feeling that you have done your part for peace.  
- **Sally Gardner**

### The Entrada Project:

In 1990, Culver City voters were disgusted with high-rise development at Corporate Pointe and approved the People's Initiative to prohibit mid-rise and high-rise development in the City and to cap heights in all commercial and studio zones at 56' in height. Everyone knew in 1990 that the People's Initiative was intended to set an absolute height limit in the City and to take away from the City Council the discretion to approve building heights.

Despite the clear intent of the People's Initiative, the City Council has contended there is a loophole that the People forgot to close applicable to "Redevelopment" areas. Redevelopment areas encompass almost every square inch of the commercial and studio zones in Culver City.

To date, it appears the Council has used the loophole to approve fairly modest height increases without raising the ire of the majority of Culver City voters. Most recently, they have used it to approve a small height increase at the four-story Symantec campus. But now, the City Council is being urged by an international mega-developer worth tens of billions of dollars, the Carlyle Group, to apply this supposed loophole in a way that would completely gut the People's Initiative; to approve a high-rise structure, called the Entrada Office Tower, that is 220' tall with more square footage than the FOX HILLS MALL!

Former Culver City officials, who actually remember the 1990 People's Initiative, have voiced disgust over the way the City has turned a blind eye to the People's Initiative and the way that it has handled the Entrada to date, believing that the project will devastate the communities around it and solidify gridlock in south Culver City.

The impacts and implications of the Entrada approvals, if granted, will be much farther reaching -- interpreting the loophole to permit high-rise structures will set precedent for development all over the City. Forty-two percent of all of Culver City has now been designated a "Redevelopment Area," even though

### Seeking Submissions

We would like your articles and letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard! Submissions will be published as space allows. Submissions may be edited for length.

The Club's Executive Board reserves the right to determine suitability of submissions for inclusion in the newsletter.

redevelopment designations are supposed to be reserved for areas that suffer "blight." Any developer is free to buy multiple parcels to allow for bigger and bigger buildings. It is important to keep in mind how close these areas are to residential neighborhoods. This means that almost everywhere in the City where commercial and studio development is allowed, the City Council is claiming that it alone can decide the maximum height of buildings, regardless of the 56 foot height limit established by the People's Initiative.

Urge our current councilmen and councilwoman NOT to circumvent the clear intent of the 1990 People's Initiative and to RESPECT the 56' height limit in Redevelopment Areas until such time as the people of Culver City can revisit whether we want or need bigger buildings -- until it is part of a publicly debated plan for the City's future. Let your voice be heard at the City Council meeting tentatively fastracked for April 14 (before the new council is seated) to decide the fate of the Entrada project.  
- **Laurie Alexander**

### Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On 2-28-08 our own Assemblyperson Karen Bass became the first African American woman to be elected as Assembly Speaker. And we congratulate her.

On Sunday 3-02-08 a mass mailing was done over at the Camarella's. We thank Ronnie & Tom for using their house.

Volunteers were: Eric Fine, Sally Gardner, Phyllis Kossoff, Karlo Silbiger, Hilda Silvers, Joan Temple, Pres. Greg Valtierra, Lee Welinsky, and Bill Wynn.

We also thank Howard Welinsky for supplying the address labels for the mass mailing.

## Culver City Resident Travels to DC to Protest Iraq War on 5th Anniversary

Culver City peace activist Paulette Navarro traveled to DC for creative protests on the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq on March 19. As a social worker at a local hospital in Inglewood, Paulette has seen funding for health and social services diminish significantly while over 1.2 trillion dollars have been spent on death and destruction caused by the war, and 4,000 US soldiers and one million Iraqis have died.

Outraged, Navarro became an organizer with the Culver City Peace and Justice group and is active with the Los Angeles peace movement, gathering signatures on impeachment petitions, educating the public on the war and decreased social funding, and protesting military recruitment.

Navarro, wanting to bring her activism to a higher level, decided to take precious time away from work and family to participate in the "5 Years Too Many" demonstrations in Washington, D.C. She joined protestors from 50 states and abroad who converged in the nation's capitol to demand an end to the war.

She and others went to deliver the message to the federal agencies and Congress that, "We are tired of the Washington establishment listening and agreeing with the war profiteers' and their lobbyists and want them to reflect the U.S. citizens' opinion to get out of the war, obey the Constitution and to work for peace!" says Navarro.

Navarro feels that she made a difference in participating in the days of actions in Washington D.C., and in addition she returns with renewed energy, invigorated and inspired to continue the work of ending the war and bringing peace to our country and the world.

On March 18th, Navarro marched with the peace group CODEPINK in an event called "Restore the Constitution" to shed light on the assault on our nation's Constitution by the Administration. From the National Archives to the Justice Department and the IRS Building, a group of 300 protesters, some of them dressed in colonial attire, carried the Preamble of the Constitution written on a huge banner.

On March 19, 5 years from the day the war started, Navarro joined CODEPINK and the larger peace coalition - under the umbrella of United for Peace and Justice. They all participated in the March of the Dead, a procession of people wearing black and skull-like masks, which prompted people to imagine how it would be if the dead civilians and military personnel were to return to seek justice in D.C. The same day, in front of the White House, Navarro witnessed a horrific water-boarding demonstration, a torture technique used on prisoners. This convinced her that one cannot stand idly by when torture is being committed in our name and with our money.

Several groups of demonstrators staged demonstrations in front of the so called "war profiteers": corporations that are financially benefiting from continuing the war. A mock "War Profiteer of the Year Award" was given to the company that profited the most from the war this year.

The coalition that staged the protest consisted of 1400 peace and justice groups. In addition, there were more than 640 events throughout the United States to mark the fifth anniversary of the war, including one here in Culver City.

The day before her return to Los Angeles, Navarro together with other activists visited the offices of congresspersons from the greater Los Angeles area to influence them to sign on to Congressman Kucinich's resolution to start impeachment hearings for Vice President Cheney.

Navarro quotes the historian Howard Zinn who wrote in his book "A Power Governments Cannot Suppress", "that every significant social change in this country happened not by the government, but by a large movement of people demanding change"; and that is why she says, "there is currently an urgency to increase the numbers of people in the peace movement to build a critical mass of people to create change."

## Daily Cost of the Iraq War

Excerpted from the American Friends Service Committee website by Greg Valtierra

According to the American Friends Service Committee website ([www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)) the daily cost of the Iraq War totals \$720 Million. That's \$500,000 per minute. They've calculated that the one day cost of the war would be sufficient to fund any one of the following items:

- **Retrofit 1,274,336 homes** to use renewable electricity.
- Pay a **year's salary for 12,478** new school teachers.
- Provide **4-Year scholarships for 34,904** state university students
- Provide a year of **healthcare for 423,529 children**
- Build **84 new elementary schools**
- Buy a year's worth of **school lunches for 1,153,846 children**

Any of those could be done for the cost of just one day of war funding, **one day!** Those who say we don't have the money to tackle our domestic problems should come to grips with the reality of our funding priorities.

