



General Meeting – May 13, 2009

## Youth Activism:

with Kellie Hawkins – LA County Young Democrats, Jean Li – CC High Student, Gary Silbiger – CC City Council

### May 19 Election Endorsements

Senate District 26: **Curren D. Price Jr.**  
LA Community College District Board of Trustees:  
Seat No. 2 – **Angela Reddock**  
Seat No. 6 – **Nancy Pearlman**

### Ballot Measures:

- YES: 1A** – “Rainy Day” Budget Stabilization Fund
- YES: 1B** – Education Funding. Payment Plan.
- NO: 1D** – Children Services Funding
- NO: 1E** – Mental Health Funding. Temporary Reallocation.
- YES: 1F** – Elected Officials Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years.

1C – Lottery Modernization Act – No consensus was reached on this measure

### Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,  
May 13, 2009**

6:45 PM – Refreshments  
Rotunda Room

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

### What’s Inside?

- 2: **President’s Letter continued.**
- 2: **From the Editor: Summer of Our Discontent?**
- 3: **Endorsements at April Meeting**

### Club Notes

**Renew your membership!**  
Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information.

**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:** Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel..



### President’s Letter:

I’m writing this from sunny Italy, where there is always something pleasantly surprising to experience.

This little town established over 3,000 years ago has seen more than its share of celebrations, as well as war and political upheaval. We’ve made a number of friends – some of whom share with us their opinions of the former American administration

(“Bush was bad, like Berlusconi.”) and their hope for the future of the U.S. (“We hope Obama will bring peace.”). Others choose not to discuss anything political, or shrug it off with, “Why bother to do anything?! Nothing ever changes.” Yet, much changes in Italy – a country with cobblestone streets, 2,300 year-old monuments, Wi-Fi, satellite dishes and a cell phone in every hand.

So, speaking of change, I suppose I was pleasantly but only mildly (See “**President**” page 2)

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

President (cont.) surprised to hear that Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter is the latest major defector from the Republican Party. He explained that the old “party of Reagan” with which he originally aligned himself, has shifted so far to the right, that he no longer feels comfortable or welcome – and he feels closer politically to the Democrats. Of course, the realistic fear of losing the Republican primary in his upcoming reelection bid, probably didn’t hurt either. Yippee – Another “Blue Dog Democrat”!! ... And if they finally get around to seating Al Franken sometime in the next 5 ½ years, we’ll have a theoretically filibuster-proof Democratic majority in the Senate! Yet another “Yippee”.

But let’s think about Arlen Specter and the “Blue Dogs”. Yes, it’s great to contemplate the ability of Democrats to move new legislation forward, sweeping away the horrible policies of the past 8 years. I really hope this will happen. But so far the centrist-right Blue Dogs don’t seem so inclined – watering down bills and convincing the Democrat’s majority centrist-left wing that it’s “the Blue Dogs’ way, or the highway”.

We must convince our leaders that we elected them with a true mandate for REAL change – and they need to grow a spine! They should pass bold legislation on the issues of health care, education, the economy, the environment and getting out of Iraq and

Afghanistan – or they won’t be reelected by ANY party! THAT’S what can really be accomplished with a filibuster-proof majority! If they do that, we’ll be behind them all the way!

Ciao, Ronnie Jayne

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From the Editor: Summer of Our Discontent?  
by Greg Valtierra

It looks like we’re in for a very interesting summer in California. As if we didn’t have enough to deal with we’ve now got the so called “Swine Flu”, wildfires in Santa Barbara, further declines in our state’s revenues, increasing unemployment, dire predictions on water supplies, and so on. It seems on almost every front we’ve got challenges and issues that seem out of control and beyond the abilities of our state government to deal with them.

However, despite how dire it all seems we need to keep things in perspective. The challenges we are facing are real. The solutions may be difficult and unsavory. Nevertheless we’ve faced more difficult challenges before. The hardships of the Great Depression and the struggle of World War II were much graver and required greater sacrifices than we are currently facing. As a nation and a state we were able to pull together and get through those crises. That doesn’t mean that we didn’t make mistakes. The internment of

### 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.

Japanese citizens is just one example of some of the bad decisions made during those crises.

Nevertheless, I am optimistic that we can work through the challenges facing us if we are willing to understand that the solutions won’t come without some cost. For too long as an electorate we’ve wanted services but haven’t been willing to provide the funding needed for them. We want our elected leaders to create solutions but have tied their hands in requiring an unreasonably high majority to raise funds to implement them. We vote for special funding that sequesters money for special purposes but ignore the many other essential programs that must be cut back or eliminated because they don’t have special protection.

It is only when we assert the power we’ve always possessed to make the choices in favor of the common good, to look beyond our own special interests and promote the welfare of us all that we will find the means to overcome the challenges we face.

## Endorsements at April Meeting

The club held a very spirited and informative meeting on April 15 to discuss the Club's endorsements for the Special Election on May 19.

First Assembly member Curren Price gave an overview of each of the ballot measures that will be on the May 19 ballot and an explanation of how these items resulted from the negotiations for the State budget. Price stated The current State budget has a \$40 billion deficit. To reconcile, cuts in social services programs were made, and some taxes were raised. The budget now provides \$14.9 billion in spending reductions, \$12.5 billion in new taxes and \$7.5 billion in new programs, leaving a shortfall of up to \$17 billion. The 5/19 Election includes propositions to balance the budget.

After Price discussed the budget he also discussed some of the legislative priorities he was working on. Price also answered questions from the audience on the ballot measures and his pending bills in the assembly.

Once Assembly member Price

finished his presentation Darryl Cherness made a motion to endorse Price for the Senate District 26 seat which will be decided in a run-off with the Special Election on May 19. Tom Camarella seconded the motion. Price was endorsed unanimously by the members in attendance.

Once the endorsement for the Senate had been completed the club began discussing motions for endorsements on the ballot measures for the Special Election. Ruth Weisman reported that the LA County Central Committee made the following endorsements on the ballot measures: 1A - Neutral, 1B - Support, 1C - Support, 1D - Oppose, 1E - Oppose, 1F - Support.

Greg Valtierra moved to support measure 1F which was seconded by Tom Camarella. After discussion the motion carried with 1 vote opposed.

Lee Sanders moved to support measure 1A which was seconded by Greg Valtierra. After some heated discussion the motion carried with with 13 ayes, 6 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Karlo Silbiger moved to

endorse measure 1B seconded by Lee Welinsky. After the discussion with participation by many members the motion carried with 14 ayes, 1 nay and 4 abstentions.

Lee Sanders moved to support measure 1C, seconded by Bill Wynn. After discussion the motion failed to reach 60% of the vote with 10 ayes, 7 nays, 5 abstentions. No further motion was made on this measure.

Karlo Silbiger moved to oppose measure 1D, seconded by Roger Maxwell. After another lively discussion the motion carried with 14 ayes, 6 nays, 2 abstentions.

Tom Camarella moved to oppose measure 1E, seconded by Karlo. After more discussion the motion carried with 14 ayes, 5 nays, and 3 abstentions.

### 2009 Club Officers and Committee

#### Chairs:

**President:** Ronnie Jayne  
President@CCDemClub.Org  
**First Vice President:** Karlo Silbiger  
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org  
**Second VP:** Roger Maxwell  
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)

### Renew Your Club Membership for 2009!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for this year. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership. Dues are due by January 1, 2009.

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

**Renew your membership!**

Now collecting dues for 2009. Dues for 2009 were due by January 1, 2009. Current dues must be paid by renewing members before a 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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May 13, 2009 - Meeting Program:

**Youth Activism:**  
with Kellie Hawkins - LA County Young Democrats, Jean Li - CC High Student, Gary Silbiger - CC City Council

**Upcoming Events**

► **Wednesday, May 13**

**Monthly General Meeting: Youth Activism**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Tuesday, May 19**

**Special Election, Senate District 26 Ballot Measures & Community College Board**

DON'T forget to vote! See our endorsements on Page 1.

► **Saturday, May 30**

**Monthly Board Meeting:**

1:00 PM at Tom Camarella & Ronnie Jayne's home. All members welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, June 27**

**New Member Reception:**

Tom Camarella & Ronnie Jayne's home. All members welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Coming in June!**

**150 Days of the Obama Presidency!**

Local Dem clubs will join us to hear congressional leaders and others discuss the Administration's accomplishments and challenges.

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: Dues may be waived for financial hardship

- 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 2009 if you haven't already done so.**

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year. Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.