



Active Democrat

No General Meeting in June But Check Out Upcoming Events



President's Letter:

Well,
Summer is almost upon us, but life-as-we-know-it keeps rolling on.

We have an exciting nominee in Sonia Sotomayor for the U.S. Supreme Court, the State Budget is still in crisis, and our City has many issues to resolve. I urge everyone to get more involved in the process -- When you find an important decision you want to weigh in on, attend the City Council, School Board and Commission meetings. Let your voice be heard!

Recently the issue of amending the Municipal Code re nuisances has come up, and will be heard again by the Council on Monday June 8. With direction from our Club's Executive Board, Greg Valtierra and I have both written letters to the local papers, and I will be addressing the Council on June 8. Here is my letter:

"An open letter to the Culver City Council:

I'm not a big fan of graffiti or blight – both of which have a deleterious effect on our neighborhoods and property values. So I was curious to see what would result when Culver City officials decided to overhaul our Municipal Code re nuisances and private property. Some of what I read concerns me. I wholeheartedly agree that the problems of graffiti, fire hazards and dilapidated houses should be dealt with seriously. However, I am troubled by the use of vague terms such as “offensive to the senses”, and how we would deal with “personal property that are kept, placed or stored inside of a structure... that are out of conformity with neighboring community standards”. I get it – We don't want a dozen abandoned vehicles and broken rusted appliances littering driveways.

(See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
NO Meeting This Month
Our next meeting will be on July 8

Don't miss our annual 4th of July Picnic! Check out the Upcoming Events on Page 4.

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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!

Volunteer for the Club Booth at the Fiesta La Ballona in August: Help us register voters and spread the Democratic point of view in Culver City

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.

June Sponsors:
Ruth & David Weisman

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, from Page 1)

What about a play set or metallic art sculpture?

Section 3 # 11a speaks of fining people who have “vegetation that might attract rats, vermin or insects”. Well then, ... there goes my vegetable garden! Section 3 # 16 would fine people for composting! Also, get rid of that clothesline if it can be seen in any way from the street. If we're serious about “greening” a healthy Culver City, we should be encouraging our citizens to grow their own vegetables, compost and cut back appliance use where possible – not fining them for it. Again, I get it – Horribly overgrown vegetation can be a fire or pest hazard, and composting can create an odor if not properly done (and possibly offend neighbors, if not properly placed).... And nobody really wants to see my underwear hanging on the clothesline (At least, I hope not!).

Combine that (and other examples) with the greatly

increased fines for these offenses, the inevitable selective enforcement, and the assumption of guilt of the “offenders”, and I think the City Council should take its time before reaching the final verbiage of this section of the Municipal Code. We need to refine and define. In its present form this vagueness smacks of “Stepfordization”. There is no imperative that this be resolved now. Let's get it right – and have regulations that fit our times and our future."

And now, a little fun -- Please come to our New Members' Luncheon on June 27 at my house. It's a chance to meet the new members in a relaxed setting -- and if you bring in a new member that day, your lunch (and their lunch) is FREE! Call Diane Rosenberg 310-398-5328 for more info. Also, don't forget to celebrate the birth of our nation at our Club's Annual 4th of July Picnic & Barbecue at Lindberg Park, from 11:30 AM - 3 PM. Bring something to grill and something to share, and we'll

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.

provide the rest! Tom promises to bring the bocce balls.

Ronnie Jayne

Special Membership Offer!

Once again this year the Executive Board has voted to offer new members a special rate to join this year. New members joining from now to the end of the year can join for just half the usual membership fee and pay just \$15 for 2009 if they are willing to pay for 2010 membership as well. Thus they can get the remainder of this year plus all of next year for \$45 instead of paying \$60.

Also, for the first time the Board has voted to extend this offer to renewing members as well so if you haven't renewed your membership for this year you can get the same deal as new members if you pay for next year as well.

Take advantage and get some savings this year and get ahead on your to do list for next year!

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Tuesday May 12, 2009 at the meeting of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, our own Corresponding Secretary Mollie "Lee" Welinsky won a seat on the Executive Board of the California State Party. We send our congratulations to her.

Herb and I attended the Commemoration of Karen Bass' 1st year as Speaker of the California State Assembly. This was held on Sunday May 17, 2009 at the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies. There were several speakers including Congresswoman Diane Watson.

Resolution at May Meeting

At the General Meeting on May 13 the meeting topic was “Youth Activism” with Kellie Hawkins, LA County Young Democrats Advisor, Jean Li, Culver City High School Student, and Gary Silbiger, Culver City Council Member. VP Karlo Silbiger chaired the meeting as President Ronnie was out of town.

The panelists all answered a series of questions posed by Karlo including: “Why are young people thought to be politically apathetic?” and “What are the main issues that interest young people?” All the panelists had plenty to say and a lively Q & A session followed the panelists remarks.

The membership also considered a resolution introduced by Karlo on the recent selection of Mayor by the City Council. After a reading and discussion Karlo moved to approve the resolutions and Darryl Cherness seconded the motion. The resolution was adopted nearly unanimously with just two votes opposed. Here is the text of that resolution:

Fairness in the Selection of the Culver City Mayor

Whereas, the City Council of the

City of Culver City selects among its members one person to serve as Mayor each year and

Whereas, Culver City has a history of rotating the Mayoral seat so that each member has an opportunity to serve in the order elected and

Whereas, every year since 1994 the Vice Mayor has been selected to move up to the Mayor’s seat and

Whereas, no Council Member in recent history has served as Mayor during his/her second year on the City Council and

Whereas, Council Member Gary Silbiger, who served as Vice Mayor from 2008-2009, has served this community honorably during his 7 years in elective office having been endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club during both campaigns and joining us at our meetings regularly to report on city issues and

Whereas, Andrew Weissman, who has also been endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club in the past, has only served on the City Council for 1 year and has 3 more years where he could serve as Mayor before the end of his 1st term and

Whereas, Council Members Scott Malsin and Mehaul O’Leary joined Mr. Weissman in breaking with tradition to deny Mr. Silbiger his turn as Mayor and deny the Culver City community this opportunity for his leadership at the helm of the city.

Now therefore be it resolved that the general membership of the Culver City Democratic Club supports the tradition of rotating the Mayor’s position and allowing each Vice Mayor the opportunity to serve as Mayor during the year that follows.

Be it further resolved that the Culver City Democratic Club is appalled by the actions of City Council Members Malsin, O’Leary, and Weissman, 3 Council Members who we have worked with in the past, in putting their own political ambitions ahead of precedent and decency and we recommend that all members of the Culver City community remember this decision when going to vote in the 2010 and 2012 municipal elections, where they will each stand for re-election.

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. **As an extra incentive if you pay for 2010 you can get this year at half off and pay a total of just \$45 instead of \$60.**

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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NO General Meeting In June
But Check Out The Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

► **NO General Meeting This Month:**

Remember no General Meeting this month. However see the other events coming up below.

► **Saturday, June 20**

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Rosenbergs's home. All members welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, June 27**

New Member Luncheon:

at the Tom Camarella and Ronnie Jayne's home. All members welcome. Free for new members. Bring a new member and your lunch is free also! Call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328 for details.

► **Saturday, July 4**

Annual Independence Day Picnic:

11:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Lindberg Park. All members and guests welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, July 8**

Monthly General Meeting:

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

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

Special Rate: Remainder of 2009 plus 2010 membership \$45

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.