



Active Democrat

General Meeting – September 9, 2009

November Election Endorsements: Dem School Board Candidates Forum & Parcel Tax



President's Letter:

As the summer draws to a close, relaxing vacation days end – and thoughts turn to the beginning of the school year and “back to

the grindstone” work. While you’re thinking about the present and future of our schools, please remember to attend our September 9 General Meeting – as we will be holding a Forum for the Democratic candidates for Culver City School Board, and discussing the proposed Parcel Tax Measure EE – which will be on the November ballot. A membership endorsement vote will be held following the discussions.

On a very sad note, ... With the passing of Senator Ted Kennedy, Progressive/Liberal (Take your choice!) Democrats have lost a great legislator, coalition-builder, spokesperson and cheerleader. I’m sure I wasn’t alone in the hopeful scenario that he might have beaten back the cancer long enough so he could get to the Senate floor and cast the deciding vote for meaningful healthcare reform. Since that was not to be, we must look elsewhere for leadership on this vital issue.

First we must look to ourselves. We need to hold our elected officials accountable, and speak up about the kind of change we want and need.

Somehow the “President Obama and the Death Panels are going to kill your Grandma” wackos got all the press this summer. ... and the more the right-wing extremists yelled, the more the Democrats whittled away at healthcare reform. “Single payer” became “public option” became “healthcare cooperatives”. At this rate, Republicans won’t need to kill healthcare reform – The Democrats will kill it “just fine, Thank You!”

So, we must put pressure on our legislators not to cave in. Tell our representatives that we don’t want watered-down “insurance reform”. We will try to alert you to upcoming Healthcare Forums. Please attend them, and be VOCAL in your support. Keep calling your legislators, and give them the strength to go in the left direction. Call Senator Barbara Boxer at 202-224-3553, Senator Dianne Feinstein at 202-224-3841, and Congressional Representative Diane Watson at 202-225-7084. Senator Kennedy’s vision was for universal healthcare as a Right – not a privilege! Let’s get this done in memory of Ted Kennedy, for ourselves, for our families, for our future!

Finally, thank you to our Club volunteers who staffed our booth at Fiesta la Ballona. We really appreciate your efforts.

Happy Labor Day!
Ronnie Jayne, President

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, September 9, 2009
Please arrive early to register to vote
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue

What’s Inside?

- 2: Club Members Honored
- 2: Passing of Ted Kennedy
- 2: Resolution to Oppose New Offshore and Onshore Oil Drilling in California
- 3: Democratic Candidate Statements
- 2: Di’s Corner

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.

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

Club Members Honored

On Sunday August 23, our State Senator Curren Price held his 3rd Annual "51 SHeroes" awards ceremony, to honor local women "based on their demonstrated leadership, volunteerism and commitment to their community". This year's honorees included 3 members of the Culver City Democratic Club: Ronnie Jayne, Ruth Weisman and Mollie "Lee" Welinsky. Congratulations to our SHeroes!

Passing of Ted Kennedy

by Darryl Cherness

What does the death of Ted Kennedy mean for our country and for the Democratic Party?

One of the first things that comes to mind is that his loss will mean the end of the Kennedy "dynasty." Who will now assume the mantle of leadership that had previously been undertaken by John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and lastly, by Ted Kennedy? Sadly, it does not appear that the next generation of Kennedys has the same sense of mission and purpose that Ted Kennedy had, nor do they possess his oratorical gift or charismatic appeal.

Another area where his loss will be sorely felt, is in the area of crafting legislation. Even though Ted Kennedy was an unabashed liberal, he had the ability to "reach across the aisle," and fashion legislative solutions. That skill is needed now more than ever in crafting meaningful healthcare legislation, the very subject he referred to as the

"cause of my life." Who will now fill this void?

Now that Ted Kennedy is gone, where will Democrats go for inspiration and leadership? While Ted Kennedy was born into a family of fabulous wealth and privilege, he devoted his public career to helping the less fortunate. He played a key role in working to raise the minimum wage, in passing the Family and Medical Leave Act, establishing COBRA, creating a network of community based medical clinics, and in expanding Medicare to include a prescription drug benefit.

Even after the country turned sharply to the right and elected Ronald Reagan, Ted Kennedy continued to espouse traditional liberal "New Deal" values. He was the political compass for a generation of Democrats.

As successful as he was in passing legislation, and both Democrats and Republicans alike agree that during his 46 years in the Senate he was one of the most effective senators in American history, he was unable to realize his dream of universal health insurance for all Americans.

One of the best ways we can honor his memory is by working to achieve healthcare reform that includes a public option. In discussing the struggle to pass healthcare reform it would be appropriate and fitting to use Ted Kennedy's own words that he recited at the Democratic Convention in 1980: "The work goes on, the struggle continues, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

Resolution to Oppose New Offshore and Onshore Oil Drilling in California
(Passed at Club's August meeting)

Whereas the California assembly, in a laudatory move, recently voted against new offshore oil drilling, resulting in the Governor signing a budget that did not subject our state to the environmental hazards of new oil drilling;

Whereas the California Lands Commission on Aug. 11, 2009 held an informational hearing on the advantages and disadvantages of offshore vs. onshore oil drilling, suggesting new oil drilling off the California coast is still under consideration to generate a new revenue stream;

Whereas both offshore and onshore oil drilling jeopardize our precious coastline, the first by potentially polluting marine life and shoreline, the second by subjecting Californians to toxicity from an accident involving a fiery explosion;

Therefore be it resolved the Culver City Democratic Club opposes new offshore and onshore oil drilling on or near the California coastline;

Therefore be it further resolved that we inform all relevant state leaders to affirm the CDP platform which calls for pursuit of renewable energy sources which, unlike the burning of fossil fuels, will not pollute our land, sea and air.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Sunday August 9, 2009 The Los Angeles County Democratic Party had it's annual "Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat Of The Year Award" It was at the Radisson Hotel at the L.A. Airport.

This year's recipients from the 47 A.D. are two of our club members. Mary Ann Greene was named Woman of The Year. And Tom Camarella was named Man of The Year. The club congratulates both of them.

Club member Hannah Oman's Grandson David Oman in Jerusalem is Director of Communications for the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education. (<http://www.impact-se.org>) Follow the link and click on the large group photo at the beginning of the page for more information. For more information call Hannah at 310-559-7589.

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)

Democratic Candidate Statements:

Kathy Paspalis:

California's deep budget cuts and economic crisis have created a challenge for our schools. We must find ways to maximize our limited resources and generate new revenues while educating and preparing our children for a global future, whether they be college or work-force bound. I have the experience, energy, and commitment to tackle this challenge.

I was the first college graduate in my family. I am a senior manager in an environmental consulting firm, attorney, community activist, homeowner, and decade-long Culver City resident.

My parents instilled in me a deep appreciation for the value of education generally, and public education in particular. My ten-year-old twins attend a wonderful Culver City public elementary school and are soon headed for Culver City Middle School.

The school board needs creative, collaborative thinkers who not only know how to use existing resources more efficiently and identify new revenue sources, but also how to listen to the many voices in our diverse community, create consensus, act on good ideas, and institute long-range plans to secure our children's education, our property values, and the school district's future.

I look forward to earning your support and serving Culver City. Please vote for Kathy Paspalis on November 3, 2009.

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

Karlo Silbiger:

Master's Degree, Education Policy and Management, Harvard University
Educated in Culver City Public Schools

Community Leadership

- Commissioner, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass's Education Commission
- Vice President, Culver City Democratic Club
- Delegate, California Democratic Party
- Youth Soccer Coach, Culver YMCA
- Regular Participant, Culver City School Board and City Council Meetings

Proven Success as an Educator

- Teacher: including seven years for CCUSD Summer Program for Kids
- School Leader: Director of Education, Curriculum Coordinator, Department Chair
- Reformer: Leading successful efforts to involve all stakeholders in school decision-making, decrease behavioral problems, teach writing and reading skills throughout the curriculum, and improve service learning

Vision for Culver City Schools

- Save teachers, counselors, staff, small class size, arts and sports programs by making necessary budget cuts as far away from the students as possible
- Address bullying and discipline problems by using preventative techniques and mentorship
- Involve all stakeholders in making important decisions
- Adopt environmentally sound practices to save money and resources
- Collaborate with the city on after-school programs, business partnerships and decreasing duplication to save money
- Increase transparency by airing board meetings live, posting budgets on website and hosting frequent neighborhood meetings

Vote for Karlo Silbiger for School Board: "He Listens, Then Leads"

www.karlo4schoolboard.com
(310) 202-7255

Robert Zirgulis:

As a School Board Member, I will bring innovative problem solving solutions to the budget crisis that threatens the viability of our school system. For example, \$600,000 in utilities payments could be saved by renting out school roofs to solar energy companies.

In addition, I will initiate programs and policies that will make Culver City the best school district in the state. It is a fact that a superior school system increases property values.

I will insure that our children will be taught in a safe environment and encouraged to THINK instead of being INDOCTRINATED.

My academic qualifications include Master of Science in Business CSUN, Bachelor of Arts Public Service UCLA, and certified Substitute Teacher for CCUSD.

I also bring a large collection of worldly experiences. I have an entrepreneurial spirit and have traveled around the world three times learning what will work in teaching in a practical environment vs a bureaucratic ivory tower.

As a substitute teacher I have developed a wider perspective in the fact that I have taught K-12 and met all 6000 students in CCUSD.

I have lived and worked in Culver City since 1984. My three sons attended K-12 in Culver City.

Thanks for your support. For more information:
Contact me: zirgulisr@yahoo.com

**Renew your membership
before voting for
endorsements!**

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.

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, September 9**
**Monthly General Meeting:
November Election
Endorsements
- See Candidates
Statements Page 3.
Please arrive early to
register to vote**

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

► **Thursday, September 17**
Monthly Board Meeting:
7:00 PM at Rosenberg's home. All members welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, October 14**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Diversity Roundtable**
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
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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September 9, 2009 - Meeting Program:

November Election Endorsements: Dem School Board Candidates Forum & Parcel Tax

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.