



Active Democrat

General Meeting – October 14, 2009

Diversity: Panel Discussion

November 3 Election Endorsements

CCUSD Board of Education:

Kathy Paspalis & Karlo Silbiger

Ballot Measures:

YES on Measure EE

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, October 14, 2009

6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

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



President's Letter:

Well, it's like the old folk song said, ... "Oh no, don't let the rain come down. My roof's got a hole in it, and I might

drown." So, my husband and I are sitting here in glorious Italy in our lovely 350 year old house in the middle of a torrential downpour, and our roof is seriously leaking. Well, ... what do you expect from a 350 year old roof?! True, we didn't cause the problem, but now WE have to deal with it. Can we afford an extensive remodel with a new roof this year, or should we just pay the money to patch up the holes this year to get through the tough rainy season?

So, ... where am I going with this? For those of us who love analogies, let's talk about Culver City's Parcel Tax Measure EE. Our school district budget has some serious "holes" – holes you personally did not cause, but must be fixed. Otherwise our prized Culver City educational system might "drown" and our children will definitely suffer. Yes, it might be better to do an extensive "remodel" of our State's budget process and priorities, but right now we don't have the time. "Rainy season" is coming.

Measure EE will provide needed dollars that will protect the quality of our current school programs – including science, advanced math, music, art, college prep and school libraries. Yes, it will cost each CCUSD area (See **President**, Page2)

What's Inside?

- 2: **President's Message** (Continued)
- 2: **Club Members Part of Sacramento Delegation**
- 3: **From the Editor: Enough is Enough!**
- 3: **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: On hiatus until Oct. 23.
Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel. Plenty of signs available we just need you!

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)
 property owner \$ 96 per parcel,
 per year, for 5 years. But this is
 money that is guaranteed to go
 directly to our schools. These
 funds cannot be usurped by the
 State! Finally, there is an
 exemption available for seniors.
 It has been unanimously endorsed
 by acclamation by our Club, and
 by both of our endorsed
 candidates for School Board –
 Kathy Paspalis and Karlo
 Silbiger. With traditionally low
 turn out for off-year elections,
 your vote on November 3rd is
 more powerful than ever. Vote –
 Then tell your friends to vote!

Now, California must work on a
 more permanent solution – the
 “remodel”. California Majority
 Rule is working on a ballot
 initiative to bring CA back in line
 with 47 other states, where a
 simple legislative majority is
 needed to pass a state budget. A
 small minority of our legislators
 should not be allowed to continue
 to hack away at our public school
 system. Our future depends on it.

Ronnie Jayne, President

P.S. We've drawn up plans and
 are getting estimates for next
 year's roof remodel, but this
 winter we'll go with the patch up
 and a few well-placed buckets.

Don't Forget to Vote on
 November 3!

Renew Your Club Membership for 2010!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for the coming 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, 2010.

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

Club Members Part of Sacramento Delegation

Darryl Cherness:

On August 19th, I traveled to the Capitol in Sacramento as part of a delegation consisting of members of the 47th Assembly District People's Council.

The People's Council is an umbrella organization created by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass "dedicated to providing AD 47 constituents with the vehicle to incorporate citizen participation in the Legislative process." The People's Council is comprised of a Health Commission, an Education Commission, a Small Business Commission, and an Environmental Commission.

Representatives of all the commissions were present for the all day visit to the State Capitol. The purpose of the visit was to provide members of the People's Council with briefings and presentations regarding the state budget, key environmental issues, key health and human service policies, key education policy, and key small business policy and resources.

Given the fact that I serve on the Environmental Commission, my primary focus was on environmental issues. The presenter on environmental

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.

issues was Jennifer Galehouse, the Speaker's Environmental Policy Consultant.

Ms. Galehouse informed our delegation that the state is attempting to move away from fossil fuels and that investor owned utilities i.e. Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Sempra, will be required to increase the amount of renewable energy i.e. wind, solar, geothermal etc. they have in their "energy portfolio." By 2010, 20% of the total energy they produce must be renewable.

Much of Ms. Galehouse's presentation dealt with water and the need for water conservation. She stated that there were 5 bills in the legislature dealing with water and that 3 dealt with the San Joaquin Delta (where much of our water in Southern California comes from) and how the Delta ecosystem is "collapsing" i.e. decline in fish population, deterioration of the levies, etc.

In regard to water, I learned a few interesting statistics:

* 40 to 60% of water used by households is for landscaping

* 70-80% of water used in California goes to agriculture.
 (see **Delegation**, Page 3)

(**Delegation**, from Page 2)

Ms. Galehouse stated that the single most important deterrent to water use is price and that when local water agencies raise rates water usage declines.

The environmental presentation concluded with a discussion of AB 32 which requires that greenhouse gases in California be reduced between now and the year 2020.

Lee Welinsky:

On August 19, 2009, I left LAX along with 22 other people for Sacramento. We were heading for a briefing on four issues, Education, Health Care, Environmental Issues and Small Business issues. There were nineteen women and four men in the group. We were all members of Karen Bass' Commission.

We were picked up at the airport, we had paid our way on Southwest and we all chipped in for the transport to and from the Capitol. We had breakfast and then we went into a room where we were briefed on the issues. I am a Health Commissioner. We were updated by the Assembly Health Committee Chair Dave

Jones who will be termed out and is running for the Insurance Commissioner.

Dave Jones told us about three bills he was working on: AB1383 which taxes hospitals raising money, AB 119 which will prohibit discrimination against women in their health care, and AB786 which requires that you use standard forms and words that everyone understands.

We also learned about the water shortage. The Delta is in bad shape. It is the heart of the estuary. Two rivers come together in the delta. There is a risk of delta failure. The Levees are collapsing and water levels are falling. There are five bills regarding the water shortage, and three of them are regarding fixing the Delta. We need to conserve water. When I asked regarding the high use of water by PXP in producing gasoline in the Inglewood oil fields, the Assembly Water Parks, Wildlife Committee Chair, Jared Huffman said they were watching PXP very closely.

We had our picture taken in the Assembly Hall with the Speaker of the Assembly and then we went home.

From the Editor: Enough is Enough!

What will it take to move everyone from the complacency of accepting the status quo to forcing the powers that be to do the right thing? We see our leaders in Washington working hard to please the insurance and pharmaceutical industries as they water down the attempts at truly reforming our healthcare system. Here in California we are seeing a once great higher educational system being financially squeezed so that the dream of quality education for all is now becoming just a dream and no longer a reality for many.

It's time to pull out all the stops. Call our Congress members, our Senators, our Assembly Members, our State Senators, the heads of committees, the Governor, even the White House and let them know that the needs of the individual citizens and the good of the nation must be placed ahead of benefitting the rich and powerful!

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

At our September 9, 2009 General Meeting for the November Elections Endorsements: Democratic School Board Candidates Forum & Parcel Tax. The Parcel Tax Measure EE was passed by the entire membership. We congratulate our First Vice President Karlo Silbiger and Kathy Paspalis on getting our endorsement.

We thank Howard Welinsky for supplying the address labels for the endorsement cards (as he had done for years). Thank you Howard for your continued support of our club!

On October 2 Greg Valtierra organized a labeling party for the Club's endorsement mailer. We got approximately 6,800 pieces labeled and sorted for mailing. The following members volunteered: Eric Fine, Sally Gardner, Phyllis Kossoff, Disa Lundgren, Hilda Silvers. The following guests also helped us: Bob Weber (friend of Eric), Hiroko Hara (friend of Disa's), and the Valtieras - Josette, Gregory (age 11) and Michael (age 7). Very special thanks to Sally, Phyllis, and Hilda for working from beginning to end.

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 membership!

Now collecting dues for 2010. Dues for 2010 are due by January 1, 2010. 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, October 14**
Monthly General Meeting:
Diversity: Panel Discussion
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, October 17**
Monthly Board Meeting:
9:00 AM at Tom Camarella and Ronnie Jayne's home. All members welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, October 28,**
Comedy/Music FUNdraiser for Club! Ronnie Jayne & Friends
7:00 PM at Culver Events Center, 11948 W. Washington Blvd. Public is welcome. \$25 per person includes a wine and cookies reception. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **December, Date TBD**
Holiday Party & Silent Auction
Public is welcome. We're looking for donations of new items, great services, tickets to shows, etc. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

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

**Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 517**

October 14, 2009 - Meeting Program:

Diversity: Panel Discussion

November 3 Election Endorsements

CCUSD Board of Education:

Kathy Paspalis & Karlo Silbiger

Ballot Measures:

YES on Measure EE

**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 2010 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.