



Active Democrat

General Meeting – November 11, 2009

Healthcare Panel Discussion: Single Payer and the Public Option



President's Letter:

Well, ... Halloween is over, and you know what that means, ... It's Christmas at Costco!

Okay, ... it means more than that. Last year at this time, we suffered through 8 years of "Trick" – the Bush Administration; and we were hoping for a "Treat" – a new bright shiny Obama Administration.

We won the election, and 10 months into the new administration we're reminded of something that we've always known: We can't just sit back and hope for the best! After months of negotiating for a "bipartisan" solution to our healthcare crisis, we know that there IS NO substantive bipartisan effort from "the Party of No" – the Republicans. ... And the Blue Dogs (including "I-Spoke-at-the-2008-Republican-National-Convention-But-Thanks-For-Keeping-My-Democratic-Chairmanship" Joe Lieberman) refuse to hear the voice of the American public, that is clamoring for a strong public

option.

At our November 11 Club meeting our panelists will be discussing both the public option and Universal Single Payer Healthcare. Please come, and bring your friends – It will be a lively discussion. By the way, I had the opportunity to watch the Michael Moore film "Sicko" again this weekend, and was reminded: 1. What a great filmmaker he is; and 2. How straightforward the case and need is for Single Payer.

So,... we're almost at the end of another year, with much work still to do. The banks and brokerage firms are pretending that the crisis is over, and they're going back to business-as-usual. Our State budget is still in shambles, and our citizens of all ages are the worse for it. We must keep the pressure up on our elected officials. The corporations pay big bucks for their lobbyist voices. We must do ours with people-power!

So here again, are the phone numbers for your elected representatives: Senator Barbara Boxer is 202-224-3553, Senator Dianne Feinstein is 202-224-3841, (See **President**, Page2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, November 11, 2009
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

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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!

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil:
Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every other Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel, next on 11/20/09.

November Meeting Sponsor:
Roger Maxwell

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)
 Congressional Representative
 Diane Watson is 202-225-7084,
 Speaker of the Assembly Karen
 Bass is 323-937-4747, State
 Senator Curren Price is 213-745-
 6656, and Supervisor Mark
 Ridley-Thomas is 213-974-2222.
 Let them know how you feel about
 the important issues facing all of
 us.

Finally, special thanks to Bill
 Wynn for putting a terrific panel
 together for our Diversity
 Discussion at our October
 meeting. Many members have
 asked to make this a yearly event,
 and rightfully so.

Thanks for voting on November 3.
 See you on November 11.

Take care,

Ronnie Jayne, President

Club Endorsements Very Successful

The results from the election on
 November 3 are in and the
 candidates the Club endorsed and
 Measure EE won by large
 margins. Congratulations to
 Kathy Paspalis and Karlo Silbiger
 for gaining seats on the CCUSD
 School Board. You both obviously
 ran excellent campaigns and the
 results reflect that.

Also congratulations to all of us
 for approving measure EE to fund

our local schools. Many other
 cities with similar measure did
 not have the will to approve their
 measures while EE passed with a
 very large majority.

For those who wonder if our
 Club's endorsements make a
 difference we can't offer any
 definitive proof but we can say
 that the margin of votes between
 the candidates we endorsed and
 those we didn't was fairly
 significant. The Club's process for
 selecting candidates to endorse
 has been working well at picking
 winners who are well qualified for
 the positions they seek.

Nominating Committee and Officer Elections

For those of you who've been
 members for more than a year
 (and that's many of you) you
 probably already know that the
 end of the year for our Club
 means nominations for officers
 and elections of the officers for the
 next year. As prescribed in our
 Club's constitution a nominating
 committee is formed at our
 November meeting. The
 committee will consist of five
 current Club members with the
 chair and one member appointed
 by the president and the other
 three members elected at our
 November meeting.

Ronnie, our president, will be
 announcing her appointments to
 the committee at the November

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.

meeting and we will be electing
 the three other members of the
 committee at that same meeting.

Once the nominating committee is
 formed the committee's one and
 only task is to find and nominate
 members who are qualified and
 willing to serve as our Club's
 officers for 2010. If you have a
 desire to work with fellow
 Democrats and want to see our
 Club continue to be successful you
 should consider taking on a role
 as officer for the Club and seek a
 nomination from the committee.
 However, keep in mind that a
 member does not have to be
 nominated by the committee to
 run for an officer position and can
 run from the floor at the January
 meeting.

If you are interested in serving on
 the nominating committee as
 either an appointed or elected
 member, or would like to run for
 an Club officer position for 2010,
 please contact our president at
 (310) 836-7557 or email
 President@CCDemClub.Org

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

David Weisman was recently hospitalized. David was scheduled to be discharged and on Oct. 28. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Ruth Weisman's Mother who is 103 is in the hospital. We send our get well wishes to her.

"We should resolve now that the
 health of this nation is a national
 concern; that financial barriers
 in the way of attaining health
 shall be removed; that the health
 of all it's citizens deserves the
 help of all the nation."

- Harry S. Truman

Speakers for November's Meeting

We will have two well qualified speakers at November's meeting, Nancy Gomez the Regional Organizer for Southern California from Health Access and Maureen Cruise, a licensed nurse.

Founded in 1987, Health Access California is a statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, bringing together dozens of other member organizations representing seniors, people with disabilities, children, immigrants, communities of color, health care professionals, people of faith, labor, women, low-income families, and communities throughout California. Working together with Health Access Foundation, Health Access is a leading voice for health care consumers in California.

Nancy Gomez joined the Health Access Staff in 2008 as the Southern California Regional Organizer. Educated in North and South America, she brings a cross-cultural perspective and twenty years of experience in the social/human service field. She has worked for organizations focused on pediatric AIDS, chronic illness, domestic/spousal/child abuse, and affordable housing. Most recently she served as the Director of Social Services for a service enriched affordable housing development organization serving hundreds of at-risk families, youth, children, and seniors.

A pragmatic and creative problem

solver, she credits her tenacity and resourcefulness to having served in the U.S. Navy, and counting on the support of a loving and passionately opinionated family.

Maureen Cruise RN is a public health nurse who's passionately pursuing reform of our healthcare system and a vocal advocate for universal healthcare. A native of the South Bay, Maureen is a Retired LA Co. Public Health Clinic Registered Nurse with experience as a Research Associate at NPI/ UCLA and as a Student Support Services coordinator for an LAUSD high school.

Maureen has a very extensive history of activism and community involvement and has won numerous awards for her efforts including 2008 Democrat of the Year for the 41st AD from the L.A. County Democratic Party. You can catch her in action as she narrates a video of a healthcare sit in that was conducted on October 15 in downtown Los Angeles. You can see the video at http://current.com/items/91210625_hey-pelosi-single-payer-is-not-off-the-table.htm.

From the Editor: Why Our Market Driven System Isn't the Best Model for Healthcare

Many conservatives argue that the ills of our healthcare system can be cured by their favorite panacea, less regulation and more laissez-faire market forces. Of course most of us less conservative citizens already see that the prescription of letting "the market" have its way has delivered poor outcomes. Our healthcare

system is by far the most expensive per capita and yet we rank behind all the other major economy countries and even behind some not so major countries in our actual health.

Long ago, fire fighting was also run as a market driven "insurance" system. We eventually realized the problems with that system. For example, it was common for fire fighters to let an uninsured structure burn. Unfortunately, the insured structures burned as well when the fire from the uninsured structure couldn't be contained. Looking for fire fighting "coverage" when your home was already burning didn't work well either.

Our current healthcare system is analogous. The uninsured affect all of us because their healthcare costs get passed on to everyone, usually at greater cost than if they'd been treated early. Also, like those in the past with their homes on fire, when we are sick we are not in the best position to select who should cover our healthcare costs or to fight for the coverage we believe we have. When we are most ill and weak, the insurance companies are most likely to deny treatment or exclude coverage based on so called "prior conditions".

Basically, our current model is geared toward maximizing profits for the health insurance and pharmaceutical companies, in other words the "market", and not toward maximizing our individual and collective health.

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 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

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.

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

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November 11, 2009 - Meeting Program:

Healthcare Panel Discussion: Single Payer and the Public Option

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, November 11**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Healthcare 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, November 21**
Monthly Board Meeting:

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

► **December, December 9**
**Holiday Party & Silent
Auction, and More**

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

► **Wednesday, January 13**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections, and
More...**

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 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.