



General Meeting — 7p.m. Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue
Meeting program: Charter Schools ...
Teachers Strike ... Funding Public Education

President's Message by Pete Rockwell
The program for the February meeting

I first joined the Culver City Democratic Club in the summer of 2017. I went to a membership meeting and asked to circulate a petition I'd started to have a march for healthcare for all on the first anniversary of the Womens' March. As things turned out there was a second Womens' March on the date I had picked in January of 2018, and Cynthia Hart (my new wife) and I marched in it together. We have marched together in all three Womens' Marches in Los Angeles.

Cynthia and I first met at the Fiesta La Ballona in August of 2015. We were volunteers handing out leaflets for the brand new long-shot presidential campaign of Bernie Sanders. Cynthia had been a member of CCDC off and on for nearly thirty years, but she had not been very active as a member.

Practically the day we went to our first meeting together we learned that the Corresponding Secretary of the Club, who had also been editing this newsletter, had just quit both tasks. Cynthia soon became the new Corresponding Secretary and I became the editor of the newsletter.

We both voted for Bernie in the California primary and for Hillary in the general election.

The only political experience I had before coming to the CCDC was as a union activist. I'm retired now, but in my life I have been a member of six different unions and I've worked full time for the Typographical Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

So... I join the Club and boom! I'm putting out the monthly newsletter. Then

a year and a half later, boom! I'm president of the Club. It's the kind of thing that might go to a man's head if he wasn't aware that nobody else wanted the job.

But I have a plan.

People are so mad at the would-be oligarchs in the Republican Party right now that they are joining the Resistance in greater numbers than I've seen in my lifetime, and I first voted in 1968—way back when you had to be 21 to vote. All we have to do is channel enough of that energy and determination into the Democratic Party to make the old donkey start kicking again like it did in the days of Franklin Roosevelt.

What's this got to do with the February 13 meeting? We've invited Jackie Goldberg and Kelly Kent to take part in a panel on charter schools, the teachers strike and funding public education. That's where we start. Then we take our country back.

Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday,
February 13, 2019

6:45 PM — Refreshments
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

Sponsor for
February meeting:
Andrew Lachman

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City Council Member
 Daniel Lee,
 former CCDC President
 Tom Camarella,
 Assembly Member
 Sydney Kamlager-Dove,
 Club member
 Jimmie Woods Gray,
 LACDP Regional
 Vice-Chair
 Jackie Hawthorne, and
 Culver City Democratic
 Club President-elect
 Pete Rockwell
 at the swearing-in
 ceremony for Sydney
 Kamlager-Dove on
 January 26



Di's Corner: by Diane Rosenberg

Medical Update on Herb Rosenberg: Everything is fine, he's slowly getting better. We're waiting for the doctor's approval for him to go to the next facility.

□ □ □

At our January 9 general meeting the membership elected the new officers for 2019 by acclamation. They are: President Pete Rockwell, 1st Vice President John Williams, 2nd Vice President Ronnie Jayne Solomon, Recording Secretary Shannon Theus, Corresponding Secretary Cynthia Hart, Treasurer Eric Fine, and Membership Chair Diane Rosenberg. The Club congratulates them.

New Club Officers

The following officers of the Culver City Democratic Club were elected at the January membership meeting:

President:
PETE ROCKWELL

First Vice President:
JOHN WILLIAMS

Second Vice President:
RONNIE JAYNE

Corresponding Secretary:
CYNTHIA HART

Recording Secretary:
SHANNON THEUS

Treasurer:
ERIC FINE

Membership Secretary:
DIANE ROSENBERG

If you are receiving the newsletter in the mail and would like to save the Club some money you can email
pete_rockwell@hotmail.com
and ask to get the digital newsletter by email.



The Forward 54th Slate is pictured left to right: Greg Bartlett, Dr. Wayne Liebman, Dr. Khin Khin Gyi, Jeanna Harris, Leah Pressman, Tom Camarella, Cynthia Hart, Jeff Schwartz, Steve Dunwoody, Phil Crabbe, Elina Antoniou, and Evan Geary. Claudia Vizcarra and Shannon Theus are not in the photo.

54th Assembly District election results

On Sunday, January 27, delegates to the Democratic state party convention were selected to represent our assembly district. Our Club endorsed the "Forward 54th—Real Progressives for Real Change" slate of candidates.

When the votes were tallied Sunday night, our endorsed slate won 13 of 14 delegate positions, and one alternate. Past Club president Tom Camarella was elected to the executive board, and

Club members Steve Dunwoody and Jeanna Harris were the top vote-getters of the day!

The members of the "Forward 54th" slate sincerely thank the Culver City Democratic Club for its invaluable endorsement. We look "Forward" to reporting back to you from the California state party conventions.

Again, we can't thank you enough.

—by Cynthia Hart

2019 Officer Installation and Awards Luncheon

Sunday, February 10, 2019, 11:00 am—3:00 pm

Courtyard by Marriott 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City

Honoree Trudy & Hal Cherness Democrat of the Year

AMY CHERNESS

Emcee: ALEX FISCH, CULVER CITY COUNCILMEMBER

**Swearing in of Officers: SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 54th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**Tickets \$40 per person in advance (\$45 at door)
Includes Free Parking**

For tickets please call: Diane Rosenberg (310) 398-5328

Jewel of Culver City: Mayme A Clayton Library & Museum

by Shannon Theus

Untapped treasure lies in plain view on the busy street of Overland in Culver City. A former courthouse has been renovated into the Mayme A. Clayton library & museum of African American history.

Director Lloyd Clayton gave the Culver City Democratic Club member Craig Scott and me, Recording Secretary Shannon Theus, a personal tour and interview. He told us about the indomitable will of his mother, Mayme A. Clayton, and her passion to uncover the truth and grandeur of Black history in order to empower the world with it.

The museum's rare national treasures include a 1773 edition of Phyllis Wheatley's book of poems signed by Wheatley herself. She is one of America's first acclaimed poets, who was kidnapped from her village and forced into slavery. Her poetry, so beautiful, freed her of slavery and made her a highly esteemed guest of George Washington, and was written about by Thomas Jefferson. Fellow Black poet Langston Hughes has also left a signed note in his book of poems.

The halls of the museum tell a history

through sound, pairing albums to rare photos and texts. Nina Simone's jazz recording "Mississippi Goddamn" lies near photos of the domestic terrorism being afflicted upon Blacks. Next to Lena Horne's "Strange Fruit" album, hangs the actual photo of the lynching that inspired the poem by Abel Meeropol—who wrote the song that Lena Horne sang.

These jewels of the past have not been ignored. The collection has been educating Americans about their own history for years. Alex Haley consulted Mayme and her library to find out about his own family's history, which led to the epic saga *Roots*. Haley thanks Mayme in his signed copy of the book, which is part of the museum's collection, along with a signed letter from Martin Luther King Jr.

I personally found myself staring face-to-face with my own history, as I surprisingly stumbled upon a signed picture from my deceased father, Jazz drummer and member of Sun Ra's Arkestra: Sonship Theus (he died 7 years ago). In fact, the museum had a file on my family the Theus', which included

my cousin: former NBA player & Coach Reggie Theus along with esteemed Theus's of the military. Astonished, I couldn't stop crying.

"Amazing" is the only word I can use to describe the effect of the library and museum, which is a storehouse of incredible pieces of history. A view into the vault, and one would see a table-sized inventory of slaves; letters from renowned members of the Black community that spans from before the birth of the nation; posters of rare Black cinema like that of Porgy & Bess performed by Dorothy Dandridge and Sidney Portier. The museum owns one of the few copies left in existence and showcases rare cinema like this each month. It also has events like jazz concerts, readings and retirement workshops. Walking in I had no idea how transformed I would be upon walking out.

The most valuable untapped treasure lies within this museum's ability to transform your understanding of self by teaching you (regardless of your background) America's history. Black history. Your history.



Cynthia Hart and California State Senator Holly Mitchell at the Assembly District Election Meeting (ADEM) in Culver City

Membership meeting agenda for February 13, 2019

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of meeting agenda
- Approval of minutes of membership meeting of January 9, 2019
- Shannon Theus – Poems for Black History Month
- Officers' Reports
- Committee Reports
- Circulation of Petition in Support of SB47: Petitions DISCLOSE Act
- Consideration of Letter of Support for keeping Mayme Clayton Library in present Culver City location
- Announcements
- Old Business
- New Business
- Program: charter schools, teachers strike and funding public education
- Adjournment

Letter to the Editor

At our February 13, 2019, meeting I will make a motion that the Club send a letter of support for the Mayme Clayton Library to County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas telling him how much we value having this treasure house of rarities related to the history and culture of African Americans remain in Culver City. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has announced plans to evict the museum from the former courthouse building where it is currently located.

—Cynthia Hart

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

Calendar of upcoming events

February 10

2019 Installation and
Awards Luncheon

February 11

Culver City Council Meeting

February 13

CCDC Membership Meeting

February 25

Culver City Council Meeting

February 25

Deadline for Submissions
to Club Newsletter

March 5

LA Unified School Board
District 5 Special Election

March 5

Last day to vote in
KPFK Pacifica
Radio Station Elections

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

General Meeting — Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue
Meeting program: Charter Schools ...
Teachers Strike ... Funding Public Education

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

☐ Lifetime Member \$500

Additional Contribution: \$_____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club

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

OR Click "Join/Renew" on our web site: CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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

Please check here to receive the **paper** newsletter in the mail ☐

Please renew for 2019 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. **NO REFUNDS.**

**Don't forget to renew your
membership in the
Culver City Democratic Club
for 2019. You can fill out the
form on this page or you can
join online through
ActBlue at:**

[https://secure.actblue.com/
contribute/page/ccdcmembership](https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/ccdcmembership)

CCDC Website:
www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Email:
CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/culvercitydems

Club Notes

Email newsletter:

Send your email address to
pete_rockwell@hotmail.com and
ask to get the newsletter by email.