



**General Meeting — 7p.m. Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue
Meeting Program: Candidates for Los Angeles County
District Attorney are invited to speak ... Vote on candidate
endorsements for March 3, 2020, primary election**

President's Message by Pete Rockwell

Vladimir Putin is calling the shots on the foreign policy of the United States

The problem-solving principle known as "Occam's razor" can be stated as "The simplest solution is most likely the right one." I think the simplest explanation of why Donald Trump withdrew the American troops from Syria is that Vladimir Putin wanted him to.

I've suspected for a long time that Putin has something he is holding over Trump and blackmailing him. My guess is that Putin has lots of documentation of crimes committed by Trump that could get him convicted in an impeachment trial in the Senate and then convicted in court of enough felonies to land him in jail for the rest of his life.

I can also imagine Putin threatening physical harm to both Trump personally and to Trump's family.

I admit it sounds at first like a crazy conspiracy theory. However, my theory makes more sense to me than the idea that Trump chose to turn Turkey's military loose on our Kurdish allies in Syria because either a) he's keeping a promise he made while running for President that he would bring troops home from overseas, or b) that Trump has a clever strategy to distract voters and lawmakers from the current impeachment inquiry.

Theory (a) falls apart once you realize that no troops are coming home, they are just being relocated to another

dangerous part of the middle east.

Theory (b) is laughable. Not even Trump is dumb enough to pick a "distraction" that's guaranteed to infuriate Republican senators at a time when he needs to keep them on his side in the extremely likely event of an impeachment trial in the Senate.

So...what do we do with this information? My recommendation is two things: Support Trump's impeachment in the House and removal from office by the Senate; and nominate the strongest Democratic candidate to beat whoever is the Republican candidate in the Presidential election of November 2020.

Who is the strongest candidate?

That's the question of the hour. I'm convinced that the number one issue on the mind of every Democrat when looking at prospective candidates is: "Will this person win?"

The Club will be voting on endorsements at our November 13 general meeting. Members made the decision at our October meeting to use a system of ranked choice voting on the first ballot for our endorsement votes.

My own choices for president are 1) Bernie Sanders, 2) Elizabeth Warren, and 3) Andrew Yang. My first two choices are based on my idea of who is the most electable.

*Sponsor for
November meeting:
John Williams*

I think Sanders and Warren are the most electable because they have the most credibility with voters and they generate the most excitement among their supporters. They're also the best fund raisers, and they've raised the most without taking money from wealthy donors.

I think Bernie Sanders has the most credibility with voters because he has been advocating for the same things for forty years. Even if you disagree with all of Bernie's policy solutions, you probably believe that *he* believes in them. He appears to be telling the truth as he understands it, even labeling himself a socialist. While some think the label will hurt him in the general election, voters understand that he is being honest about what he believes. The contrast to Donald Trump, who believes in nothing except getting what he wants and tells lies every time he opens his mouth, is like the difference between night and day.

Elizabeth Warren is the second most electable because she, like Bernie, clearly believes in what she's advocating. (See **President's Message** on page 2)

Letter to the Editor by Cindy Mediavilla

Fellow Democrats might be interested in reading that my husband Tim and I happened to be visiting the U.S. Capitol the day the House of Representatives decided to launch its impeachment inquiry. It was the third day of our four-day political "expedition" with the L.A. Times. Our guide, journalist and MSNBC commentator Eli Stokols, had arranged a tour of the building through Kamala Harris's office. We had just passed Speaker Pelosi's office when someone whispered, "There's Adam Schiff!" Sure enough, here came Representative Schiff, followed closely by Representative Jerry Nadler. They were on their way to meet with Pelosi before she convened the Democratic caucus. We quickly headed back toward Pelosi's office, which was now suddenly surrounded by reporters. Our brush with history! We heard Pelosi announce the impeachment inquiry as we rode our tour bus back to the hotel.



Cindy Mediavilla and her husband Tim Ahern on the set of *Hardball with Chris Matthews* in Washington, D.C.

(**President's Message** from page 1) ing. So far she has a powerful and successful campaign operation. I also believe that the fact that she's a woman will actually help this time around because it draws attention to her contrast with a misogynist like Trump.

I'm hoping that the Democrats run both Sanders *and* Warren. One for President and the other for Vice President. Which one would be which? Whoever has more delegates the day before the Democratic Convention should get to run for President. If Warren has more delegates, Bernie should drop out, and if he has more, she should drop out.

My third choice vote for Andrew Yang has nothing to do with electability, although I wouldn't bet against Yang in an election against Trump. The main thing I like about Yang is that he's the only candidate talking about the future and past problems resulting from automation.

Yang has argued that the last good blue-collar job, driving, is going to be automated out of existence (think of truck drivers, cab drivers, delivery drivers, etc.). He has proposed a guaranteed basic income of one thousand dollars a month, as something the government can do to address the problems and human displacement caused by automation.

I have been automated out of two different jobs that I liked: photo technician and typographer. I worked for advertising photo labs in New York and San Francisco until the work disappeared almost overnight with the invention of more powerful computers and an application called Adobe Photoshop.

After that I got a good union job as a newspaper typographer, just as that entire trade was being displaced by computers. At the San Francisco Chronicle we went from about four hundred typographers to none at all.

It's true that a lot of the manufacturing jobs lost to American workers over the last fifty years have moved to plants overseas (including in China). But if you tour a modern auto plant anywhere in the world you'll see a lot of robots and relatively few workers, compared to the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

**You don't have to be a delegate to attend the
California Democratic Party Convention
in Long Beach November 15 through 17
check it out: <https://www.cdpconvention.org>**

Di's Corner: by Diane Rosenberg

Hi Everyone. Medical update: The sling came off of my right shoulder on October 3, after having to wear it for six weeks straight. I have now started to go for physical therapy.

I also want to let you know that I'm going into the hospital for a different problem on Friday, November 15.

Part of my prosthesis left kneecap, which is plastic, has come away. I already have had a CT scan which showed that. So now my orthopedic surgeon got with the company which did the complete prosthesis of the knee, and they have already started to put a new kneecap together.

I will be going into Southern California Hospital at Culver City (which used to be Brotman's Medical Center). Surgery will be at 7:30 a.m. that morning. I will be there anywhere from 48 to 72 hours.

On Sunday, October 20, our Congresswoman, Karen Bass, held a town hall meeting here in Culver City at the Robert Frost Auditorium. Attending besides myself were Culver City Councilmember Daniel Lee and former Culver City School Board member Nancy Goldberg. From the Club were President Pete Rockwell and Corresponding Secretary Cynthia Hart, Mary Kravitsky, Leah Pressman, Jeff Schwartz, former Club Presidents Khin Khin Gyi and Tom Camarella as well as former Recording Secretary Patricia Levinson.

Landlords subject to the Culver City rent control law must post information about tenants' rights

Many tenants are unaware of their rights under the new rent control law. The ordinance requires that all landlords subject to the law must post the "Interim Rent Control Ordinance Notice" in a "conspicuous location." Here is what the notice says:

□ On August 12, 2019, interim rent control measures went into effect for a 12-month period in Culver City.

□ For all rental units in Culver City built on or before February 1, 1995 (except as noted), there is now a rent cap of three percent above the rent that was in place on June 11, 2019.

□ The rent cap does not apply to rental units first occupied after February 1, 1995.

□ The rent cap does not apply to single-family homes, separately owned condos and townhouses, owner occupied mobile homes, or Section eight housing.

□ "For cause" and "no fault" grounds are required for evictions.

□ Relocation assistance (three times monthly rent, plus \$1,000) may be available for no fault evictions.

□ From now until August 2020, the City Council will study whether these and/or other rent control measures should become permanent.

□ □ □

To find out more and to access tenant complaint forms, go to <https://www.culvercity.org/Home/Components/Topic/Topic/912/925>

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

Do Culver City renters know they have rights?

by Pete Rockwell

I spoke to Jessica Cattelino, who went door to door in Culver City with Patricia Guerrero telling tenants about a "Know Your Rights" workshop at La Ballona elementary school. It was held on October 24.

About forty tenants attended the workshop, put on by *Culver City Action Network* and *Protect Culver City Renters*. The program featured lawyers explaining tenants' rights under the new Culver City rent control law that the City Council passed in August.

After the presentation, tenants were able to talk to lawyers one-on-one about specific problems they were having with landlords. Some tenants brought copies of their leases. Child-care was provided by Culver City High School students earning extra credit for community work. Dinner was also served. Simultaneous translations were provided into Spanish. Other events like this are planned for the future.

As Jessica and Patricia were talking to renters on Saturday about the upcoming event, they were surprised to learn that most of the renters they

spoke to had not heard about Culver City's new rent control law.

The response they got from renters when they told them about the law was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the renters had not had any trouble with their landlords, but a significant number had experienced problems.

Also, a number of the renters they spoke to told them they were afraid to complain to landlords about legitimate problems for fear of retaliation. They heard rumors of various types of unfair practices such as: landlords sometimes blamed tenants for "turning them in" when routine inspections were done, even when the tenants had NOT turned them in or complained. One building reported multiple rent increases within one year.

They heard about one building that had no hot water for an extended period.

They heard stories of "good" and "bad" landlords in the same neighborhoods. In fact, the good and bad reports sometimes came from apartment buildings that were side by side.

Upcoming Events

November 11

Veteran's Day – Lest we forget

November 13

CCDC General Meeting – **Come Early!**

Candidates for LA District Attorney

Endorsement Vote for March Primary

Selection of Nominating Committee for 2020 Club Officers

November 15 - 17

2019 Fall Endorsing Convention in Long Beach

See: <https://www.cdpconvention.org/2019-November-Convention-Agenda.pdf>

(All Democrats may attend Committee and Caucus meetings)

November 18

Culver City Council Meeting

Karen Bass town hall

“Things are getting Crazier and Crazier!”

There are multiple committees involved in the Trump Impeachment Inquiry, and Congressional Representative Karen Bass sits on two of them.

When she held a Town Hall on October 20, 2019, at the Frost Auditorium, there was a fascinated crowd! As she put it, things are getting “crazier and crazier!”

She is confident that there will be impeachment by the House before the end of the this year. She is no longer sure that the Senate will acquit.

Witnesses have been questioned by Congressional staff lawyers behind closed doors, to guard against witnesses being able to align their testimony. Each party gets time to question witnesses. It is a lie to say that Republican committee members are not allowed to participate.

Representative Bass recalled working with the late Representative Elijah Cummings. She described him as a “tower of integrity, humility and passion to protect our democracy.”

Lest anyone imagine that the House is doing nothing else besides impeachment, Representative Bass referred to twenty-two significant pieces of legislation passed by the Democratic House, including restoration of Net Neutrality and the College Affordability Act.

It was great to see young journalists from KidScoop Media quiz our Representative! Here are some highlights:

KidScoop: “How do we get kids out of cages?” Rep. Bass: “It will take a new administration.”

KidScoop: “How can we impeach the President?” Rep. Bass: “Change the Senate and Public Opinion.”

KidScoop: “What measures do we take to protect our democracy from foreign influence?” Rep. Bass: “We need the Republicans to support election security funding, as well as a bipartisan opposition to voter suppression.”

As a result of the fearless reporting of these young journalists, we now know that the Honorable Karen Bass’ favorite superhero is Black Panther! Wakanda forever!



Sarah Hager of Vote16 Culver City with U. S. Representative Karen Bass (who endorsed the idea of lowering Culver City voting age to 16)



“Democrat of the Year” honoree Eric Fine—Treasurer of the Culver City Democratic Club

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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: \$ _____

☐ **After July 1: \$45 for the rest of this year and all of next year!**

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 2020 if you haven’t already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1st of each year. **NO REFUNDS.**