

# Culver City Democratic Club

## Active Democrat



[www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

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Post Office Box 4254 • 6695 Green Valley Circle Culver City, CA 90230

**General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

**Program: Reproductive Rights in Kansas and Nationwide  
Law Professor Yvonne Lindgren**

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## Institutionalized

Fellow Democrats,

It has become increasingly common to reflect on the unsavory origins and histories of our institutions and for many of those institutions to take steps to reckon with their pasts, to align their practices with their values.

The United States is foremost among these institutions, as movements of oppressed groups have challenged the nation to extend its founding promises to all its inhabitants. Langston Hughes wrote in "[Let America be America Again](#)" that "(It never was America to me)" but insists "America will be!" Martin Luther King Jr. began [his speech at the March on Washington](#):

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We



**Marthin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963**

refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

If there is a positive story of the United States, it is this one, of people taking the Founders' words more seriously than they themselves did and fighting to make their promises real for everyone. This struggle continues.

Our Democratic Party is an example of an institution founded for loathsome purposes which has divested from them in living memory. Our first Presidential candidate was Andrew Jackson, who was

deeply involved in [the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous people of North America](#), and the Party supported slavery then fought Reconstruction. This racist legacy was increasingly challenged within the Party and culminated in a realignment whose landmarks include Harry Truman desegregating the military in 1948, Lyndon Johnson signing the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts (1964 and 1965), and the election of Barack Obama in 2008, when the last old "Southern Democrats" switched parties or were defeated.

Strom Thrumond was a Democrat when he staged the longest solo filibuster in Senate history, speaking for over 24 hours against a 1957 civil rights law. He

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## From MESSAGE on page 1

switched parties after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In contrast, Robert Byrd, the longest-serving Senator in US history, began his career in public life by organizing a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1940s. Elected to the House in 1952 and the Senate in 1958, Byrd participated in filibustering the 1964 Civil Rights Act but remained a Democrat until he died, in office, in 2010. While he was always on the right wing of the Party and opposed Bill Clinton's proposals to allow gay men and lesbians to serve in the military, he denounced the KKK in the strongest terms and endorsed Obama in 2008.

Meanwhile, Republicans seized on this realignment with open appeals to white supremacy, as in [Ronald Reagan's 1966 Gubernatorial campaign](#), which built on [a successful 1964 ballot initiative to repeal the California Fair Housing Act](#), and Richard Nixon's 1968 Presidential campaign, which employed the "[Southern Strategy](#)" to convert Southern Democrats, as well as more discreet appeals to "[law and order](#)." This was successful; [the 1964 Presidential election was the last one where Democrats won a majority of the white vote](#).

The contemporary Democratic Party is far from perfect: Joe Manchin was elected to fill Robert Byrd's seat in 2010 and has held it since. However, it is clear that Truman and Johnson chose to be on the right side of history, regardless of the electoral consequences, and that we are no longer the Party of Thurmond and Byrd.

Consider now the Boy Scouts. Lord Robert Baden-Powell created Scouting as part of the [British colonial occupation of South Africa](#). While Culver City now has the very progressive all-girl [BSA Troop 15](#), groups of this kind [only became possible in 2019](#), and the Boy Scouts of America went to court numerous times to argue for their right to discriminate against LGBTQ and non-religious Scouts and leaders. While they yielded on their overall LGBTQ ban in 2015, they stand by their right to exclude atheists and agnostics and hold that troops chartered by religious organizations may still discriminate based on gender and sexuality. Meanwhile, in 2020, BSA declared bankruptcy [as the history of pedophilia by thousands of "reverent" and "morally straight" Scout leaders and the](#)



**Senator Robert Byrd in 2009**

[organization's role in covering it up was made public](#). The BSA is at a rough and early stage of reckoning with its history.

When Colin Diaz resigned as "CEO" of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce in March 2022, [he wrote in his farewell message that the Chamber was a voice of the "sane center."](#) In his final appearance at a City Council meeting, that [March 28](#), he inappropriately used public comment on the soft-story retrofit ordinance to advertise Optimum Seismic, a Chamber member but a non-Culver City-based business, spoke against the proposal to remove street parking and widen sidewalks under the Washington overpass in order to meet ADA requirements without sweeping encampments, argued for reopening Main Street to traffic, and announced his resignation.

I had intended to go through several years of Mr. Diaz's public comments to show that he and the Chamber represented the far right wing: consistently opposing environmental, tenant, and labor protections, defending police impunity, etc, rather than the "sane center," but the PDF files of the minutes from 2021 and before are not searchable and I do not have time to skim thousands of pages of text. As an information scientist, historian, and activist, I ask the City Clerk to do better. An intern from [UCLA's Department of Information Studies](#) may be

available to help with this important digital archiving work.

Fortunately, the Chamber's new "CEO," Jesse Nunez, saved my project at the August 14, 2023 City Council meeting by offering a single perfect example of the Chamber's work. The Council was considering a resolution supporting the [WGA, SAG-AFTRA](#), and UNITE-HERE strikers, and his public comment was to ask the Council to change it to a resolution asking both sides to come to the table and reach a speedy resolution, a request immediately embraced by the conservative Council majority.

This shows exactly how, by posing as the "sane center," the Chamber moves discourse to the right and mainstreams Republican talking points. By placing equal concern and responsibility on "both sides," they appear fair while advocating an outcome which would be worse than if they simply opposed the resolution. Instead of asking the Council to not stand with workers, the Chamber asks them to stand equally with management. This shifts the [Overton Window](#) hard to the right by claiming that the problem is the strike itself rather than the exploitative terms offered labor by management.

The positions taken by Mr. Nunez and Mr. Diaz were not determined by votes of the local Chamber members and may not even be their personal views. They are paid decently to present them, as you can see from [the Chamber's tax filings](#). The Chamber's "CEO" may be the only professional lobbyist whose scope is exclusively Culver City.

Many of the Chamber's members are businesses based outside of Culver City, like Optimum Seismic, who have joined essentially to hire the Chamber to do public relations and lobbying for them. The Chamber, like most lobbying organizations, sells access to power. [Ike Smart City/Orange Barrel Media](#), the company whose [proposal to place digital advertising in our public space is under consideration yet again](#), [just joined the Chamber](#), surely to gain advantage with former Chamber Board Members and current Council Members Göran Eriksson and Albert Vera Jr. Ike/Orange Barrel has a record of [unethical lobbying](#).

While Chambers of Commerce claim [a history going back to the 16th century](#),

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the key date for the United States is 1911, when [President William Howard Taft worked with business leaders to foster the Chamber of Commerce movement in the US](#). The Chamber represents organized capital and was intended as a counterweight to the rising power of organized labor in the year of the [Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and subsequent mass mobilization](#).

This mission was renewed in 1971, when Lewis Powell, soon to be nominated to the Supreme Court by Richard Nixon, wrote a memo to the Education Chair of the US Chamber entitled: [“Attack on American Free Enterprise System.”](#) The Powell Memo argued that the [environmental](#), [consumer protection](#), and anti-war movements of the 1960s threatened capitalism and that the Chamber needed to fight back through increased political and public relations work. Powell highlighted the role of colleges in incubating dissent and joined [Reagan](#) and Nixon in attacking higher education, a tactic which [never went away](#) but [has recently reached new heights](#).

Unlike the United States, the Democratic Party, and even the Boy Scouts, the Chamber has never reconsidered their mission or reflected critically on their history, instead continuing full-speed ahead. The Culver City Chamber’s networking and publicity services are not impressive and serve as a mask for their political work, which includes not only lobbying public officials but also mainstreaming right wing ideas by conducting “educational” activities dominated by conservative voices. For example, on June 18, 2020 Mr. Diaz chaired a panel entitled [“Decoding the Defund the Police Movement.”](#) The panelists were listed as “Culver City Mayor, Goran Eriksson; Acting Chief of Police, Manuel Cid; and CCUSD Board President, Parent, and Wife of a Law Enforcement Officer, Summer McBride.” None of these people represents or studies the abolitionist movement. I challenged Mr. Diaz on this and he said this would be the first of a series, with subject experts planned for future installments. It was not. The purpose of this panel, and similar Chamber “educational” efforts, including [Leadership Culver City](#), is to present an Overton Window which is more like a peephole, excluding the perspectives of academics,

activists, and anyone beyond the [local gentry](#).

Republicans hold no statewide offices in California, and candidates identifying as Republicans struggle to get more than 10 percent of the vote in Culver City. The Chamber of Commerce serves as a proxy; they can present the Republican Party’s platform without its toxic brand. The US Chamber recently fought the [Green New Deal](#), the [Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act](#), [Medicare for All](#), and the [\\$15 minimum wage](#). It [defended the filibuster](#) and gave [cash and prizes](#) to Joe Manchin and Kirsten Sinema for their work derailing Biden’s Build Back Better bills. [The California and US Chambers are leading opponents of California’s SB253](#), a bill this Club endorsed, which will require companies to track and disclose the climate impact of their supply chains. [The California Chamber opposes allowing striking workers to collect unemployment](#), as they can in New York and New Jersey, a policy which State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas advocated at our August meeting and [which is now in the legislature](#). While Mr. Nunez offered on August 14 that the Culver City Chamber would pay for a celebration of Assembly Member Isaac Bryan being named Majority Leader, compare [the California Chamber’s legislative agenda](#) to [his record](#). [The California Chamber is currently fighting AB421](#), ballot initiative reform, one of the Majority Leader’s legislative priorities, which our Club also endorsed.

The Culver City Chamber’s opposition to Measure BL, which updated the City’s business license fees in 2022, showed that it is a Republican lobbying group rather than an advocate for its members. Thanks to BL, larger companies now pay more while small ones pay less or nothing at all, instead of the previous system’s flat rate. Why did the Chamber oppose this, which clearly benefits a majority of the businesses in Culver City? It is reasonable to suspect that the Chamber is using local small businesses to front for the interests of some of the world’s largest corporations, but it is also clear that they are [ideologically opposed to taxation](#) and [the health of the public sector](#). In 2020 they fought Measure RE, a real estate transfer tax designed by Club member and Mayor Alex Fisch, which not only saved the City’s finances during COVID but also

almost completely covered its obligations to CalPERS. Again, I suspect the Chamber opposed RE not only because it requires their member [Hackman Capital Partners](#) to pay millions more in taxes, but also because looming CalPERS debt had been a useful tool to threaten and marginalize public sector unions and to thwart any [demands for expanding City services](#).

These “business friendly” positions are bad for business. They not only financially harm the majority of Culver City’s residents, businesses, and workers to accelerate the upward redistribution of wealth, they also harm the image of “business” by associating it with a cruel and irrational platform. There is nothing “sane” or “centrist” about it. Our “business community,” composed mostly of smart and decent people, including many of you, is getting played by these right wing grifters.

What can you do? Don’t vote for candidates and ballot measures endorsed by the Chamber. It is not a community-based or democratic group; those endorsements aren’t chosen by their members. Don’t go to their events, or ask hard questions if you do. If you are in the Chamber, get out. Talk to your friends who own Culver City businesses. If they’re members, do they know what is being done in their name? Talk to your favorite businesses. I remain astonished that Co-opportunity is a Chamber member, as well as any other company claiming to value sustainability, because the Culver City Chamber has consistently lobbied for environmental laws to be incentives rather than mandates, an “all-carrots” approach, and the California and US Chambers consistently describe environmental laws as “job-killers.” If you or your friends are convinced that Chamber membership is an essential part of doing business here, give some extra money to progressive candidates and causes to balance that out. However, I believe associating with the Chamber is a “reputation-killer” and this will only become more so because of their unswerving commitment to a self-destructive right-wing agenda.

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

# A modest proposal from Alfred Twu

*[Alfred Twu is a very active progressive Democrat, and an excellent writer and artist. He lives in Berkeley. We have re-printed his drawings in this newsletter on a number of subjects. Alfred posted the following on his Facebook page.—Editor]*

Wildfires and insurance was one of the main topics at the California Democratic Party Rural Caucus meeting this past weekend. Some highlights:

- Insurance companies are leaving California. Raising rates not just due to higher risk in California, but because higher climate change risk worldwide is raising costs for the reinsurance that insurance companies purchase to cover big disasters. “We’re tied to what happens in Flor-

ida and Texas, we’re all in this together.”

- The state is responding with science: in California you can now get lower rates if you harden your home to be less flammable, or remove plants to create defensible space. Where I live, the city has been inspecting everyone’s property and giving a list of things that need to be done. There’s also plans to use technology to better forecast risk, since historical data is no longer a good prediction of the future.

- To prevent insurers from leaving California, they need to at least break even, which means rates are going to go up. The cost of payouts from 2018 and 2019 wildfires exceeded over thirty` years of all premiums paid in California. It may also mean that wildfire insurance is split

off as a separate product people buy, similar to earthquake insurance.

A thought I’ll add is that since it’s fossil fuels that are causing these risks and costs, it’d make sense to tax fossil fuels to help subsidize the cost of home hardening and vegetation management.

## Di’s Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: On Monday, July 17, Amy Cherness and I went to see Charlotte in the rehab where she is right now. We spent just over an hour visiting with her. She looked good and was thrilled to see us. July 12 she celebrated her birthday. She told us that she had people coming in and out of her room all that day wishing her a “Happy Birthday” Her spirits and attitude, as always, are still high. And she misses everyone. She loves reading our newsletter and thanks Pete Rockwell for bringing it to her.

[CLICK HERE To watch](#)

**Congressional Representative  
Sydney Kamlager-Dove’s  
appearance on MSNBC. She  
comments on the fatal shootings in  
Jacksonville, Florida**



**SHERIFF: SHOOTER HAD NO CRIMINAL HISTORY** **MSNBC  
REPORTS**

## A Labor Day message from our Los Angeles County District Attorney

According to a 2020 study, up to 21 percent of the construction workforce—some 2.4 million workers—are illegally paid off the books or misclassified as independent contractors, leading to losses to federal and state treasuries to around \$8.4 billion.

That’s why, last year, I announced an agreement with the California Labor Commissioner to bolster the investigation and prosecution of wage theft.

Wage theft refers to when hard-working people aren’t paid the money they have rightfully earned. It causes them to lose the ability to feed, clothe, and house their families, creating a cascading effect that causes an entire community to suffer with them.

This problem is extremely pervasive, and it’s not limited to construction. Workers in industries ranging from garment, hospitality, and others are often victimized.

It’s also an immigration issue: Undocumented workers—often Latino or AAPI—tend to be exploited most.

Put simply, wage theft is a crime. And as District Attorney, I won’t stand for it. But I need your support.

Wage theft is an often-overlooked crime against workers regarding their labor. Curbing this illegal practice is of the utmost priority to me and my office.

Let’s do it together,  
George Gascón  
District Attorney, Los Angeles County

**Join or renew  
your Culver City  
Democratic Club  
membership for the  
remainder of this year  
and all of next year for  
a \$45 donation**

[To Join the Culver City Democratic Club CLICK HERE for the Club’s ActBlue page.](#)

**Join the Culver City  
Democratic Club for the rest  
of 2023 for a \$30 donation!  
For more information on  
becoming a member of the  
Culver City Democratic Club,  
call Diane Rosenberg at  
(310) 398-5328.**

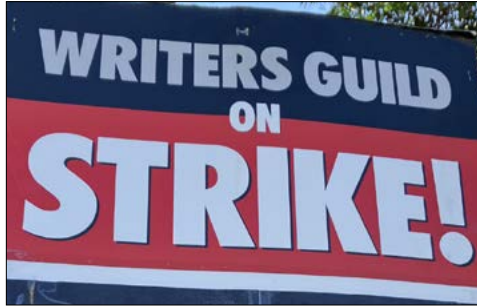


## Workers need a Democratic Congress

by Cynthia Hart

Workers need the [Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act of 2023](#) (S.567 and H.R.20)

According to the AFL-CIO, “The purposes of the PRO Act are simple: Ensure workers can push for the changes we want to see at our jobs without fear of retaliation, and strengthen workers’ right to form a union and negotiate for those changes if we so choose.”



How more than appropriate that our Hot Labor Summer of 2023 began on the very Summer Solstice Day when the Senate Committee on Health, Labor and Pensions advanced the PRO Act on a party line vote.

“Workers in America have the constitutional right to assemble and form a union,” Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said in his opening statement. “Over the last many decades, corporate interests have done everything that they can to make it impossible for workers to exercise that right. We will be dealing with that issue today.” And so, Democrats did. The Republicans proposed dozens of

amendments to weaken the protections offered by the PRO Act, and these were all defeated.

## OPINION

Two other bills advanced in party-line votes at that committee hearing. [The Healthy Families Act](#) (S.1664), which would guarantee every worker receives up to seven paid sick days from their employer, and the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) (S.728), which would address the gender wage gap by making it easier for women to come together to file and win lawsuits against employers who discriminate with wages.

That was a pretty good day.

Alas, there is, as Oppenheimer said in the movie, “a nearly zero chance” that these or any other worker protection bill will get the 60 votes to overcome a filibuster or see the light of day in a Republican Congress. The only way working people in America will get the legislative reforms we need is to turn the House blue and expand Democratic control of the Senate.

We can make a start on that effort on September 14, 2023, with an old fashioned (virtual) phone bank to defeat Mike Garcia (R CD27), the ONLY Republican Congressman in LA County. [Click here to register](#)

Happy Labor Day!

**JOIN THE CLUB**  
or renew your  
membership for  
the remainder of  
this year and all of  
next year for a \$45  
donation

**Join or Renew  
Your Culver City  
Democratic Club  
Membership!**

[To Join the Culver City Democratic Club CLICK HERE for the Club's ActBlue page.](#)

**Join the Culver City  
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year for a \$30 donation!  
For more information on  
becoming a member of the  
Culver City Democratic Club,  
call Diane Rosenberg at  
(310) 398-5328.**

## The perfect movie for Hot Labor Summer—Spartacus

by Cynthia Hart

Come relive the thrilling days of the Roman Empire when Spartacus, the first labor organizer, led the gladiators out on strike and they, in turn, took thousands of other slaves with them. This army of the free was a match for the legendary armies of Rome because they did not fear death. They quite literally had nothing to lose but their chains. They gained their humanity.

Here in Culver City of 2023, there are creative people striking for their livelihoods and for the human creativity that is the very hallmark of our humanity. Nonmembers are

**SPARTACUS**



welcome to picket in solidarity.  
<https://www.sagafrastrike.org/picket-schedule-locations>.

Here are links to two strike funds that help workers who need financial help during the strike: <https://members.sagfoundation.org/donate> and [www.EntertainmentCommunityFund.org](http://www.EntertainmentCommunityFund.org)

For inspiration, I highly recommend a viewing of Spartacus. I happen to know that the Julian Dixon Library owns two copies.

We are all Spartacus.

# New CCDC t-shirts are here!



We are now accepting orders for Club t-shirts in a new design, refreshed for our 70th anniversary.

Shirts are 100% cotton, union made in Boyle Heights.

They come in small, medium, large, and extra-large and, for the first time, we have Men's (boxy) and Women's (fitted) cuts.

Place your order by donating \$20 (or more!) via [Act Blue](#) and emailing us at [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) your desired size and cut. We will deliver in Culver City and nearby; other orders will be mailed.

We also have a few shirts remaining with the previous design (now known as "heritage" or "throwback") shown below.



## The Culver City Finance Advisory Committee Presents Culver City's Distinguished Speakers Series on Affordable Housing: A Conversation with [Dr. Stuart Gabriel](#)

Distinguished Professor of Finance and Arden Realty Chair at UCLA Anderson School of Management, Director of UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate, Co-Director of UCLA Howard and Irene Levine Affordable Housing Development Program

### WHEN?

Thursday, September 14—7 PM to 9 PM

### WHERE?

City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9770 Culver Blvd.,  
Culver City 90232

Please join us for an evening of engaging and good humored conversation with one of the region's most knowledgeable authorities on affordable housing. [Dr. Gabriel](#) will discuss his latest research, as well as challenges and opportunities in housing policy, in a conversation with Culver City Finance Advisory Committee Chair Andrew Lachman, followed by an opportunity for audience questions.

[Please RSVP via email](#) or call (310) 253-6000.

**HEAR FROM THE FIGHTERS**

**CALIFORNIA SENATE TOWN HALL**

[Click to RSVP](#)

Friday, September 8, 2023  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM PT

East Los Angeles College,  
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez  
Monterey Park, CA 91754



# For Oppenheimer, a world government was the only way to save us from ourselves

**Might something like a genuine world republic provide humanity with the tools to get a grip on existential perils like the climate emergency, runaway artificial intelligence, and new weapons of mass extermination?**

by Jane Shevtsov and Tad Daley

Blink and you'll miss it.

In a scene in the new *Oppenheimer* film set right after the successful 1949 atomic bomb test by the USSR, there is a brief exchange between the film's two main antagonists. Lewis Strauss, chair of the

## OPINION

Atomic Energy Commission, asks J. Robert Oppenheimer what he thinks should be done now. "International control," Oppenheimer immediately replies.

"You mean world government?" Strauss fires back.

It sounds like a throwaway line, or one of those accusations routinely hurled at those trying to make global institutions marginally more effective. But in this case, Chairman Strauss' epithet was spot on.

in his 1948 Foreign Affairs article, Oppenheimer maintained: "If the atomic bomb was to have meaning in the contemporary world, it would have to be in showing that not modern man, not navies, not ground forces, but war itself was obsolete."

The tremendous destruction of World War II, even before Hiroshima and Nagasaki, prompted a radical rethinking of the world political order. In particular, the idea of world government as the solution to the problem of war was placed front and center in this country's foreign policy debate, and argued about passionately in diners, dorm rooms, and dinner parties all across the land. Unfortunately, however, the legions of moviegoers who buy tickets to Christopher Nolan's otherwise excellent film this summer will have no idea that one of the leading proponents of that singular idea was J. Robert Oppenheimer.

After the bomb was dropped on Hiro-



**J. Robert Oppenheimer**

shima, Oppenheimer threw himself into working to control nuclear weapons. Like other atomic scientists, he was fully aware that the Soviet Union would likely develop its own atom bombs in just a few years, and that time was short to prevent an unrestrained nuclear arms race. The movie refers to his activities as working for "international cooperation." But his actual ideas were much deeper and more radical than those anodyne words imply.

In 1946, Oppenheimer participated in the development of a report for the secretary of state's Committee on Atomic Energy about what might be done to control nuclear weapons. The report, which became known as the Acheson-Lilienthal report but which was authored chiefly by Oppenheimer himself, proposed an international Atomic Development Agency that would have the sole right to mine and process uranium and to run reactors of any kind. This was a radical proposal, but, as its authors explained, they could see no alternative.

In June 1946, Oppenheimer published an article in *The New York Times Magazine* explaining the proposal to the public. The article discussed the relationship between peaceful and military uses of atomic energy, evaluated a couple of other ideas for controlling atomic weapons,

and then discussed the proposed Atomic Development Agency.

It is here, in a section entitled "Sovereignty," that we come across a striking passage:

Many have said that without world government there could be no permanent peace, and without peace there would be atomic warfare. I think one must agree with this. Many have said that there could be no outlawry of weapons and no prevention of war unless international law could apply to the citizens of nations, as federal law does to citizens of states, or we have made manifest the fact that international control is not compatible with absolute national sovereignty. I think one must agree with this.

Similarly, in a January 1948 article for *Foreign Affairs* magazine, Oppenheimer wrote:

It is quite clear that in this field we would like to see patterns established which, if they were more generally extended, would constitute some of the most vital elements of a new international law: patterns not unrelated to the ideals which more generally and eloquently are expressed by the advocates of world government.

From the vantage point of 2023, the remarkable thing about these passages is the apparent assumption that the reader is familiar with the idea of world government, and arguments for and against it, to the point where they can just be mentioned without explanation or elaboration. And for much of the public for much of the 1940s, this was probably true—as remarkable as it might seem to us today, when this notion is entirely absent from the international affairs debate.

**See OPPENHEIMER on page 8**

**From OPPENHEIMER on page 7**

Even before the end of the war, world government advocacy had become a prominent feature of the political conversation in America. In 1943, the businessman and Republican presidential candidate Wendell Willkie published a book called *One World*. The book sold 1.5 million copies in the four months following its release and played a key role in a blossoming of world federation advocacy—long before virtually anyone had heard of anything like an atomic bomb. To choose but one example, an organization known as the Student Federalists, founded in 1942 by a charismatic 16-year-old boy named Harris Wofford, over the next several years formed 367 chapters on high school and college campuses around the country. (Mr. Wofford went on to become a U.S. senator and a key civil rights aide in the White House of President John F. Kennedy.)

Then in 1945, just a few months before the Trinity test, came Emery Reves' *The Anatomy of Peace*. While Willkie's book was a travelogue describing his voyage around the world, Reves' was an extended logical argument that only law could create peace and only a world federation—a union of nations with a government taking care of issues that could not be handled at the national level—could create meaningful law that applied to individuals rather than governments. Indeed, Oppenheimer's passage above could have easily been a summary of Reves' book.

It wasn't just books. Beloved children's book author and New Yorker editor E. B. White devoted a great many of his editorials to the problem of global anarchy. (These were later collected and published in a book called *The Wild Flag: Editorials From The New Yorker on Federal World Government and Other Matters*.) Saturday Review editor Norman Cousins, upon reading about Hiroshima, wrote a lengthy editorial for his magazine titled "Modern Man is Obsolete," that passionately argued for immediate democratic world federation. "There is no need to talk of the difficulties in the way of world government," wrote Cousins. "There is need only to ask if we can afford to do without it."

In a similar vein Walter Lippmann, a founder of both *The New Republic* mag-

azine and the Council on Foreign Relations, and a key player later in the Cuban Missile Crisis, wrote in 1946: "There are few in any country who now believe that war can be regulated or outlawed by the ordinary treaties among sovereign states... no one can prove what will be the legislative, executive, and judicial organs of the world state... but there are ideas that shake the world, such as the ideal of the union of mankind under universal law."

Even General Hap Arnold, the only U.S. Air Force officer ever to hold the rank of five stars and founder of the RAND Corporation, said in 1946: "The greatest need facing the world today is for international control of the human forces that make for war." The atom bomb, he declared, presents "a tremendous argument for a world organization that will eliminate conflict... We must make an end to all wars for good."

And before the end of the decade, more than 50,000 Americans had joined the United World Federalists (UWF)—led for three years by a bright young man named Alan Cranston, who went on to serve as a four-term U.S. Senator from California. UWF has continued its operations to this very day and is now known as Citizens for Global Solutions.

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## OPINION

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A number of physicists also came to support world federation. "Conflicts in interest between great powers can be expected to arise in the future... and there is no world authority in existence that can adjudicate the case and enforce the decision," said Leo Szilard, who first conceived the nuclear chain reaction. But humanity had at its disposal, he insisted, "the solution of the problem of permanent peace... the issue that we have to face is not whether we can create a world government... (but) whether we can have such a world government without going through a third world war."

Even Edward Teller, accurately portrayed in the Oppenheimer film as pushing for the development of the immensely more destructive hydrogen bombs and eventually undercutting his colleague at the security hearings, appeared to embrace the idea! In 1948, he discussed the "Preliminary Draft of a World Constitu-

tion," written by a committee of eminent scholars chaired by the chancellor of the University of Chicago, Robert Maynard Hutchins, and aimed at establishing a "Federal Republic of the World." And Teller said about this enterprise: "[America's] present necessary task of opposing Russia should not cause us to forget that in the long run we cannot win by working against something. Instead we must work for something. We must work for World Government."

But the most prominent and most active proponent of world government among scientists was Albert Einstein himself. He had always opposed nationalism, and supporting world federation was a natural extension. Einstein wrote articles, gave interviews, and helped found the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists. The Student Federalists of Princeton, New Jersey, held meetings in his living room. And he served as the founding advisory board chair of the United World Federalists.

The type of world government that Einstein promoted would exclusively have power over security issues and a few internal circumstances that could lead to war. But this kind of limited world government was a must. "A new kind of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move to higher levels," he said. "Often in evolutionary processes a species must adapt to new conditions in order to survive... In light of new knowledge... an eventual world state is not just desirable in the name of brotherhood; it is necessary for survival."

Oppenheimer's focus in the post-war years was more near-term. He worked for international control of nuclear matters—both weapons and civilian reactors that could be used to make weapons. But that international control was to take the form of an agency with a strict monopoly on such activities. His 1946 *New York Times Magazine* piece says about the plan: "It proposes that in the field of atomic energy there be set up a world government. That in this field there be renunciation of national sovereignty. That in this field there be no legal veto power. That in this field there be international law."

Why would this be significant? In a lengthier article published in 1946 in

**See OPPENHEIMER on page 9**



## From OPPENHEIMER on page 8

the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Oppenheimer wrote, “the problem that we are dealing with,” in seeking to prevent atomic war, “is the problem of the elimination of war.” Proposals for addressing nuclear issues were to be judged on whether they also advanced this goal. The article was titled “The Atom Bomb as a Great Force for Peace”—not because of the simplistic and banal argument that the bomb would make war too horrible to contemplate, but because its control would lay the foundation for a world government that truly could abolish war.

And in his 1948 Foreign Affairs article, again, Oppenheimer maintained: “If the atomic bomb was to have meaning in the contemporary world, it would have to be in showing that not modern man, not navies, not ground forces, but war itself was obsolete.”

At the end of this essay, Oppenheimer returned to the noble aspirations that so many held in the shattering initial weeks after Trinity, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. “The aim of those who would work for the establishment of peace,” he insisted, “must be to maintain what was sound in

the early hopes, and by all means in their power to look to their eventual realization. It is necessarily denied to us in these days to see at what time, to what immediate ends, in what context, and in what manner of world, we may return again to the great issues touched on by the international control of atomic energy... (But) this is seed we take with us, traveling to a land we cannot see, to plant in new soil.”

Should we consider all this just a mere historical curiosity? Is anything about these conversations eight long decades ago relevant to the challenges of the 21st Century? As politically unlikely as it might now appear, might something like a genuine world republic provide humanity with the kinds of tools it will require to get a grip on existential perils like the climate emergency, runaway artificial intelligence, and who knows what kinds of new weapons of mass extermination that Oppenheimer’s heirs will almost surely invent in the decades and centuries to come?

The best possible answer to that is the same one purportedly given by China’s Premier Zhou Enlai in 1971, when asked by Henry Kissinger what he thought

about the consequences of the French Revolution.

Mr. Zhou, the story goes, considered the question for a moment, and then replied: “I think it is too soon to tell.”

*Jane Shevtsov teaches mathematical biology at UCLA and is a board member of the Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund.*

*Culver City Democratic Club member Tad Daley has served as a coauthor, speechwriter, or advisor to five members of the United States Congress—including the late U.S. Senator Alan Cranston and the late U.S. Senator Harris Wofford. He also served for several years as a member of the International Policy Department at the RAND Corporation, founded by USAF General Hap Arnold. And he’s author of the book *Apocalypse Never: Forging the Path to a Nuclear Weapon-Free World*. This article was originally published in *CommonDreams.org**



**Members of the Culver City Democratic Club at the Fiesta La Ballona in Culver City: Tom Camarella, U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Susan Obrow, Club First Vice President Jeanna Harris, Ronnie Jayne Solomon, and Danny Young.**

## State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas's Anti-Discrimination Bill Needs Support!



**State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas**

Last winter, District 28 Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas proposed [SB16](#), that would enable Californians to file complaints in the cities where the discrimination happened.

“Fighting against discrimination starts with our own cities stepping up to better protect workers and others from civil rights violations. But we have to empower our cities to do so,” [said Senator Smallwood-Cuevas](#).

California has good anti-discrimination laws already on the books. We have the Unruh Civil Rights Act that generally prohibits business establishments from discriminating on specified bases and we have the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) that prohibits discrimination in housing and employment on specified bases. Enforcement is the problem. SB16 would put more enforcement boots on the ground.

As our Senator knows from her time as a labor organizer, civil rights activist, and community advocate, addressing workplace discrimination in the judicial system is too costly for most low-wage workers. Black workers especially are more than twice as likely to file an employment discrimination complaint but have half the chance of finding remedies in the court system. Without local enforcement, employee complaints are going unaddressed.

But SB16 needs support. It has gone to the Assembly Appropriations Committee's dreaded Suspense File where so many good bills go to die. Happily, our AD55 State Assembly Member Isaac Bryan sits on that very committee. Please call him at (916) 319-2055, or [email him](#) and let him know what you think of SB16.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: [www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com](http://www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com)

Club email address: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CulverCityDems>

**September 4 • Labor Day**

**September 11 • 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**September 12**

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)



**September 13 • 7 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom



**September 14**

State Legislature—Last day for each house to pass bills

**September 14 • 6 PM–8 PM**

[Virtual phone bank to flip the 27th Congressional District](#)

(Currently represented by a MAGA Republican)

**September 14 • 7 PM to 9PM**

The Culver City Finance Advisory Committee Presents

**Culver City's Distinguished Speakers Series**

**on Affordable Housing:**

**A Conversation with [Dr. Stuart Gabriel](#)**

**For more information see ad on page 4 of this newsletter**

City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9770 Culver Blvd.

**September 18 - 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**September 22 - 9AM - Noon**

[Annual Ballona Creek Cleanup](#)

Overland and the Bike Path

**September 26**

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

**October 14**

Last day for governor to sign or veto bills passed by the state legislature

**October 15**

[Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner](#)

(Both Our First Vice President, Jeanna Harris, and CCDC member and AD55 Delegate Pamela Sparrow will be recognized as Democrats of the Year)



# A message from the school board president



Greetings, Culver City Community!

As president of the CCUSD Board of Education, I'm proud to share what we'll be working on in the Culver City Schools community as we embark on a new academic year.

Before I get into details, I want to first acknowledge that we are in the midst of a significant leadership transition at the district level. We have [separated from our former superintendent](#), after his second year of a three-year term, and brought on an [interim superintendent](#), who retired from the Redondo Beach Unified School District and is subject to [STRs retiree](#) limitations. I want to stress that it has been no small feat for our community to keep us stable during these turbulent times, and I want to particularly thank our dedicated staff and teachers, as well as our school site leaders who stepped up during executive absences. This transition has provided me with a more profound understanding of the roles we must embrace to guarantee the success of our district. Collaboration and collective effort are imperative as we journey toward excellence together.

Here are some points of excellence that we have prioritized for the upcoming year:

1. **Enhancing Support for Vulnerable Students:** Our primary goal is to continue improving the [Local Control Accountability Plan \(LCAP\)](#), ensuring that funds are effectively allocated to benefit our most vulnerable students (English

learners, low-income students, unhoused students, and those in foster care).

2. **Empowering Staff for Student Success:** We are dedicated to enhancing the [professional growth](#) of our staff, particularly in fields that enable us to improve support for students with disabilities across all educational settings. Moreover, we are proactively exploring innovative approaches to expand our classroom staff and recruit new teachers. Both of these will significantly improve our [inclusion plan](#).

3. **Modernizing Facilities for a Better Learning Environment:** Our ongoing efforts towards a facilities Bond initiative are critical. With three out of five necessary steps already completed, our goal is to move forward with this initiative to improve our educational facilities and create a more conducive learning environment for our students, our teachers and our staff.

4. **Competitive Salaries for Educators:** To retain and attract the best staff and teachers, we are dedicated to the stewardship of the CCUSD Long-term Revenue initiative. This initiative will allow us to offer competitive salaries that reflect the exceptional dedication and skills of our educators. We've compiled the data and prepared a [presentation](#), which we eagerly anticipate sharing with staff this fall.

5. **Listening:** I want to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to conduct fall 2023 listening sessions, attentively lis-

tening to your concerns, seeking your input, and working diligently to shape our school district into the best possible environment for every student, teacher and staff. Fall 2022 listening sessions were focused on [school safety](#).

In the end, these priorities will play a pivotal role in helping CCUSD achieve our collective objective: [empowering our students to step into their genius](#). We achieve this by providing excellent educational opportunities. However, we must also remember that our children are still recovering from the pandemic. Therefore, it is crucial that we in partnership with [New Earth](#) continue to provide them with the support they need, whether that's in the form of social-emotional support or essentials like food, shelter, and tutoring.

Si se puede, Culver City! Let's embrace our students with more joy, warmth, and an abundance of everything they need for a fantastic new year. Each child possesses unique needs, and CCUSD is poised to offer equitable support for each and every child.

Thank you,  
Paula Amezola, MPH  
School Board President



## Voting is our Superpower



