

[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, January 10, 2024**

**Program: R. L. Miller on the Inflation Reduction Act; Election of new Club officers; endorsement of March primary candidates**

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## Let's talk about Proposition 13



**Ronald Reagan and Howard Jarvis**

During the 1970s, as California became a global leader in business, the arts, and education, and homeowner groups organized to fight development, the value of property increased dramatically. Working-class people and retirees who owned their homes were unable to afford the property taxes assessed on their new values. A movement funded by national business groups and the emergent Goldwater/Reagan New Right created a ballot initiative, Proposition 13, which was passed by voters in 1978. It rolled property taxes back to 1975 levels, limited increases to 2% each year, and capped taxes at 1% of the assessed value, keeping people in their homes.

However, programs funded by property taxes were gutted, especially public schools. California went from ranking in the top ten states in spending per student to the bottom ten, and it has taken decades to restore most of the lost funding and services.

With property tax revenues drastically reduced, cities were forced to rely more on sales taxes. This made them dependent on businesses rather than residents,

and specifically on retail, which rarely creates living wage jobs, much less ones which could support a person in West LA. If a city's tax base is overwhelmingly business, it creates a strong incentive to put the interests of businesses first and to reserve a seat at the table for the Chamber of Commerce. If the city's economic base is businesses who rely on minimum wage labor, the city is less likely to support a higher minimum wage, or protect workers from exploitation.

The City of Santa Monica depends heavily on hotel taxes, so, when COVID hit in early 2020, they anticipated at least one summer without those revenues and adopted a 2020-21 budget which halved funding for libraries and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and disbanded their Department of Cultural Affairs, assigning some of its staff and projects to other departments and eliminating others. This was a direct consequence of Prop. 13, because although median home prices in Santa Monica seriously dipped at the start of the pandemic, they recovered within a year. If Santa

Monica had been able to budget based on projected property taxes instead of projected hotel taxes, the cuts would not have been necessary.

Property tax is paid only by those rich enough to own property, and property is itself a money-making asset, while sales tax is paid by all consumers, even by unhoused people. This is a good illustration of the difference between equality and equity. The sales tax is equal: everyone pays the same rate, but it is not equitable, because that 10% surcharge has more of an impact on those who have less. A flat tax appears fair, but it is actually regressive, since a dollar matters more to someone who has \$10 than to someone who has \$100.

In *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*, former Sacramento Bee editor Peter Schrag argues that Prop. 13 led cities to raise and create fees to help compensate for the loss of property tax revenue. This included developer and permitting fees which exacerbated the

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Cynthia Hart is sponsoring the January General Meeting IN MEMORY OF her beloved brother Ken Hart Vietnam veteran, active Democrat, loyal union brother, and the world's best big brother

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housing shortage which had contributed to the inflated property values that made Prop. 13 appear necessary.

Municipal bonds are another way cities have attempted to fill the gaps created by Prop. 13. Proposition 46 in 1986 allowed California cities to issue general obligation bonds to fund the acquisition and improvement of real property, and in 2000 Prop. 39 lowered the threshold for their passage from  $\frac{2}{3}$  to 55%. There were 88 local bond measures statewide in 2002, which appears to be the last time someone counted, and over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them passed. Members of this Club have voted overwhelmingly to endorse the Culver City school facilities bond measure which will be on the March Primary ballot.

Schrag also identifies Prop. 13 as an early and severe example of what our Treasurer Cynthia Hart calls “ballot box budgeting.” The proliferation of ballot initiatives limiting or mandating spending has created significant obstacles to California’s elected government setting and enacting policy. Since the 1930s the state constitution required a  $\frac{2}{3}$  legislative majority to adopt a budget or pass appropriations, except for schools, but Prop. 13 expanded that to cover most tax increases and to apply to local governments. This gives any group that can organize 34% of representatives or voters a veto, making major initiatives difficult even when Democrats hold every State office and legislative majorities. Tax cuts and exemptions, however, could always be passed by a simple majority.

Howard Jarvis, the leader of the movement for Prop. 13, was a former head of the Los Angeles Apartment Owners Association, the precursor to the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles. Prop. 13’s benefits to homeowners were dwarfed by its benefits to corporate property owners. Property is reassessed when it is sold, and few homes are owned by the same people as 45 years ago, although Schrag notes that subsequent legislation has added what he calls a “dynastic” provision allowing owners to pass their Prop. 13 benefits to their heirs.

Corporations may be people according to the Supreme Court, but they are potentially immortal. The residents Prop. 13 prevented from being taxed out of

their homes are long gone, and many of the new owners of those properties are paying property tax based on recent assessments, but the corporations surviving from 1978 are continuing to reap massive financial benefits, which come out of state and local budgets. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association boasted in 2009 that Prop. 13 had “saved” taxpayers over \$520 billion dollars. That was essentially a regressive tax credit. While the benefits of Prop. 13 always went primarily to the largest companies, this has increased because homes change hands more frequently than commercial property, and these benefits came at the public’s expense, while school budgets were trimmed to the bone and infrastructure allowed to decay.

Prop. 13 prevented Jerry Brown from pursuing an ambitious and visionary agenda in his second term as Governor, because the State needed to bail out cities to preserve essential services. Without Prop. 13, California’s public schools would not only have maintained their quality throughout the ’80s and ’90s, but the State would have had over half a trillion dollars during those decades to invest in transit, higher education, social services, clean energy, etc. If we accept the premise that Prop. 13 was intended to keep elderly and working-class Californians from being taxed out of their homes, we could see this as a necessary and unfortunate trade-off: investment in the future needs to be modest in scale to avoid doing harm in the present, but this trade-off was bogus. Immediate and lasting damage was done to schools, libraries, etc, and the benefits overwhelmingly went to corporations such as PG&E and Disney.

There was an alternative to Prop. 13 on the 1978 ballot: Proposition 8, placed there by the State Legislature. It would have allowed cities to create “split roll” systems, where owner-occupied residences would be taxed differently from businesses. This required an amendment to the State Constitution, so it could not simply be passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

The campaign against Prop. 8 made three arguments. First, they appealed to greed. Prop. 8 would not cut taxes as much as Prop. 13; for a lower tax bill, 13 was the better choice. Second, they appealed to

distrust of government, claiming Prop. 8 was not credible because it was produced by the institutions that created the problem it claimed to address. More explicitly, Howard Jarvis had said Prop. 13 was intended to “put a hot rod up the butts of those damned stupid politicians.” Prop. 8 would not have done that. Third, they took advantage of journalists’ traditional aversion to calling a lie a lie. Jarvis claimed an anonymous source at the IRS had told him Prop. 8 would have ended the Federal income tax deduction for mortgage interest. Not only did Prop. 8 not do that, but individual states do not have the power to modify Federal tax law. Imagine what Texas and Florida would have done if this was an option.

Split roll returned in 2020 with Prop. 15, supported by this Club, Eric Garcetti, Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Karen Bass, Dolores Huerta, the teachers’ and nurses’ unions, SEIU, AFSCME, the PTA, the Sierra Club, and essentially the entire liberal and progressive community except for Willie Brown, who joined Pete Wilson, assorted business groups, and state and local Chambers of Commerce in opposition. It lost by 3%, with the well-funded opposition spreading Jarvis-style disinformation that it would raise taxes for homeowners.

In *State of Resistance: What California’s Dizzying Descent and Remarkable Resurgence Mean for America’s Future*, USC sociologist Manuel Pastor describes Prop. 13 as a prototypical “racial proposition,” like 1994’s Prop. 187, which would have denied social services to undocumented Californians, 1996’s Prop. 209, which banned affirmative action at public universities, and 1998’s Prop. 227, which limited bilingual education. Howard Jarvis was active in the far-right John Birch Society.

Dismantling the public sector was not an unintended consequence of Prop. 13; it was an important part of its appeal. In 1977, to comply with the State Supreme Court’s ruling in *Serrano v. Priest*, the state legislature had passed and Jerry Brown signed AB65, which succeeded where Jesse Unruh had failed in 1963, empowering the State to redistribute property tax revenues from richer areas

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## From MESSAGE on page 2

to poorer ones in order to equalize school funding. This meant that property taxes were no longer an investment in local schools. White people became a minority in California shortly before the passage of Prop. 13, and homeowners, who were mostly white because of redlining, restrictive covenants, and racial income inequality, were susceptible to appeals that their rising taxes were going to pay for services for people who were not part of their California dream.

This dog whistle frequently became audible. Jarvis warned of Mexican immigrants coming to California “to get on the taxpayers’ gravy train,” and claimed that African Americans did not support Prop. 13 because many of them were “moochers and loafers” with government jobs.

Prop. 13 was an important step in retracting the promises of the New Deal and the social progress of the '60s, a reactionary backlash which went national with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, as Rick Perlstein recounts in *Reaganland: America's Right Turn, 1976-1980*. Toni Morrison described this as a shift in language from “citizens” to “consumers” and “taxpayers,” which continues in the ubiquitous use of “stakeholder.” Rather than considering taxes as supporting the common good, in which we all have a stake, they are seen as a fee for services. This tracks with Margaret Thatcher’s famous dismissal of the existence of a common good: “there’s no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families” and Ronald Reagan’s insistence in his 1981 inaugural address that “Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem.” It is challenging, if not impossible, to separate the anti-communitarianism from the xenophobia, the selfishness from the racism.

After school funding was centralized by AB65, then property taxes cut by Prop. 13, communities organized to privately fund services. This is the origin of the Culver City Education Foundation, the Friends of the Sandy Segal Health Center, the Friends of the Culver City Public Library, and similar groups across the state. At the same time that we appreciate these groups’ contributions, we need to recognize that they are a privatization of the public sector. They would not be

necessary if we were willing to collectively invest in the commons. They relocalize funding, restoring inequity. For example, while the Los Angeles Public Library has a Library Foundation that serves the entire system, they also have Friends groups that support individual branches. This allows users of the Brentwood location to fund services for themselves beyond what is available to users of the Vernon one. This is the breach of the social contract Morrison described: rather than an investment in the collective good, supporting public services is seen as a way to enhance the value of the taxpayer’s property and to maintain or elevate their and their children’s class position. As Billie Holiday said: “Them that’s got shall get. Them that’s not shall lose.”

Public disinvestment in public services also creates a situation where, instead of being taxed fairly on property and profits, corporations and the rich can purchase good will through donations. If you went to the Montgomery Burns Museum of Art, saw the symphony at Burns Hall, played in Burns Park, got a Burns Scholarship to Burns College, studied in the Burns Library, or relaxed in Burns Plaza, you will be less likely to support a strike at Burns Corp., fight Mr. Burns’ plan to build a nuclear waste storage facility in the middle of town, vote against his chosen political candidates, tax Mr. Burns’ capital gains at the same rate as his employees’ wages, base his Social Security contribution on all of his income rather than the first \$250,000, and so on. It doesn’t take much for oligarchs to be seen as benefactors rather than predators. Sometimes a frozen turkey is enough. The wellbeing of society should not be contingent on this largesse.

I was ten years old in 1978. My father was nearing the end of his first term on the Culver City School Board. As I was entering Junior High, excited about being able to choose from a variety of subjects and teachers and to begin planning for college and a career, he voted for the post-Prop. 13 budget, which eliminated many of those options and services.

Jerry Brown embraced austerity after the passage of Prop. 13, invoking the two worst political trends of the moment by calling himself “a born-again tax cutter.” Brown is a complicated character who has balanced populism, iconoclasm, and self-promotion throughout his ca-

reer. Jerry’s full name is Edmund Gerald Brown Jr. His father, Edmund Gerald Brown, known as “Pat,” had been Governor from 1959-1967, during which he led the creation of the infrastructure which supported California’s growth, from the freeways to the universities, earning the title of California’s “master builder.” After Prop. 13 Jerry Brown moved away from proposing his own ambitious projects, such as the State space program which earned him the “Governor Moonbeam” nickname, and instead distinguished himself from his father through a fiscal conservatism that undermined his father’s work.

Generalizations about generations are of limited value, but I propose that the cynicism and nihilism of Generation X came not simply from seeing the radical potential of the 1960s replaced by a polyester hellscape, but from witnessing the passage of Prop. 13 and the election of Reagan. Manuel Pastor called Prop. 13 “a declaration of generational warfare.” Boomers seemed to be actively working to deny us a future, and that was decades before most of us thought much about the climate.

I don’t think I was ever mad at my father for his vote. He believed he had no other choice. My anger is reserved for the people who put him in that position: first the supporters of Prop. 13 and then the advocates of Culver City’s status quo, who convinced him and all the other decision-makers of the time that academics, arts, and counselors could be cut more deeply than sports. I grew up around this city’s liberal elected leaders, and I watched them repeatedly fail to support institutions that could have supported their children or younger versions of themselves. It took a long time after I moved back to LA for me to be willing to live in Culver City again, and it took a while after that for me to be able to stand to look at Culver City politics.

Again, I am not mad at them. I believe they did the best they thought possible. I blame the system that convinced them those limitations were natural or insurmountable. I entered politics because I saw alternatives in 2016. The campaigns of Bernie Sanders, Daniel Lee, Alex Fisch, and Kelly Kent showed me that it was possible to say that things could be different, that there is nothing hip about cynicism, and that we can demand better choices.

# Finding a solution to Gaza, Israel, and Palestine requires breaking through old narratives

By Andrew Lachman, President,  
Democrats for Israel, California

As someone who has spent over ten years trying to build bridges in our party, the last several months has been particularly frustrating, if not disappointing. While many Culver City Democrats know me because of my work as a DNC member and Jewish community advocacy through my synagogue the Jewish Federation



## OPINION

and the statewide alliance of Jewish Democratic Clubs known as Democrats for Israel California, before moving to Culver City, I volunteered on the 2009 Obama Inaugural where I worked on disability access issues, but my supervisor was also responsible for Islamic outreach, so the opportunity gave me a chance to learn about and work with Muslim communities as well.

That experience gave me a broader view and a chance to learn about the experiences, narratives and viewpoints other than my own. As a result, I came to understand the Muslim experience, even as I continue to support a two state solution and Israel's right to exist as a democratic, Jewish state. What I was struck with was just how the two communities don't understand each other and their view of the Israel-Palestinian conflict is so different and the basic narratives exclude each other, denying or diminishing Palestinian suffering on one hand and the very real fears of antisemitism and violence against Jews which only a democratic, Jewish state can provide sanctuary from. Each side seems intent on just shouting the other out of the room.

This is bad politics and bad policy. We can't win Virginia and Michigan without Muslim votes and we can't win Nevada and Pennsylvania without Jewish votes (before anyone starts citing Jewish Voice for Peace, their position opposing Israel's right to exist is a fringe position in the Jewish community as I will explain later). We cannot win back Congressional seats in Orange County without both, so trying to alienate one or another is not helping anyone but Republicans.

It also ignores any effort to find common ground or values that we all share as Democrats. As polling last week from the Jewish Electoral Institute (a non-profit affiliated with Jewish Democratic Council of America and not affiliated with any Pro-Israel advocacy groups), Jewish views are not necessarily as different when it comes to human rights and standing up against right-wing hate. 68% of U.S. Jews support some sort of cease fire or humanitarian pause to get aid into Gaza, and 61% have an unfavorable view of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu even as they have concern about the safe return of hostages. There is a shared concern for civilian life, but concern for life is also balanced by Jewish support for safety of Israeli and Israelis as well. 82% are emotionally tied to existence of Israel, and 84% support expanded aid to Israel during the current war with Hamas, with no reference to conditionality. Only 22% believe that the U.S. is favoring Israel too much (and 23% believe the U.S. is doing too little). Much like Americans support the U.S. but opposed Trump, U.S. Jews believe that you can support Israel and criticize its government, or at least 91% of U.S. Jews believe you can support Israel while disagreeing or even criticizing the government and that does not mean you want to destroy or get rid of Israel.

This nuance gives us the opportunity to come together. But it means that each side needs to be willing to question and give room on its narratives. Benny Morris, one of the "New Israel Historians" does this in his book *1948*. He acknowledges mistakes and assumptions made by Israel and Palestinians, challenging the fundamental notions that one side or another is blameless in this conflict. If we wish to change the approach here, it will also require hard looks at our views,

assumptions of causes of and approach to the conflict and an open mind to the experiences of others as well as our own biases coming into the discussion, but we need to challenge our biases to move forward, understand that this is actually a very complex conflict, and most importantly, how certain speech makes things worse not better and moves us away from efforts to find self-determination and respect for two peoples in two states.

I have always tried to find a way of building common ground with those willing to have an open mind, but during this particular crises with few exceptions, every time I have seen people try to reach across to work together with respect to addressing the Israel-Hamas war or the broader Israel-Palestinian conflict, it has been rebuffed and those trying to build bridges are intimidated or threatened with repercussions to not compromise, communicate or listen. I have seen bridge-building efforts derailed in at least four counties by hard line activists eager to maintain the orthodoxy of the destruction of Israel as a "colonial" state, rather than address how to secure a realistic, peaceful, secure and dignified future for Palestinians and Israelis now. Hoping that Israel will somehow disappear makes no more sense than hoping that the aspirations for self-determination of Palestinians can be subdued. Israel is not going to disappear and neither are the Palestinians.

We need to take meaningful steps to understand each other's humanity, and step back from these biases to model a different approach based on respecting each other's place in the party and finding solutions to reasonable further co-existence in a way that one-state advocates or unilateral cease fire advocates don't. A cease fire without addressing the hostages and Hamas only empowers Hamas' abuse of Palestinians and attacks on Israelis, which they have made clear they intend to continue. On the other hand, eliminating Hamas alone will not address or resolve the root causes of the conflict without a political and diplomatic solution. Collapsing nine million

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**From SOLUTION on page 4**

Jews and nine million Arab-Israelis, Palestinian refugees and Gaza/West Bank residents overnight into a single state overnight is naïve and dangerous, as is expecting that one side, Israeli or Palestinian, can just rule over the other. Stating that Palestinian delegates should not feel or express their pain at the losses they are witnessing at the hands of Hamas and Israel does not further greater understanding, frankly as has the efforts to dismiss the real anxiety and fear that Jewish delegates felt at or the pain they experienced as a result of October 7, or for that matter, the California State Democratic Convention that were not as I have heard several people describe as “peaceful” does not help either. I witnessed protestors, including some Democratic Party delegates, attack security guards and express glee at “shutting down the convention,” ironically disempowering the LGBT, Black, Latino and Asian-Pacific Islander Caucuses, each that were supposed to hold meetings and events that night (several of which lost thousands of dollars as a result of protests over a conflict they have no control over). Empathy must flow both ways to work when two sides both have faced real trauma and we must acknowledge that this crisis and the current war is complicated without simple solutions.

We must do better.

**Dates of the Culver City Democratic Club General Meetings in 2024:**

- January 10**
- February 14**
- March 13**
- April 10**
- May 8**
- June 12**
- July 10**
- August 14**
- September 11**
- October 9**
- November 13**
- December 11**

**Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month**

The photos on this and the previous page are of the building at 11101 W. Washington Blvd. in Culver City. The faces of 173 hostages being held by Hamas since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel cover the wall of the entire building. The display, created by Artists 4 Israel, includes not just pictures, but also several posters along the street level with mirrors where the picture of a captive would be. [Here's a link to the story in The LA Times.](#)



# What you need to know about our Club's January 10 endorsing votes

by *Cynthia Hart*

Last month, our Club took endorsing votes on offices and propositions that will appear on Culver City ballots with the exception of the judges. In January we will vote on judicial races (see list of judge candidates on page 7 of this newsletter), and our neighboring LA City Council District 10.

## Los Angeles City Council District 10

The 10th District is a Culver City neighbor sharing a Congressional Representative and a State Senator with us, and our Club members who live in that district will be represented by the winner of this race. We have invited five candidates for LA City Council District 10 to speak at our January 10 meeting. They are (in alphabetical order):

### • Eddie Anderson

<https://anderson2024.com>.

Campaign slogan: "Everything we Want is Possible."

Pastor Eddie Anderson is Senior Pastor of the Historic McCarty Memorial Church in West Adams. After more than ten years as a community organizer, he is making his first run for elected office. For a summary of his work as an activist see: <https://anderson2024.com/about-me>. He is endorsed by LA City Council Member Eunisses Hernandez, with whom he worked on the successful Measure J campaign.

### • Heather Hutt

<https://www.heatherhutt.com>.

Campaign slogan: "Potholes not Politics."

Heather Hutt was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mark Ridley-Thomas. She was the first Black woman to be appointed as a voting member of the LA City Council to represent District 10. After more than thirty years of political activism, this is her first time holding public office. For a summary of her achievements as an activist, go to her [official City biography](#).

Some of her key endorsements (<https://www.heatherhutt.com/endorsements/>) include Council Member Traci Parks,

LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, West Basin Municipal Water District President Scott Houston, and LACDP Vice Chair Pat Sanders.

### • Reggie Jones-Sawyer

<https://www.reggieforla.com/>.

Campaign Slogan: "Reggie for the People."

Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer's name is well known, as he has served in the State Legislature since he was first elected in November 2012. For a summary of his achievements in office, go to his biography on the AD57 website. <https://a57.asmdc.org/biography>.

Some of his key endorsements (<https://www.reggieforla.com/endorsements>) include Congressman Adam Schiff, Assembly Members Ash Kalra, Alex Lee, and Pilar Schiavo. He has a long list of labor endorsements, including the California Nurses Association.

### • Aura Vazquez

<https://www.auraforthethepeople.com/>.

Campaign Slogan: "The Change we Want to See."

Aura Vazquez contributed to the LA times list of "[Ten Ideas for Fixing Los Angeles](#)." She advocates for the "democracy vouchers" that our Club has discussed in the past. For a summary of her community and environmental activism (she was at Standing Rock) go to <https://www.auraforthethepeople.com/meet-aura>.

Some of her [key endorsements include](#) former Culver City Mayor Daniel Lee, Culver City School Board Member Paula Amezola, and 350.org's Bill McKibben.

### • Grace Yoo

<https://www.graceforla.com/about/>.

Campaign Slogan: "Grace for LA"

Grace Yoo is an Attorney and neighborhood council member. Her public policy experience and community advocacy include serving on numerous committees and taskforces aimed at solving community problems. For

example, she is a former Los Angeles City Department of Transportation Commissioner and worked with the Aging Advocacy Coalition and the Sierra Club among many others. For a more complete summary, go to <https://www.graceforla.com/about/>.

Some of her [key endorsements include](#) LAUSD Board Member and former Council Member Jackie Goldberg, LA County Bar Association President Ann Park, and retired Representative Howard Berman.

## Don't Forget to Renew Your Club Membership for 2024!

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

Join the Culver City Democratic Club for next year and 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.



Assemblyman Isaac Bryan and Cynthia Hart at Christmas in the Park

**JUDGES:** We will have a long list of judicial candidates to consider at our January meeting. Many of the candidates came or sent a surrogate to speak briefly about their background and philosophy at our December meeting. The YouTube video of that meeting can be found [by clicking here](#). For those candidates that appeared, the approximate time stamp of their appearance is listed below. Three of the candidates comprised the “Defenders of Justice” slate of public defenders who believe that there should be more defenders of the indigent on the County bench. Those three are indicated with an asterisk after their names. See: [www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com](http://www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com).

<u>Superior Court Office No.</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Stated Occupation, if any</u>	<u>Website, if any</u>	<u>Time Stamp, if any</u>
12	Rhonda Haymon	Deputy Public Defender		
	Lynn Olson	Judge of the Superior Court		
39	Ronda Dixon	Attorney at Law	<a href="http://www.rondadixon4judge.com">www.rondadixon4judge.com</a>	
	Jacob Lee	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.jacobleeforjudge.com">www.jacobleeforjudge.com</a>	7:22
	Steve Napolitano	Attorney at Law	<a href="http://www.stevenapolitano.com">www.stevenapolitano.com</a>	
	George A. Turner Jr*	Deputy Public Defender	<a href="http://www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com">www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com</a>	10:56
48	Malik C. Burroughs	Attorney		
	Renee Rose	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.reneeroseforjudge.com">www.reneeroseforjudge.com</a>	14:47
	Ericka Wiley*	Deputy Public Defender	<a href="http://www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com">www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com</a>	18:30
93	Victor Avila	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.victoravilaforjudge.com">www.victoravilaforjudge.com</a>	
97	Sam Abourched	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.samabourchedforjudge.com">www.samabourchedforjudge.com</a>	
	La Shae Henderson*	Deputy Public Defender	<a href="http://www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com">www.TheDefendersofJusticeLA.com</a>	23:38
	Sharon Ransom	Deputy District Attorney		27:22
115	Christmas Brookens	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.christmasforjudge.com">www.christmasforjudge.com</a>	30:55
	Keith Koyano	Deputy District Attorney		
124	Kimberly Repecka	Deputy Public Defender		
	Emily Spear	Judge of the Superior Court		41:58
130	Christopher Darden	Attorney/Professor	<a href="http://www.christopherdardenforjudge.com">www.christopherdardenforjudge.com</a>	45:32
	Leslie Gutierrez	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.lesliegutierrezforjudge.com">www.lesliegutierrezforjudge.com</a>	48:45
	Osman Taher	Attorney		
135	Mohammad Fakhreddine	Father/Attorney		
	Georgia Huerta	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.georgiahuertaforjudge2024.com">www.georgiahuertaforjudge2024.com</a>	55:33
	Steven Mac	Deputy District Attorney	<a href="http://www.stevenmacforjudge.com">www.stevenmacforjudge.com</a>	59:57
137	Michael Berg	Attorney/Business Owner	<a href="http://www.michaelbergforjudge.com">www.michaelbergforjudge.com</a>	1:03
	Tracey Blount	Sr. Deputy County Counsel		
	Luz Herrera	Attorney/Law Professor	<a href="http://www.luzherrera.com">www.luzherrera.com</a>	
	Diana James	Attorney at Law		



# My Hero of 2023 Is the Trade Union Movement

*Senator Bernie Sanders  
Published in The Daily Beast  
December 22, 2023*

The year 2023 will go down as one of the most difficult not only in the modern history of America, but in the modern history of the world.

In virtually every sector of society, the state of our nation and the world is in crisis—from climate change, to devastating wars, to our dysfunctional health care system, and to our failure to meet the child-care, educational and retirement needs of our people, the list of issues to be worried about seems endless.

But, in the midst of these challenging times, there is also some very good news that is bringing hope and encouragement to an American working class that has struggled for the last 50 years. And that is the resurgent, revitalized, and growing trade union movement in America.

The hero of 2023, in my view, belongs to not just one person, but the entire trade union movement—which has proven that when workers stand together in the pursuit of economic justice they can achieve what was once thought impossible.

All over this country, we are seeing workers standing up and fighting back against the unprecedented corporate greed taking place in America in a way that we have not seen in decades. And they are winning—big time.

[To read the full article in The Daily Beast, click here.](#)

**The CCDC Officer Nominating Committee will place the following candidates' names in nomination at the general meeting on January 10, 2024:**

**President: Jeff Schwartz**

**First Vice President: Jeanna Harris**

**Second Vice President: Will Herrera**

**Treasurer: Cynthia Hart**

**Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg**

**Recording Secretary: Shannon Theus**

**Corresponding Secretary: Haifaa Moammar**

Nominations may also be made by any voting member at the General Meeting on January 10, 2024. Nominations from the floor will need a second. The member who is nominated must meet the criteria stated in the Club bylaws and be willing to serve if elected.

## The Culver City Democratic Club's endorsements for the March 5 primary election—so far

The Culver City Democratic Club continues to be the city's largest publisher of political information and analysis, as well as the westside's original progressive Democratic organization.

After the December meeting, members voted on endorsements using the secure and confidential Election Buddy service. The first round of voting closed at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, with a required runoff from then until 5:30 p.m. Friday.

It takes a 60% majority to endorse a candidate, but only a simple majority to support a ballot measure.

### The final endorsements are:

**President: Joe Biden**

**Senate: Barbara Lee**

**Congress: Ted Lieu (CD36) and Sydney Kamlager (CD37)**

**State Assembly: Isaac Bryan**

**State Measure 1: Yes**

**County Supervisor: Holly Mitchell**

**District Attorney: George Gascón**

**LA County Democratic Party Central Committee (AD55):**

**Leah Pressman, Freddy Puza, and Jeff Schwartz**

**Culver City School Facilities Bond: Yes**



# 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.



## 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>

### January 6 - Defending Democracy Day

Day of Remembrance and Action

### January 8 - 7 PM

Culver City Council Meeting

### January 9

CCUSD School Board Meeting

### January 10 - 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

Election of Club Officers

Adoption of 2024 Club Budget

Endorsement Votes

### January 15

Martin Luther King Day

### January 20

Culver City's Days of Service

In remembrance of Martin Luther King

### SAVE THE DATE

### January 22 - 7 PM

Culver City Council Meeting

### January 23

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

### February 20

Last Day to Register to Vote in March 5th Primary Election

[TO REGISTER TO VOTE CLICK HERE](#)

### Ongoing

Grassroots Democratic Headquarters

Offers volunteer opportunities to flip the House!

Choose from in-person or virtual phonebanking, textbanking, postcarding and canvassing

<https://linktr.ee/grassrootsdemhq>

## Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is still in rehab. Her attitude is still a positive one. She misses everyone, and looks forward to when we all can meet again in person. She thoroughly enjoys reading the

newsletter. And again thanks Pete for bringing it to her each month.

The Club sends its congratulations to Yasmine-Imani McMorrin on being the first Black American woman to serve as Culver City Mayor. The Club also sends its congratulations to Kelly Kent on becoming President of the Culver City School Board.



**Culver City Democratic Club Executive Board members Cynthia Hart, Leah Pressman and Shannon Theus wrap presents for kids at Assemblyman Isaac Bryan's Christmas in the Park event**



## From the editor

by *Pete Rockwell*

I'm writing a column for this month's newsletter with a few links and some personal notes. I probably won't make a regular thing of it, but for now, here goes.

### Senior Center acting class

I joined the Culver City Senior Center when I first moved to Culver City in 2015, but I haven't been active there until April of 2023. At that time I got a postcard from the center announcing a free acting class on Mondays, from 9:30 to noon. Since I didn't have a job at that moment (which is not unusual for me) I went, mostly out of curiosity.

Sixty people showed up.

I got a call from the Senior Center a couple of days later telling me they planned to have a second class every Friday, from 10:30 to 1 p.m. in a room at the Veterans Building across the street. Both buildings are at the corner of Culver and Overland.

I've gone to the class on Mondays and Fridays ever since, and it feels like it has changed my life in a very positive way. I've only missed four classes—because I was out of town.

Of the people who came to class on the first day, about ten to twenty of us have stuck with it, although not everyone is able to attend as regularly as I can. I would say that the regular attendees get various things out of the class, in addition to learning acting skills.

The teacher is [Fabiana Medici](#). She also teaches regularly at the [Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute](#). I've taken a number of acting classes since my first year of high school, and this one is the best. And, thanks to a generous grant from [The Picerne Family Foundation](#), it's free. That makes a huge difference, partly because students are only there because they want to be, not because they're paying for it. The students are all over fifty years old, because the class is part of the Senior Center program, and you have to be at least fifty to join the Center.

There was one month this year when Fabiani had to leave town for a month to direct a children's production at Lake Shasta, and during that month her son Sathya Miele taught the class. He is a film maker, and he offered to make a video of actors who had monologues they wanted to film for their actors' reel. I did one from [the final moments of the Coen brothers](#)

[movie \*No Country for Old Men\*](#), that I'm very proud of.

Some of the class exercises are partly meant to teach skills for telling stories to groups of people, and one day the teacher asked students: "If you were talking to a large group of people, what advice would you give them, based on your life experience?" At the teacher's request I made a couple of pages with the advice students had submitted, along with their pictures from any age in their lives. I've reprinted the two pages at the end of this newsletter.

### Argentina's new President

The new president of Argentina, Javier Milei, who is a big favorite of wannabe dictator Donald Trump, has come up with [an idea that I expect Trump to copy](#) if he successfully takes over our country. Milei plans to require groups that organize peaceful protests to reimburse the government for the cost of police salaries and overtime. According to the government, costs for a recent demonstration reached 60m pesos (\$75,000). Milei campaigned for office carrying a chainsaw, to symbolize cutting funds for social programs that help working people.

**Senior Center acting students answer the question: If you were talking to a large group of people, what advice would you give them, based on your life experience?**



**Mark Lawrence Brust**

No one, & nothing, is worth dying over; Don't Kill, yourself, ...it's not worth it. Suicide is like spitting in Goddess's/God's face, or spitting in the face of Creation, & is now an epidemic among 5-11 year olds (!) but nobody talks about it & that's why it happens more often.



**Flip Fullman**

When my husband passed away and I was in a dark place, I decided to find some thing I could do to help others. I volunteered my time at the veterans facility in West LA. In doing so I found I was helping myself as much as them. So when things are really dark help others, and you'll find that things get a lot lighter!



**Richard Caines**

Listen for comprehension not just for your turn to respond. Swap perspective to help mediate conflict. Strive to see things from another's point of view before responding with anger and hate.



**Celia Doo**

If there is a conflict to resolve, put aside emotions stick to the facts.



**Paula Fins**

Always make a conscious effort to enjoy life.



**Joanne Scheduling**

Learn to forgive yourself. Sometimes when you look at something you regret, from a different perspective, it can help you to forgive yourself. (A wise friend taught me that.)



**Patricia Don**

Remaining teachable begins with humility. It begins with realizing that we're not perfect and need others to see our blind spots.



**Deena Avery**

Don't take life or good health for granted, it goes by very very fast.



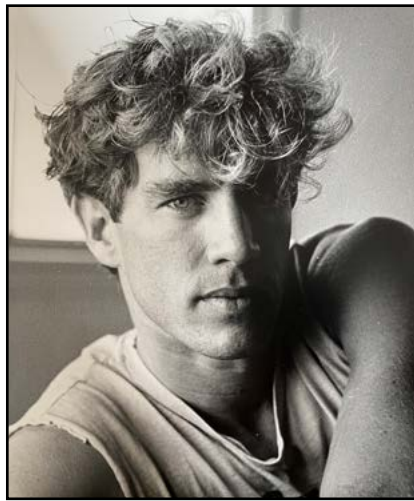
### **Craig Goldowski**

Kindle Hope, because without it, there is only resignation, bitterness and despair. In order to maintain Hope one needs to have gratitude, even when things get complicated, aggravating, or go wrong. We can't wait for everything to be fine, and THEN have gratitude. Gratitude has to be a striving endeavor, a practice, a continual renewing.



### **Jessica Maria G. Garcia**

Take time during the day to sing, play an instrument, or listen to your favorite music. Choose songs that bring back good memories or songs that make you smile. Singing brings me to the present, even if I sing songs that remind me of someone who is no longer with us. They make me feel happy. Besides all that, singing is beneficial in many ways, such as breathing, posture, and muscle tension. Singing is also good for reducing stress and anxiety.



### **Christopher Dill**

Do a good deed for someone who is having a bad day. One time I was in my bank and saw an elderly gentleman using a walker, pushing across the parking lot. I realized he was heading for the heavy glass doors of the bank entrance. I sprinted across the lobby and got to the doors before he did. I grabbed the door handle and pulled it open just as he was about to enter the bank. I helped him through the doors and when I looked into his eyes I saw nothing but gratitude.



### **Pete Rockwell**

I used to hope that I would be happy some day, once I got everything I wanted. But now I don't believe people "become happy," but that happiness is a momentary thing that I can invite into my heart by being open to it.



### **Mabel Sarratea**

Money isn't everything. You can live with little money every day and be happy. The most important thing is being "rich" inside of you



### **Jan Banaszek**

Show people who you really are with your kaleidoscope of light and love, dancing through the pain, the fear, the joy in your own unique way. Keep going...enjoy the ride!



### **Helen Jackson**

Don't tell God that you have a big problem. Tell your problem that you've got a big God.