

# 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, April 10, 2024

## Program: Assemblymember Isaac Bryan

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

# Context or Coverup?

Fellow Democrats,  
At their June 17, 2021 meeting, [the Culver City Council passed a resolution apologizing for the City's history of racial discrimination and committing to explore reparations](#). The vote was 3-2, with Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Daniel Lee, and Alex Fisch in the majority and Albert Vera Jr. and Göran Eriksson in the minority.

The City then commissioned a [Historical Context Study](#) from [Architectural Research Group](#), (ARG) to support the project with professional documentation of relevant aspects of the city's history. This was presented to the Council March 18, 2024. Vera and Eriksson were part of the majority which voted to accept it. McMorrin abstained. What happened?

In the 2022 election, the balance of power on the Council shifted heavily to the right, with Dan O'Brien joining Vera and Eriksson in a conservative majority, aided by over \$600,000 in campaign spending by billionaire landlord and developer Michael Hackman. ARG crafted their report to be acceptable to their ultimate audience: the new Council. They chose to present a story of progress whose blemishes were offensive acts by individuals rather than systemic injustices and which are a thing of the past, potentially calling for amends but definitely not for transformation.

Apparently even this was too much for City staff, who deleted many names from the report, leaving some people described only by their job titles: Mayor, Police Chief, etc. These names include:

[Michael Tellefson](#) who, while City Attorney during World War II, directed the city's volunteer air wardens to promote housing segregation as they enforced curfew and lights-out rules; [Steven Gourley](#) who, while Mayor in the 1990s, called for the first President Bush to close the US/Mexico border; and Council Members Michael Balkman, James Boulgarides, Ed Wolkowitz, and Albert Vera Senior who, along with Gourley, [voted in 1993 to support the Culver City Police Department hiring Timothy Wind](#), one of the LAPD officers fired for beating Rodney King. Wind's name was also stricken from the report, although after thousands of articles, dozens of books, and several documentaries it is decidedly too late to protect him.

All these names can be easily found online. They are in the archives of the *Los Angeles Times*, Culver City's local papers, the City's own records, and recent writing by John Kent and myself. Most of these sources are cited in the draft His-

torical Context Study.

There is a park named for Tellefson. The Council Chambers are named for Balkman. Gourley and Wolkowitz are still active in local politics. Albert Vera Jr. was elected to City Council in 2020 on the slogan "A Legacy of Leadership." The City cannot address its legacy of injustice without identifying how it has been passed on and to whom.

For example, the Historical Context Study is clear that, once overt racial housing segregation in the form of redlining and restrictive covenants was banned, it was replaced by de facto segregation in the form of single-family zoning. Because [family wealth is unequally distributed racially, due in part to historic housing segregation](#), requiring people to qualify for a seven-figure mortgage to live in most of Culver City effectively perpetuates segregation. However, council members Vera and Eriksson have

**See MESSAGE on page 2**

**Andy and Diane Rosenberg**  
*are sponsoring the*  
**April General Meeting**  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**Herb Rosenberg**  
*beloved Husband and Father*  
**Mark Stuart Rosenberg**  
*beloved Son and Brother*

## From MESSAGE on page 1

opposed every attempt to end [exclusionary zoning](#). How can the City begin to repair harm while continuing to inflict it?

[Ted Cooke](#)'s name was also among those stricken from the report. He was the City's longest-serving Police Chief, from 1976 to 2003. The report includes an anonymized account of him sexually harassing employees. It does not mention his practice of giving concealed carry permits to celebrities, including Robert Blake, who later shot and killed his wife, or that he ran a private security company which enabled him to give extra work to favored officers and was a perfect vehicle for local people to pay for more (or less) police attention.

However, talking about individual corruption can be a distraction from addressing systemic discrimination. It is relatively simple to identify and compensate the victims of Cooke's sexual harassment and to train City staff in appropriate workplace behavior. It is much more complex to measure and correct the harm his department did and continues to do.

During Cooke's tenure Culver City police were known for targeting Black and Brown drivers in what is variously called racial profiling, pretextual stops, or DWB (Driving While Black). This reputation persists, as confirmed by a survey conducted in 2020 by [Raimi & Associates](#), the City's General Plan consultants. In the 1980s CCPD officers, speaking at the Senior Center, described this as "shaking and baking" "suspected gang members." In other words, they harassed people who "don't look like they belong here." While police have become less candid about these acts of explicit bias, the department continues this practice and attempts to justify it through regular press releases with photos of tables covered with drugs and weapons confiscated during pretextual stops. Their intended message is that racial profiling keeps us safe. This has continued without pause since Cooke's era, as almost any issue of the local free papers will demonstrate.

In 2020, responding to nationwide calls for public safety reform after the police murders of George Floyd, Brionna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Stephon Clark, and many others, the City commissioned two studies of policing: [a descriptive one by](#)

[the Center for Public Safety Management](#) and [an analytic one by Solidarity Consulting](#). Additional studies of [CCPD pay](#) and of [the demographics and impacts of misdemeanor arrests](#) were conducted by two UCLA research groups: the Criminal Justice Program and Million Dollar Hoods. The Solidarity Consulting recommendations were ignored, as was the UCLA work. Only the CPSM report was linked from the CCPD website. However, Chief Manny Cid made some gestures towards reform, including ending pretextual stops for minor equipment violations and having CCPD begin participating in the [State Attorney General's Racial Identity Profiling Advisory \(RIPA\) Board's](#) reporting process several years ahead of schedule. The Historical Context Study ends by celebrating these decisions, along with the elections of the City's first two African-American City Council Members: Daniel Lee and Yasmine-Imani McMorris, as signs that the City has decisively moved on from its racist past.

Unfortunately, that is not what happened. The report does not mention that, during the summer of 2020, the Culver City Police Officers Association assessed each of its members \$450 to hire [Public Safety Association Consultants](#) to fight reform. They produced [online videos](#) attacking activists including local historian John Kent (whose work is cited in the Historical Context Study), School Board President Kelly Kent, and UCLA Law Professor Noah Zatz. Later that year they erected the city's first-ever political billboards and sent out mailers, both of which featured progressive candidates Freddy Puza and Yasmine-Imani McMorris with red "X"s over their faces. Candidates Vera and Eriksson were the beneficiaries of this threatening negative campaigning against the city's first openly LGBTQ+ and Black female Council candidates.

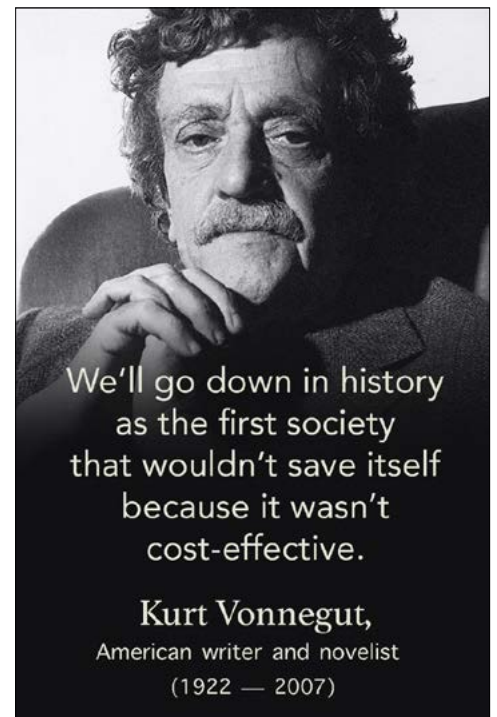
As part of the 2020 social justice reckoning, the City added a Rethinking Public Safety element to its [General Plan update](#). I had the honor of working on this task force, alongside MacArthur Fellow Kelly Lytle-Hernandez, filmmaker Joy Kecken (The Wire, Kindred), and other notable community members. [The draft element we produced was tossed aside by a 3-2 Council vote this spring, with no discussion of its contents](#). Vera, Eriksson, and O'Brien were the majority, Puza

and McMorris the minority.

[Cid's decision to formally end some pretextual stops was reversed by his successor Jason Sims in late 2023, with the support of Council Members Vera, Eriksson, and O'Brien](#). The Historical Context Study's happy ending was undone before the draft was even submitted. If ending pretextual stops was a landmark of racial justice, what does that make those responsible for resuming them? This change was not only formally reversed; it never really happened. Cid's order was only a facade to deflect criticism. It had no measurable effect. The RIPA data shows that, regardless of the policy on pretextual stops, CCPD has consistently been one of the worst departments in the state for disproportionately stopping, searching, arresting, and using force on people of color.

The draft Historical Context Study protects those responsible for past injustices and denies that present ones exist, allowing our city's shameful legacy to continue. We deserve better.

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





# March 2024 primary election wrap-up

I encourage you to listen to the [election wrap-up episode](#) of Mike Bonin's *What Next, LA?* podcast for a detailed discussion of every major race in the region. My analysis here will focus mostly on Culver City.

The top story for LA is that, despite having had her district redrawn to gerrymander her supporters and facing a well-funded astroturf operation, Nithya Raman was re-elected. She received over 50% of the votes cast, so she wins outright, without a runoff in November. As Bonin [wrote in \*The Nation\*](#), Raman's first campaign was the prototype of a new LA politics, based on organizing renters and other underrepresented communities. In last month's newsletter [I drew parallels between the backlash Raman faced from LA's business establishment and what Culver City progressives experienced in 2022](#). Her victory can inspire us.

The only Culver City item on the primary ballot was Measure E, a school facilities bond, which this Club supported. It passed easily, getting 62% of the votes cast. This also can give us hope for November. Voters seem to have seen through its [opponents' bluster](#). All five School Board members supported Measure E, as did Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris and City Council Members Freddy Puza and Dan O'Brien. Council Member Göran Eriksson was against it, and Albert Vera Jr. did not take a public position. Culver City Democrats United also did not take an official position, but their newsletter published several pieces urging a "no" vote and two of their officers signed the official argument against it. Measure E's decisive victory is both a positive sign and a gift for progressives, if voters hold School Board and City Council candidates accountable in November for their positions on this measure.

For our district's seven seats on the LA County Democratic Party's Central Committee, the Club's endorsed candidates: Freddy Puza, myself, and Leah Pressman, took the top three spots in Culver City, but respectively finished 13th, 10th, and 11th in the district as a whole. For comparison, CCDU's endorsees Jimmie Woods-Grey, Lindsay Carlson, Darrel Menthe, and Joe Rose were respectively 9th, 10th, 15th, and 16th in Culver City and 4th, 12th, 15th,

and 16th in the district. Congratulations to our members Jimmie Woods-Grey, Vilma Dawson, Pam Sparrow, Ilissa Gold, and Sara Roos on being elected to LACDP.

Judicial elections can help gauge the effect of our mailer, since it may be the only printed material local voters get for these races. Our four endorsees fared quite well, with three advancing to a runoff and one winning outright with over 50%.

- For Office 39 George Turner was the top vote-getter, with 42% in Culver City and 32% countywide. He will be in a November runoff.

- For Office 48 Erika Wiley was also the top vote-getter, with 59% in Culver City and 47% countywide. Because she did not break 50% countywide, she too will be in a runoff.

- For Office 97 La Shae Henderson finished second, with 35% in Culver City, and 27% countywide. She will face the first-place candidate in a runoff.

- For Office 124 Kim Repecka won with 64% in Culver City and 51% countywide. Congratulations Judge Repecka!

These candidates did eight to thirteen percentage points better in Culver City than countywide. This may reflect that Culver City is a more progressive community than the county as a whole and may also show the influence of our mailer. Both can be sources of hope and pride.

We can also be proud that [the video of our December General Meeting program](#), featuring most of the Democrats on the March ballot, from Congress Member Sydney Kamlager on down, has been viewed over 3500 times and was linked from some voter guides. It may have been voters' only chance to see some of these candidates speaking on camera outside of a campaign ad, or at all.

We endorsed District Attorney George Gascón for re-election, and he came in first with 38% of the vote in Culver City and 25% countywide, ahead of a pack of more conservative challengers (and, on his left, former *Hustler* features editor [Dan Kapelovitz](#)). CCDU-backed scion Jeff Chemerinsky came in third in Culver City with 12% and fifth in the county with 8%. In Culver City, Jonathan Hatami,

endorsed by the alt-right Protect Culver City PAC, took second with 13% and came in third countywide with the same percentage. Kapelovitz, who appears to have a good sense of humor, was last in both jurisdictions, under 1% in Culver City and just over it in the county.

I think this Club can take some credit for Gascón's local popularity. We co-hosted a fundraiser for him and he has been a featured guest at our meetings. I know he did not expect to win outright and was hoping to face a Republican in the fall, a wish granted when Nathan Hochman took second place countywide with 16% (12% in Culver City).

The US Senate race was complex this year, with three serious Democrats and one Republican (Steve Garvey) competing in parallel elections for a new term beginning next January and for the few weeks of the late Diane Feinstein's term between the November election and the new legislative session. We endorsed Barbara Lee.

For the full term, the results in Culver City were:

Adam Schiff (46%), Katie Porter (18%), Steve Garvey (16%), and Barbara Lee (14%).

In LA County they were:

Schiff (37%), Garvey (24%), Porter (16%), and Lee (11%),

while statewide, which are the only numbers that really matter, they were:

Schiff (32%), Garvey (31%), Porter (15%), and Lee (10%).

The Culver City numbers for the partial term were:

Schiff (42%), Porter (23%), Garvey (16%), and Lee (15%).

The county ones were:

Schiff (34%), Garvey (26%), Porter (18%), and Lee (13%),

and the statewide ones:

Garvey (33%), Schiff (29%), Porter (17%), and Lee (12%)

That's a lot of data. It's clear that Culver City has a smaller percentage of Repub-

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### From ELECTION on page 3

licans than the larger territories, and that the Lee campaign had trouble getting traction. She faced obstacles as the oldest and shortest candidate, as well as the only person of color and the candidate who has spent the least time sitting across from Stephen Colbert. I do not regret supporting her and I am grateful that I had a chance to meet her and thank her for her work. As with Bernie Sanders, every time the US has done something wrong in the last 50 years, there's a video of Barbara Lee trying to stop it.

There was talk before and during the campaign that either Porter or Lee should have dropped out, so that progressives could have united behind one candidate. However, the sum of their votes would not have made second place statewide for either term, but a hypothetically united progressive campaign might have challenged Schiff more strongly or inspired higher turnout.

This is the usual “Dems in Disarray” narrative and speculation. I have two other observations about this race, which I fear has put me in a darker place. First, all three candidates left their House seats to run. Barbara Lee's endorsed successor [Lateefah Simon](#) got over 56% of the vote in March and will sail to victory in November. State Assembly Member [Laura Friedman](#) will almost certainly be the next to represent [Schiff's remarkable district](#), which stretches from West Hollywood to Burbank to Tujunga. In contrast, Porter's 2022 Republican opponent took first place in the March election to replace her, and the Democrat who came in second faces a [tough and ugly fight](#). With the Republican-controlled House going through Speakers like Spinal Tap went through drummers, and the Freedom Caucus seeming to threaten a government shutdown over every piece of business, Porter's choice to leave her seat without having a strong successor in place seems irresponsible.

[Even worse was Schiff's decision to spend more to boost Garvey than Garvey's own campaign](#). Like Gascón, Schiff understood that running against a Republican would be much easier than running against another Democrat. The Republican brand is repulsive to most Californians, especially since Trump, and Garvey is a weak candidate, too clueless to appeal to Schwarzenegger Democrats

and not bloodthirsty enough for today's MAGA-GOP. He only raised \$300,000 for his statewide campaign, less than half of what billionaire landlord/developer Michael Hackman spent just to elect Dan O'Brien to our City Council. Adam Schiff, by comparison, had \$35 million. Schiff's campaign created mailers which Democrats would read as negative, listing Garvey's conservative bona fides, but then sent them to likely Republican voters who would read them as positive and turn out to vote for Garvey, putting him in second place for Schiff to crush in November. Sneaky, but more [Tracy Flick](#) than [Roger Stone](#) until you consider that

those Republicans who Schiff inspired to step up to the plate for Garvey also voted Republican in all the down-ballot races, putting Democratic House seats and local offices at risk. Our Party's establishment is quick to attack progressives who primary incumbents or who challenge the establishment's chosen candidates, arguing these fights waste resources that could be used against Republicans, but Adam Schiff essentially ran a Republican Get Out The Vote operation with no objections from our Party leadership. I will vote for Schiff this fall, and I recommend that you do so as well, but his victory will not spark joy.

Save the dates & join us  
for our 2024 events:

9 AM - NOON



In  
collaboration  
with the BCR  
High School  
Club

Make a difference by keeping our  
community clean!

## Earth Day Event



April 20th

Earth Day Cleanup

📍 Ballona Creek at  
Centinela

Sept. 21st

40th Annual Coastal  
Cleanup Day

📍 Overland Ave &  
Ballona Creek

Nov. 9th

Fall Cleanup

📍 Braude Bike Path &  
Ballona Bike Path



For more info visit [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org)



## Legislative report

At the March 13 meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club, the legislative committee presented thirteen bills. During the meeting, Paula Amezola moved that we add one other bill from Lola Smallwood Cuevas—[SB1338](#). Membership voted unanimously to include SB1338 on our consent calendar and to approve the consent calendar. The legislative committee—Leah Pressman, Cynthia Hart and Haifaa Moammar—will write and submit letters in support (or opposition) to these bills during the upcoming legislative session.

[AB1975](#) (Bonta)—*Medi-Cal: medically supportive food and nutrition interventions*—would make food and nutrition interventions deemed medically necessary by healthcare providers a permanent part of Medi-Cal benefits in California. [Pilot Programs](#) in California have provided evidence that these types of programs improve health outcomes. This bill is part of the 2024 [reparations packet](#) from the California Legislative Black Caucus. [CalMatters Press release](#)

[AB1986](#) (Bryan)—*State prisons: banned books*—would require the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to make public and readily accessible the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Centralized List of Disapproved Publications, adding transparency to a book banning process in state prisons and juvenile facilities which is currently done in the dark. It will require CDCR to remove a ban if the OIG finds no reasonable justification for restricting access to a book. AB1986 is part of the California Black Legislative Caucus [reparations package](#) of bills. [AB1986 Factsheet Isaac Bryan](#)

“In California prisons you can read Hitler’s manifesto, but we have banned books written by Nelson Mandela and many other authors of color...It’s time to change that.”  
—Assemblymember Isaac Bryan

[AB2236](#) and [SB1053](#) (Allen, Bleakespear)—*Solid waste: reusable grocery bags: standards; plastic film prohibition*—would close loopholes in California’s 2014 plastics ban to ensure consumers are using either reusable or paper bags. The 2014 bag ban not only didn’t work to reduce plastic waste, but California saw a significant increase in plastic waste since the

2014 ban. [Press Release LA Times](#)

[AB2256](#) (Friedman, Berman)—*Net Energy Metering*—would roll back the policy put in place last year by the CPUC that sharply reduced the amount utilities pay people with solar panels when they sell surplus power to the grid. Read more [here](#).

[AB2441](#) (Ash Kalra)—*School safety: mandatory notifications*—would decrease law enforcement involvement in student behavioral issues at school, ensure California law is closer aligned with federal law, and provide educators the flexibility they need to respond appropriately to student behavior. [Press release](#)

[AB2665](#) (Lee)—*Housing finance: mixed income revolving loan program*—would establish a Mixed Income Revolving Loan Program to provide zero-interest construction loans to qualifying residential, infill housing developers for the purpose of constructing deed-restricted affordable housing.

[AB2881](#) (Lee)—*The Social Housing Act*—would establish the California Housing Authority to produce mixed-income housing that is affordable and financially self-sustaining. [Press release Alfred Twu](#)

[AB3145](#) (Bryan)—*Family preservation services: standards*—would require that court-ordered parenting classes in child welfare cases be evidence-based, “culturally competent” and provided by qualified professionals. It would also establish a tracking system to measure the outcome of parenting class services and would require that counties detail data about success rates and qualifications of service providers. [LA Times1 LA Times2 Fact sheet](#)

[SB1011](#) (Jones)—*Encampments: penalties*—**OPPOSE**—would prohibit encampments within 500 feet of schools, open spaces and major transit stops. The bill was modeled after San Diego’s “Unsafe Camping Ordinance.” [Mike Bonin LAist Report](#)

[SB1116](#) (Portantino, Durazo)—*Unemployment insurance: trade disputes: eligibility for benefits*—would make striking workers eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. [Press release](#)

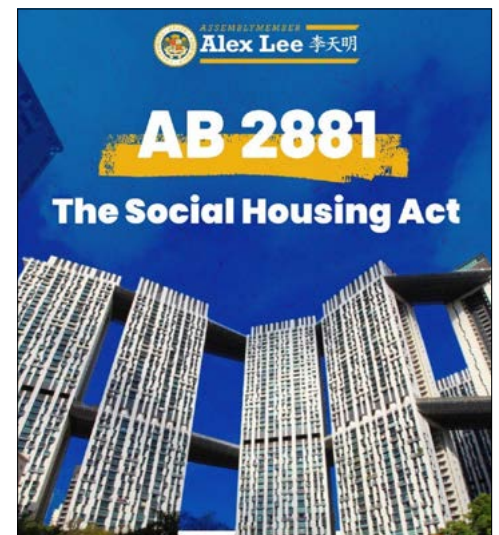
[SB1174](#) (David Min)—*Elections: voter identification*—would preempt Huntington Beach and other California cities from enacting voter identification re-

quirements for local elections. Huntington Beach’s Measure One to require voter ID in municipal elections passed by a vote of more than 50% on the March primary ballot. [Press release](#)

[SB1338](#) (Smallwood Cuevas)—*Education finance: emergencies: apportionments: COVID-19: Culver City Unified School District*—would exempt Culver City Unified School District from fiscal penalties for failing to maintain the requisite number of instructional days subsequent to the emergency closure of its schools from January 19, 2022, to January 21, 2022 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency and the denial of a specified waiver.

[SB1374](#) (Becker)—*Net Energy Metering*—would restore the right of renters, farmers, and schools to make and consume their own solar energy, a right that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) took away from these folks last year. [Fact sheet PUC decision for VNBT & NBT-A](#)

These join the bills approved at our February meeting: [AB1810](#) (Isaac Bryan, Tina McKinnor, and Mia Bonta)—*Menstrual Products in Prisons*; and [ACA 16](#)—(Bryan) *Green Amendment*. We also voted to continue to support bills that we had endorsed in previous years: [AB2200](#) (Kalra) *Guaranteed Health Care for all*, [ACA5](#) (Low)—*The California Right to Marry*, [ACA8](#) (Wilson)—*Ending slavery in California*, [SB252](#) (Gonzalez, Stern, Wiener) *Public retirement systems: fossil fuels: divestment*, and the bill formerly known as SB238, [SB294](#) (Weiner)—*Health care coverage: independent medical review*. See the March edition of the Club [newsletter](#) for a more complete write up of these bills.



# Vote 16 Culver City needs adult volunteers to help get signatures

Vote16 Culver City came within 16 votes of winning the right to vote in city council and school board elections, when it was on the ballot two years ago. Now they're going to try again, if they can get enough signatures. They need adult volunteers to petition with students (no experience needed). So far they've gotten about 1,000 out of 4,200 signatures. If people are interested in signing up [please click this link](#) or email them at [vote16cc@gmail.com](mailto:vote16cc@gmail.com).



Patrick Meighan, Julia Rottenberg, Disa Lindgren, Sam Cozolino, and Bubba Fish are shown here collecting signatures on a petition in favor of allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote for Culver City City Council and Culver City School Board. Adult volunteers are needed to get enough signatures so that the issue will be voted on in this November's election.



**This is  
a very  
important  
election  
year  
FUNDRAISING  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

**We invite Club  
members to help  
plan fundraising  
events for the  
Culver City  
Democratic Club**

If you're interested,  
please email Ways  
and Means Committee  
members Will Herrera  
[herreraw@ucla.edu](mailto:herreraw@ucla.edu)  
or Ronnie Jayne Solomon  
[ronniejayn@aol.com](mailto:ronniejayn@aol.com)

No experience is needed,  
but any event planning  
experience is surely  
welcome.

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





## Tad Daley to give talk on Summit of the Future

Club member Tad Daley will be speaking to the Culver City Rotary Club at the Culver Palms YMCA, 4500 Sepulveda Boulevard (right across from our late lamented ice-skating rink.) All are welcome, lunch will be provided, and it's free. Topic? The upcoming Summit of the Future at the United Nations in September, and a few tales of Tad's long ago misadventures as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. Please come!

Tad Daley is a former advisor to five different members of the US House or Senate, author of a book about abolishing nuclear weapons from Rutgers University Press called APOCALYPSE NEVER, current President of the Americans for Democratic Action Foundation of Southern California, and an active member of our Culver City Democratic Club.

## Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

We are saddened to hear of the passing of long time member of the Club Bruce Enos, who passed away in January. The Club sends condolences to his wife, Club member and former President of the Club, Khin Khin Gyi.

Update on Club Member Charlotte Gunter: She is still in rehab and still with a positive attitude. We speak on the phone, and she tells me that she misses everyone and hopes for the day when we can see one another in person. She also thanks Pete for bringing her the Club's monthly newsletter.

## 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>

### April 3 • Noon

Club member Tad Daley speaks on the UN Summit of the Future  
Rotary Club Meeting  
Culver Palms YMCA, 4500 Sepulveda Boulevard

### April 8 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

### April 9

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

### April 10 • 7 PM

**CCDC Business Meeting** via Zoom

### April 10 • 8 PM

**CCDC Program** via Zoom:

Guest speaker will be Assemblymember Isaac Bryan



### April 20 • 9:00 AM - Noon

Ballona Creek Renaissance  
Earth Day Cleanup

<https://ballonacreek.org/events/ballonacreekcleanup-20/>

### April 22

**Earth Day**

### April 23

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

### April 24

**Denim Day**

Wear denim in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence

<https://denimday.org/why-denim>

### April 29 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

### 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>

# From the Assembly floor to your front door

Fresh off his commanding electoral victory in the March primary, where he garnered 84% of the vote, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan spoke to a packed auditorium at New Earth's headquarters in West Los Angeles for a town hall and a legislative update on Monday night, March 25.

By a show of hands, attendees identified themselves as being from all corners of the 55th district. Culver City Democratic Club members were well represented, including Culver City Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Culver City Council member Freddy Puza, Culver City Unified School District Trustee Paula Amezola, former Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Democratic Club President Jeff Schwartz, Culver City City Council candidate Bubba Fish, CADEM Eboard member and LA Democratic Central Committee member Leah Pressman, current CADEM delegate and LA Central Committee member-elect Pam Sparrow, Democratic Central Committee member Vilma Dawson, LA Democratic Central Committee member Sara Roos, CADEM Delegate Greg Bartlett, as well as Melanie Barlett, Michelle Weiner, Disa Lindgren, and Linda Childs.

Dr. Harry Grammer, Founder of New Earth, interviewed the assembly member. Bryan is keenly aware that term limits leave him only so much time to accomplish the things he wants to accomplish for his community which is why he chose to take on the work of introducing 20 bills this year.

Importantly to climate justice activists, children and other living things, ASM Bryan chairs the State Committee on Natural Resources. Bryan said he does not have a singular focus on one set of issues, but, as Chair of Natural Resources this year, he will be particularly active in supporting and authoring climate resilience and environmental justice legislation.

Bryan also represents the 55th Assembly district on the Appropriations, Governmental Organization, Judiciary, and the Privacy and Consumer Protections Committees. Bryan briefly explained the scope of each of the other committees where he will have a vote and a voice. For instance, every piece of legislation that has a dollar amount attached to it goes through the Appropriations Committee and the com-



**Pictured left to right at Isaac Bryan's town hall on March 25 are Culver City Democratic Club members Bubba Fish, Culver City Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Culver City Councilmember Freddy Puza, CCDC President Jeff Schwartz, Leah Pressman, Disa Lindgren, and Michelle Weiner.**

mittee on Privacy and Consumer Protections reviews any bills relevant to regulation of artificial intelligence.

In the last two years, the Culver City Democratic Club has supported many of the bills Bryan chose to lift up at the town hall. In 2022, the Club supported AB 1137 to establish 3200 foot oil drilling setbacks. In 2023, the club supported AB 421 to reform the referendum process so that it would be harder for deep-pocketed interests to pay for signatures and deceive voters in order to repeal laws they oppose. AB 421 was written in response to oil companies moving to repeal oil drilling setbacks by hiring signatures gatherers to lie to voters in order to place the rollback of AB 1137 on the November ballot. Also in 2023, the Club voted to support the Campaign For a Safe and Healthy California which is organizing the fight to keep the oil setback law .

Three other bills discussed at the town hall already have Club endorsement:

- AB1810—which ensures that menstrual products are readily accessible in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities across California, not just upon request

- AB1986—which requires the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to make public and readily accessible to all the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Centralized List of Disapproved Publications, adding transparency to a book banning process which is currently done in the dark. This bill is

part of the 2024 reparations package.

- ACA16—which would amend the state constitution to affirm that it is a right—not a privilege—to have access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for every Californian

Other impactful bills Bryan was excited to share with his constituents included AB 2187 to create an office of renters rights and protections, not to enforce laws, but to make sure that tenants and landlords have accurate information about their rights, protections and obligations and AB 2716, a bill that would impose heavy fines on oil companies who keep unproductive or “stripper” wells active. AB 2716 is intended to deter the oil companies from avoiding the expense of shutting down and cleaning up a well by simply keeping the well going even if it barely produces any oil. AB 2684, another important climate resilience act Bryan is shepherding this year, would require cities to create a plan for extreme heat as they do for other disasters such as earthquakes explaining that, without such plans cities are not eligible for federal dollars to help them with preparing for a disaster or for FEMA dollars after a disaster.

In addition to his legislation, Bryan explained the state budget process as California finds itself in its first budget deficit in a decade and discussed some of the ideas he had for budget cuts - including closing five empty state prisons.

**See BRYAN on page 9**



## From BRYAN on page 8

While the crowd was overwhelmingly enthusiastic and supportive during Bryan's remarks, at the question and answer period, the Assemblymember fielded pointed questions about support for small businesses in Culver City, immigration, utility fees & net metering, the failure to close Diablo Canyon and the negative consequences of passing Prop 1. Bryan was serious and thoughtful about engaging with audience questions, including a few that were fairly hostile.

At the end of the evening, constituents who attended were given a comprehensive and in depth look at what their assemblymember was engaged in in Sacramento on their behalf. As Dr. Grammar stated in his introduction, ASM Bryan truly takes it from the Assembly Floor to your front door.

Assemblymember Bryan was endorsed for re-election by the Culver City Democratic Club. You can contact Isaac Bryan's office by phone at (916) 319-2055 (Capitol) or (310) 641-5410 (District). [Email comments can be made here.](#)

## No drilling where we're living—keep AB 1137

In 2022, our Club voted to endorse our Assembly Member Isaac Bryan's bill AB1137 which prohibited drilling for oil within 3200 feet of where we eat, sleep and play. As soon as it was signed into law, the oil companies spent 30 million dollars in 90 days to gather enough signatures to pause the law. In his recent town hall the author of that bill, Assembly Member Bryan, explained that the oil companies: "...paid folks per signature to go stand outside Albertsons and stand outside of schools and lie to folks. They would say, 'Do you like people drilling for oil by your house? NO? Great. Sign this.' And if you didn't read that and you were a registered voter and you put your signature down, they counted you."

Our Club voted last year to join the Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, a coalition of public health professionals, environmental justice groups, community leaders, and youth joining together to defend our protections from toxic oil drilling. We hope you will vote to keep AB1137 this fall.



Culver City Democratic Club members: Culver City Councilmember Freddy Puza, LA Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and former Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, at the press conference for the campaign to KEEP THE LAW on setbacks for new oil wells.



What do Schwarzenegger, Fonda and Newsom have in common? They're fighting oil drilling. As the oil industry wages a multimillion-dollar [campaign to repeal California drilling restrictions](#), the campaign to defend the state's environmental protections is starting to resemble a Hollywood blockbuster. [Read the story that goes with this picture](#) in the LA Times.



# Delegates unanimously pass historic permanent ceasefire resolution at Los Angeles County Central Committee

by *Fatima Iqbal-Zubair*

On March 13, Los Angeles County Central Committee passed a historic resolution unanimously, calling for a permanent ceasefire. [The text of the resolution can be seen on the next page of this newsletter.](#) This is particularly impactful as this county central committee is the largest in the state and nation, and authors from different sides of the aisle were able to work together on this resolution.



Statement from Mike Miller, Director of UAW Region 6 (a sponsor of the resolution): “UAW Region 6 is proud to sponsor the resolution urging our elected leaders to call for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, the freeing of hostages and support for lasting peace. In response to the overwhelming outcry from our membership, the UAW as one of the first major unions to call for a permanent ceasefire, and we remain resolute in standing against violence, hatred, bigotry and war and using every tool at our disposal to achieve peace for the working people of the world.”

Statement from Margie Hoyt, AD 66 delegate and co-author: “To me, this is about not having genocide on our watch. The killing must stop. LACDP did what the CDP should have done in Sacramento in November. Let this be the beginning of a real peace movement.”

Statement from Susie Shannon, AD 46 delegate and co-author: “The unanimous vote tonight at the LACDP, which represents over 3 million Democrats, for a mutual permanent ceasefire, sends a strong message that the people want the fighting to stop and for peace to prevail. The resolution



was written by all women authors from divergent views who found common ground in ending Hamas’ rule in Gaza and supporting new elections in Israel so that reasonable people can end the senseless violence.”

Statement from Fatima Iqbal-Zubair, Chair of the CADEM Progressive Caucus and co-author of the resolution “77 percent of Democrats support the US calling for a permanent ceasefire-with the upcoming general election, achieving peace is a winning issue for Democrats and peace is something we

can all agree on- we showed that today by unanimously passing through the LACDP body, a permanent ceasefire resolution. It speaks to the power of getting progressive priorities done when we not only hold the line, but are willing to listen and work together for the greater good.”

Statement from Jacintha Lincke, AD 40 delegate and co-author: “We are tired of tax dollars paying to massacre people. Our voices echo the voices of all our constituents- permanent ceasefire now- nothing else is acceptable.”





# Resolution of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party

## Adopted March 12, 2024

**Resolution calling for a humanitarian, permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas to pave the way for peace and new governance for the people of Gaza.**

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, the worst terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas and other armed groups resulted in more than 200 hostages being taken captive, and deaths of 1,163 Israelis; and the ensuing Israeli military assault on Gaza has resulted in the deaths of a record number of civilians in modern history- more than 30,000 Gazans – including at least 11,500 children – in 125 days, over 300 medical workers and over 100 journalists, over 69,000 Gazans wounded, and over 7,000 missing under the rubble; and Palestinian civilians experiencing a humanitarian crisis of catastrophic proportions in amputation, disease, malnourishment, starvation, shelter; and

WHEREAS, All human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law, which we unequivocally condemn wherever it occurs and this includes the Israeli right-wing’s targeting and dehumanization of Palestinians and Hamas’ deliberate targeting of Jewish and foreign civilians, both with impunity, has pulled Israelis and Palestinians further apart from reaching a two state solution and put Palestinians in harm's way over and over again; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 labor unions including SEIU International, Communication Workers of America, UAW, UE, American Postal Workers Union, Painters and Allied Trades, National Nurses United, and member organizations of the AFL-CIO, 34 congressional representatives, the World Health Organization, United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, His Holiness Pope Francis, 70 US cities, the San Francisco County Democratic Committee have called for a ceasefire and President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are actively working towards a ceasefire;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the LACDP joins the calls for, and urges our Democratic elected leaders to call for, a mutual permanent ceasefire to make way for Palestinians to build a new democratic future in governing Gaza without Hamas; life-saving humanitarian aid in Gaza; the release of all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas; ensure that all Palestinians that are held have a fast and fair trial and are released immediately if not convicted; end of Hamas’s rule in Gaza; work toward an Israeli government that supports self-determination; freedom and opportunities for the Palestinian people; and for Israelis and Palestinians to progress toward the implementation of a mutually negotiated durable peace based on a two state solution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LA County Democratic Party is aware of the acts of violence, vandalism and intimidation against the Palestinian and Jewish diaspora in the United States, and condemns all antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli bigotry.

### Authors:

Susie Shannon AD46, Sheila Rossi AD49, Michelle Elmer AD40, Jimmy Woods Gray AD55,  
Margie Hoyt AD66, Fatima Iqbal-Zubair AD65, Lysa Simon AD40, Cecile Bendavid AD46.  
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### Sponsors:

Carolyn Fowler, DNC member, AD 61 Delegate, Diana Love, AD 34 Vice-chair,  
Deana Igelsrud, AD 51 Delegate, Dorothy Reik, AD 42 Chair.

# Nancy Barba kicks off campaign for Culver City Council



A throng of supporters joined Nancy Barba at a Culver City neighbor's home on Sunday, March 16, to kick-off her well-received campaign for City Council. Addressing one hundred supporters, Barba shared her inspiring vision for a sustainable Culver City, including her commitment to bold policies that will transform the city into a walkable and bikeable community, with equitable access to mass transit for everyone who lives, works, studies, visits, plays, and passes through Culver City.

Nancy Barba is a mom, a wife, and a first-generation Latina who believes in building consensus to solve problems. She is a climate leader, a housing advocate, and an equity champion who has dedicated herself to improving life in Culver City for all.

Barba's passion, energy, and focus impressed the crowd at the launch event, while the crowd's enthusiasm impressed her. Afterwards, she expressed gratitude for the encouragement of her many supporters, and for the breadth and diversity of the gathering. "One of my favorite parts was that I had people there from all walks of life," Barba said. "It felt amazing to experience so much support from friends and colleagues, from middle school to the present."

At the launch event, Barba spoke movingly about her grandparents, aunts, and uncles, who were, "...braceros, or migrant workers, that traveled from Jalisco, Mexico, to areas across the United States, picking oranges, cotton, and even doing a stint in mining. I grew up with my mom and siblings and was bussed from South Central LA to Sherman Oaks as part of the school district's desegregation efforts. My single mom, with only an elementary school education, did her best for me and my three siblings with her seamstress' income."

Speakers at the event also featured Culver City Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Culver City School Board Vice President Triston Ezidore, former Culver City Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee Vice Chair Bubba Fish, Master of Ceremonies and volunteer with Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid (PUMA) Sebastian Hernández, and closing remarks from local housing advocates Dorien Davies and Kenny Stevenson—who all gave their heartfelt endorsement for the candidate.

To learn more and support Nancy Barba's campaign, please visit <https://www.nancybarba.com/>.

This story is from [Westside Voice](#).



**"I am a founder of Culver City for More Homes, a grassroots group of Culver City residents and stakeholders devoted to making housing more plentiful, affordable and equitable for everyone," Barba told her supporters. "As a City Planning Commissioner, I have worked to respond to the homelessness crisis by creating more opportunities for housing, addressing homelessness, and delivering much needed results"**