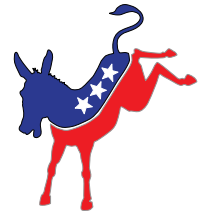


# Active Democrat



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

Email: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) • Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/culvercitydems](http://www.facebook.com/culvercitydems)

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

## General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2025

### Program: Women in Climate/Environmental Justice

#### President's Message

## Resistance

Dear Members, Friends, and Curious Readers,

What does resistance mean to you? For me, resistance means going beyond the zone of comfort for what is right. No longer accepting the bare minimum when I know I work hard and deserve so much more. It means seeing how I am connected to a greater community and the realization of how powerful we

can be when we stand together instead of apart. Resistance is also fighting for the future, setting a standard for those coming after us.

Resistance will transform you from someone who stayed on the sidelines, not wanting to create waves or challenge injustice to someone who grabs a megaphone and leads a strike line. From February 26-28, myself along with thousands of union members in UPTE-CWA 9119 and AFSCME 3299 at UC campuses across California were on strike due to the unfair labor practices committed by

UC. I never thought I would end up as a leader in my union but I cannot stand on the sidelines while our rights are violated and slowly eroded away. I had to overcome the fear, uncertainty and doubt and stand up. I stood up and others stood up with me. Resistance is contagious.

Change is possible and a better future awaits us, but we cannot stay silent. Create those waves, rock the boat, the power of the People cannot be silenced.

See you (on Zoom) at our next meeting on March 12.

~ Jeanna Harris, President



# Tell Congress: Save us from the SAVE Act

by *Cynthia Hart*

The Republican Party figured out a long time ago that their platform is not in the best interests of the majority of voters, and so they have striven for decades to develop creative barriers to voting. Now, while they have Congressional majorities, they are fast-tracking the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act ([HR22 and S128](#)).

Under the SAVE Act, a citizen must go **in person** to register or re-register to vote and present a type of identification that millions of voters do not have readily available. Currently, most people register or re-register by mail or online or at the DMV. Under SAVE, a simple address change becomes a day off work to go in person to the election office, and voter registration drives become a thing of the past.

If you think you have the necessary identification to present because you have a REAL ID driver's license, guess again.

The REAL ID does not specify your citizenship, does it? (Take it out of your wallet and look at it.)

But wait! There's more. Just in time for Women's History Month, here comes the SAVE Act, targeting the more than 80 percent of married women who change their names. Good luck trying to prove your eligibility to vote using your birth certificate if it does not reflect your current legal name. [As Thom Hartmann put it](#), "Republicans don't want women to vote."

A valid passport will serve the purpose, but consider this statistic—according to the Center for American Progress, 153 million Americans voted in the 2024 Presidential Election, and 146 million Americans don't possess a valid passport. Looks like voter suppression to me.

The Brennan Center for Justice urges us all to [call our Congressional representatives](#) with this simple message: "As your constituent, I urge you to vote NO

against the SAVE Act. This bill could block 21 million Americans from being able to vote. Requiring Americans to produce their birth certificate or passport adds unnecessary bureaucracy to the process. Many Americans don't have these documents readily available. It must be rejected."

## Congressional phone numbers:

Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (323)965-1422

Representative Ted Lieu (323) 651-1040

Senator Alex Padilla (916) 448-2787

Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224-3841

## For more about the SAVE Act, go to:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-save-act-overview-and-facts/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/22/related-bills>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/128>

## March 2025 report of the Culver City Democratic Club Legislative Committee

Here are some of the bills our legislative committee will bring to the Executive Board and then the membership this month. We hope you will all be excited to vote to endorse these important bills. Links are included for those who want a deeper dive into the details of these bills.

### Criminal Justice Reform/Reparations

**AB 7** (Bryan) Postsecondary education: admissions preference: descendants of slavery—would authorize priority admissions for descendants of American chattel slavery to higher education institutions.

**ACA 6** (Wilson) Ending slavery in California—would create a ballot measure to abolish slavery in any form. Currently, the California Constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for a crime. AB 7 and ACA 6 are both part of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) Road to Repair 2025 [bill package](#). Here is the [Los Angeles Times](#) coverage of the CLBC bill package. CLBC's press release includes this quote from Vice Chair Isaac Bryan:

"This year, as we do every year, we will fight to repair the harms of the past and create new ladders of opportunity for Black Californians... The President of the United States has spent his first month in office fighting to erase, disempower, and defund federal efforts to improve the conditions of life for Black people. Here in California, we are prepared and willing to stand up and fight back..."

### Environment/Utilities & Energy

**SB 684** (Menjivar) and AB 1243 (Ad-dis) The Polluters Pay Superfund Act of 2025. Requires fossil fuel polluters to offset the costs pushed down on the taxpayer for the damage caused and enhanced by their products. [Press release](#).

### Housing/Renters Rights

**AB 246** (Bryan) State of emergency: residential rent increases: County of Los Angeles: price gouging: enforcement by district attorney. This would put into place a 1-year ban on increase in excess

of the rental on January 7, 2025. The bill limits fines to \$10,000 and under. See a report on rent gouging after the Eaton and Palisades wildfires [here](#).

**AB 11** (Lee) Social Housing—will establish a state authority with the goal of developing social housing to tackle California's chronic housing shortage. [Press release](#).

**AB 590** The Social Housing Bond—will place a bond measure on the November 2026 ballot to provide \$950 million in funding dedicated to creating social housing in California. [Press release](#).

### Elections/Democracy

**SB 42** (Umberg, Allen, Lee) Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing: California Fair Elections Act of 2026—will place the California Fair Elections Act on the November 2026 ballot to allow public funding of campaigns in any city, county, district, and the state.

**See LEGISLATIVE on page 3**

**From LEGISLATIVE on page 2**

SB 42 requires:

- Publicly-funded candidates abide by expenditure limits.
- That candidates meet strict criteria to qualify (such as requiring candidates receive small dollar contributions or vouchers from a specified number of adult residents).

SB 42 prohibits:

- The use of public funds to pay for legal defense or fines.
- Use of public funds or private donations to repay personal loans after the campaign ends.
- Public funding from discriminating based on party or against challengers in favor of incumbents.
- And SB 42 bans public campaign funds from coming from money earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety.

**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 percent 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.

**COME TO PERSHING SQUARE!**  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
**PROTEST & RALLY**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH**  
**10AM - LOS ANGELES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 Our Club website: [www.culvercitydemocraticclub.co](http://www.culvercitydemocraticclub.co)

**Women's History Month**  
 JOIN or RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025  
<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/ccdcmembership>

**March 3 - 4 PM**  
[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**March 4 - 7 PM**  
[CCUSD School Board Special Meeting](#)

CCUSD School Board Special Meeting To consider staff reductions  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwWd-m2o1Fw>

**March 4 & 5 - 4 PM**  
[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**March 8 - 10 AM**  
**AT PERSHING SQUARE!**  
[International Women's Day Protest & Rally](#)

**March 10 & 17**  
[Culver City Council Regular Meetings](#)

**March 11**  
[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

**March 12 - 7 PM**  
 CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom 

**March 22 - 11 AM-12 Noon and 2-3 PM**  
 "We Can Do It"  
 Musical commemoration of women's history month at Julian Dixon Library

**March 29**  
[Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day](#)

**March 31**  
 Cesar Chavez Day

**March 31**  
[Trans Day of Visibility](#)

# If This Were Trump's Playbook, Democrats Would Be Screaming

by *Jasmyne Cannick*

Power grabs don't always happen in grand, theatrical takeovers. Sometimes, they come disguised as simple bureaucratic tweaks—like [lowering the threshold](#) to change bylaws in the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) from two-thirds majority consent to 60 percent to quell “the obstructionists.”

## OPINION

If the largest local Democratic Party entity in the U.S. can rewrite the rules to silence dissent, what's stopping every other Democratic organization from doing the same? If Democrats in LA are willing to borrow from Trump's playbook—changing the rules, consolidating power, and steamrolling opposition—then let's not pretend this won't spread. Best believe others are watching, and if they can get away with it here, they'll try it everywhere.

### Why It Matters

Let's be clear: “Obstructionists” is just a convenient label for people who refuse to rubber-stamp leadership's agenda. More and more delegates are showing up informed, asking real questions, reading the fine print, and—heaven forbid—pushing back when things don't sit right. Instead of engaging, instead of organizing, instead of actually making the case for their ideas, leadership wants to change the rules so they don't have to.

This isn't just about efficiency. It's about control. And if they get away with it here, expect to see this playbook used across the state, and eventually, across the country. The fight for democracy doesn't just happen at the ballot box in November—it starts in rooms like these, in party meetings where the rules of engagement are being rewritten in real-time.

If the status quo worked so well for Democrats, we wouldn't be staring down another four years of Trump in the White House. Clinging to outdated strategies and leadership has cost us dearly. It's time to face the music: doing the same old thing isn't cutting it.



If we want different results in 2026, it starts right here. This is the battleground. This is where the fight for the future of the Democratic Party is happening. And if folks don't start paying attention, they'll wake up to a Party where their voices—and their votes—matter even less than they do now.

### Democrats Can't Fight the White House's Power Grabs While Copying Them

In a functioning democracy, disagreement is not obstruction. It's discourse. It's debate. It's the foundation of representative decision-making. But instead of doing the hard work of organizing, persuading, and building consensus, it feels like some in the Democratic Party want to change the rules so they don't have to.

If this sounds familiar, it should. It's the same strategy we're seeing at the highest levels of government. Rules and norms are treated as inconvenient obstacles to unchecked power. When persuasion fails, the solution isn't better arguments—it's rigging the game.

The California Democratic Party (CDP) bylaws require a two-thirds threshold for amending the bylaws as do the Ventura County Democrats, the Riverside County Democrats, the Orange County Democrats, and the San Diego County Democrats. Most labor unions also require a two-thirds vote of members to change their rules.

We don't need weaker rules for democracy—we need stronger organizing, better arguments, and a leadership willing to

do the work of winning people over. Democracy was never meant to be easy, convenient, or a guarantee that the people in charge get their way every time. It requires debate, persuasion, and sometimes even the discomfort of compromise.

What we should not be doing is moving the goalposts after the game has already started just because leadership doesn't like who's playing. Changing the rules midstream to silence those who dare to question, challenge, or push for something different isn't about efficiency—it's about control. If leadership truly believes in their vision, they should be able to defend it on its merits, not rewrite the process to force it through. Because once we start making democracy more “manageable” by cutting out dissent, what we're left with isn't democracy at all—it's just power protecting itself.

When Democrats start adopting the same playbook as President Trump—silencing dissent, changing rules to quash debate—how are we any different? It's hypocritical to condemn such tactics in the White House while employing them within our own party. If we truly stand for democratic values, we must practice what we preach, even when it's inconvenient.

We can't claim to be the party of democracy while strong-arming internal rule changes to silence voices that don't fall in line with the status quo.

If the Democratic Party truly believes in free speech, transparency, and accountability, that commitment has to start within our own ranks. Otherwise, it's just hypocrisy wrapped in blue branding. We can't fight authoritarianism with more authoritarianism. If Democrats don't stop rigging the rules to suppress internal dissent, we'll lose the moral high ground to call it out anywhere else and we'll see a repeat of 2024 in 2026 and 2028 years.

*[Jasmyne Cannick is a delegate in the LA County Democratic Party representing the 55th Assembly District.]*

# An opportunity for affordable housing may be lost



**The city's biggest affordable housing development would bring 93 affordable apartments to Culver City, but lack of funding from the city government may kill the project.**

by *Our Culver*

Jubilo Village is a 93-unit, 100 percent affordable housing development, ready to be built at 4464 Sepulveda Boulevard, on a major transit corridor, right next door to the Culver-Palms YMCA. The development is “shovel-ready,” with all necessary approvals, but it has a \$16 million funding gap.

**It's simple: Culver City needs Jubilo Village! [CLICK HERE to tell the City Council.](#)**

- It will be the first affordable housing built in Culver City in more than ten years.
- Nearly a quarter of Culver City's households are low income, and almost half spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing.
- All of Jubilo Village's units will be reserved for low income households. It will include 2 and 3 bedroom units for families.
- Between 2016 and 2020, Culver City employers added more than 10,000 jobs, while the number of housing units decreased, leaving us with a shortage of housing for working people.
- The state expects developers in Culver City to produce 1,712 units of low income housing. Developers have proposed a total of 4,194 units thus far—but only 406

are designated for low income households—and Jubilo Village represents 93 of those.

- Culver City has 38 units of interim supportive housing at Project Homekey on Sepulveda and 18 units of temporary shelter for families at Upward Bound House. The goal of both facilities is to assist people with obtaining permanent housing—but there is no available permanent housing for them in Culver City.
- It is important for Jubilo Village to break ground as soon as possible. Competition for construction resources to rebuild Pacific Palisades and Altadena will be fierce and will cause construction costs to rise.

**Nearly a quarter of Culver City's households are low income, and nearly half spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing.** Culver City had an estimated 3,885 low income households in 2020, that is, the household members' income before taxes was less than 80 percent of the median in LA County (\$90,000 for a family of 4)[1]. That is nearly one quarter of all households (23.5 percent). The majority of these households were “cost-burdened,” with 72.5 percent paying more than 30 percent of their total income for housing. Nearly half spent more than 50 percent of their income for housing.

California state law defines 30 percent of

household income as “affordable housing cost.” The average monthly rent for a 2-bedroom in Culver City in February 2025 is \$3,300, [according to Zillow](#). Using the 30 percent formula, household members would need to make at least \$132,000 to afford this rent.

**Why is the rent so high?** One reason is because building is expensive, especially in California. Landlords need to charge enough rent to cover the cost of land, new construction, building operations, and a return on their investment. Another reason is the acute shortage caused by decades of failure to build housing by communities

## OPINION

throughout the state. Between 2016 and 2020, Culver City added more than 10,000 jobs – while the number of housing units decreased. In the long term, the increased supply of housing being demanded by the state should act to moderate price increases. But in the meantime, market-rate housing is simply too expensive for many people. **The only way to create affordable housing now is to find funders willing to subsidize it.**

### Jubilo Village: A 100 percent affordable housing development in Culver City

It is difficult for a private developer to find property for multi-family housing in Culver City, where most land is zoned for single family housing. The congregation of Culver-Palms United Methodist Church (CPUMC) realized they could do something about this; they could use part of their church property at 4464 Sepulveda Boulevard, which includes a large, underused parking lot, next door to the Culver-Palms Family YMCA. Since 2019, they have been working with the non-profit developer [Community Corporation of Santa Monica](#) on a 100 percent affordable housing development. CPUMC plans to lease a portion of its land to Community Corp. to build and operate Jubilo Village. This was a major decision, as it will require the congregation to demolish their existing church and build a new facility

**See HOUSING on page 6**

## From HOUSING on page 5

for worship, as well as their community hall, classrooms, and offices.

The development is designed to include 93 apartments with community and garden space in a six story building. While most affordable housing developments built recently are limited to studio and one-bedroom apartments, Jubilo Village will include 25 three-bedroom and 25 two-bedroom units, so families will be able to live there. (Two of these will be for housing managers.) The remaining 45 units will have one bedroom each. Half of the units would be reserved for people experiencing homelessness, such as the families served by [Upward Bound House](#), a non-profit that provides housing and related services for homeless families in Culver City, Santa Monica, Compton, and South LA. They would provide supportive services at Jubilo Village.

Community Corp. has more than four decades of experience in building and managing affordable housing. The entire project is estimated to cost \$78.6 million – although the recent fires and President Trump's tariffs, if they take effect, will probably increase these costs.

### Culver City needs Jubilo Village

We currently have 37 units of interim supportive housing in Project Homekey on Sepulveda Blvd and 18 units of transitional shelter for families at Upward Bound House – but there is no permanent affordable housing in Culver City for these people to move to once they have gotten some stability in their lives. The Homekey permanent supportive housing is 100 percent occupied.

Today, when families reach the end of their stay at Upward Bound House, children have to leave their schools and friends, and their parents need to move far away from their jobs to find permanent housing. Being able to help these families was the original impetus behind Jubilo Village.

In addition, nearly all of the other affordable housing in Culver City is restricted to seniors. There is one exception. **Did you know Tilden Terrace, home to MillCross Coffee Bar & Kitchen, is a 100 percent affordable housing project?** Tilden Terrace, which opened in 2013, was the first affordable housing built in the city since Culver City Senior

Housing (5166 Sepulveda Blvd) was constructed in 1992.

Jubilo Village could be the next affordable housing project, **if it is able to fill a \$16 million funding gap after 6 years of planning and seeking funding.**

The Jubilo Village project is completely designed and shovel-ready, with all required city approvals in hand. However, finding the money to build affordable housing is extremely complicated. It requires piecing together a patchwork of different funding sources, each with its own set of requirements.

Community Corp. has applied for multiple grants, some of them in partnership with the City of Culver City. The project has been at a disadvantage, because granting agencies generally prioritize projects in less wealthy communities. The vast majority of affordable housing construction today is financed using the Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) mechanism. These are granted by the state and federal government to private developers, who then sell them to private investors to obtain capital for housing construction. Application for these tax credits is very competitive. Community Corp. succeeded in winning \$3.1 million in annual federal tax credits for 10 years and \$16.7 million in total California state tax credits and authorization to use \$39.3 million in tax-exempt California bonds.

Another key component is the federal Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 program. Most people think of Section 8 as a tenant-based program in which a low-income person receives a Housing Choice Voucher (usually after years on a waiting list!) that pays the landlord the difference between what the tenant can afford and the allowable rent. However, HUD also permits local Public Housing Agencies to allocate vouchers to a specific housing project. Project Based Vouchers (PBV) are key to the success of 100 percent affordable developments, because they guarantee a revenue stream that enables the development to pay off its mortgage.

The state awarded the tax exempt bonds and tax credits based on the assumption that Jubilo Village would receive 93 Project Based Vouchers from the City of Culver City Housing Authority. **However, the Housing Authority learned that it is able to provide at most 50 vouchers.** The miss-

ing 43 vouchers represent approximately \$850,000 in annual income over 20 years, or a gap of \$16 million in current dollars. Without this capital, Community Corp. cannot close on its construction financing.

### What are the alternatives?

Community Corp. and Culver City officials appealed to the City and County of Los Angeles, but their vouchers are already committed. Members of City Council also reached out to U.S. Representative Kamlager-Dove, Senators Padilla and Schiff, and FEMA, as well as our state representatives.

In January 2025, Culver City and Community Corp. agreed to apply jointly for partial funding under Homekey+. This program is funded by Proposition 1, which “Authorizes \$6.38 Billion in Bonds to Build Mental Health Treatment Facilities for Those with Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges; Provides Housing for the Homeless,” approved by California voters in 2024. This funding source would require changing the nature of the project, allocating 43 units for people with mental health issues who are experiencing homelessness. Project staff consider this a back-up plan. It would also require either special waivers or finding another funding source for half of the project. In other words, even if the city and Community Corp. were to be awarded a Homekey+ grant, the overall development might not be feasible.

**The only viable option for Jubilo Village to move ahead and break ground is for the City of Culver City to fill the funding gap.**

### Why should Culver City do this?

Culver City has never prioritized production of affordable housing. Culver City was supposed to develop 77 units of low income affordable housing between 2013 and 2021[2]. Only 23 total rental units were produced, 20 (out of 32) at Tilden Terrace and 3 (out of 15) at Culver Villas on Irving Place. Habitat for Humanity included four houses (out of 10) for purchase by low income families on Globe Ave. Tilden Terrace was the first affordable housing project in Culver City in more than 10 years. Previously, the city built only 21 units of affordable housing between 2000 and 2011, all of them in the Grandview Palms Assisted Living Facility for seniors with disabilities (now called Ivy Park).

**See HOUSING on page 7**

**From HOUSING on page 6**

In total, Culver City had only 310 units of affordable housing before the opening of Project Homekey with its 34 permanent supportive and 37 transitional units.

The current Regional Housing Needs Assessment calls for Culver City to provide 1,712 units at extremely, very low, and low income levels by 2029. There is a lot of proposed development, especially in Fox Hills, but the city’s [project list](#) includes only 406 units at these levels—**less than one quarter of the requirement**—and that’s assuming Jubilo Village obtains the financing needed to break ground. It won’t get that funding unless the city acts.

Affordable housing is an intersectional issue. It gives more people the opportunity to live and raise their families in a safe, culturally rich community with access to all the resources Culver City offers. It enables our community to remain diverse in terms of both ethnicity and socioeconomic status, which in turn teaches our children about different cultures and helps develop their skills as members of an increasingly diverse society. It enables people to live closer to their jobs, reducing vehicle miles traveled and thus carbon emissions.

**Culver City has a moral obligation to increase its supply of affordable housing**

The California Redevelopment Agencies (RDAs) created in 1945 were supposed to help city governments address “urban blight,” increase affordable housing, and spur economic revitalization. Because cit-

ies throughout the state were not building affordable housing, the state legislature in 1976 required RDAs to set aside 20 percent of their incremental property tax revenues for that purpose. While Culver City was not alone in consistently prioritizing commercial development over housing, it was notable for how little affordable housing it produced. **The city was singled out as one that spent Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund money on administration while creating little to no housing.**

An [investigation by the LA Times](#) found that between fiscal year 2001 and fiscal year 2008, the Culver City RDA spent \$9.2 million of housing funds on planning & administration, \$4.3 million on land acquisition, \$3.9 million on debt payments, \$3.6 million on housing rehabilitation, and \$5.7 million on rental subsidies—and built 0 units of affordable housing. (During this same period, Santa Monica built 508 affordable units.)

Furthermore, [“In May 2010, when all California redevelopment agencies were required to make payments to help balance the state budget, the Culver City Redevelopment Agency used \\$11 million from the low- and moderate-income housing fund to fulfill its entire obligation.”](#) Those funds would be worth more than [\\$20 million](#) in 2025 dollars. The California legislature dissolved the RDAs in 2012.

The RDAs were used as a mechanism for cities to issue debt without voter approval. Although the City of Culver City itself has no long term debt, as of the end of FY 2023, the Successor Agency to the RDA still had \$42.5 million in Tax Allocation

bonds outstanding. In FY 2024 and FY 2025, the debt service (principal plus interest) on these bonds is close to \$12 million per year.

During the RDA years, Culver City used tax increment financing to spur commercial development worth hundreds of millions of dollars, leading to thousands of new jobs. But the city shirked its responsibility to comply with state law that required 20 percent of tax increment revenues to be spent on affordable housing. Unlike Santa Monica and West Hollywood, the city didn’t set aside funds in an Affordable Housing Trust or retain any property that could be used for affordable housing. **From this perspective, gaining 93 units of low income housing for \$16 million is a bargain. Culver City needs and deserves Jubilo Village.**

1. [Culver City Housing Element](#), October 2021-2029, General Plan 2045. Table 21, p. 25.
2. Culver City Housing Element, October 2021-2029, General Plan, 2045, [Appendix A](#). The remaining units at Tilden Terrace are for moderate income households.

**Di’s Corner:**  
 by *Diane Rosenberg*  
 At our General Meeting February 12 was the swearing in for the 2025 Executive Board. The installing officer was the Culver City Unified School District President Triston Ezidore. We thank him.



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

**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.**

# Let America Be America Again

Let America be America again.  
Let it be the dream it used to be.  
Let it be the pioneer on the plain  
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—  
Let it be that great strong land of love  
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme  
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty  
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,  
But opportunity is real, and life is free,  
Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,  
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

*Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?  
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?*

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,  
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.  
I am the red man driven from the land,  
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—  
And finding only the same old stupid plan  
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,  
Tangled in that ancient endless chain  
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!  
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!  
Of work the men! Of take the pay!  
Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.  
I am the worker sold to the machine.  
I am the Negro, servant to you all.  
I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—  
Hungry yet today despite the dream.  
Beaten yet today—O, Pioneers!  
I am the man who never got ahead,  
The poorest worker bartered through the years.

Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream  
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,  
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,  
That even yet its mighty daring sings  
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned

That's made America the land it has become.  
O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas  
In search of what I meant to be my home—  
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,  
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,  
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came  
To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

Who said the free? Not me?  
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?  
The millions shot down when we strike?  
The millions who have nothing for our pay?  
For all the dreams we've dreamed  
And all the songs we've sung  
And all the hopes we've held  
And all the flags we've hung,  
The millions who have nothing for our pay—  
Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again—  
The land that never has been yet—  
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.  
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's,  
ME—  
Who made America,  
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,  
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,  
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—  
The steel of freedom does not stain.  
From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,  
We must take back our land again,  
America!

O, yes,  
I say it plain,  
America never was America to me,  
And yet I swear this oath—  
America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,  
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,  
We, the people, must redeem  
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.  
The mountains and the endless plain—  
All, all the stretch of these great green states—  
And make America again!