

November 2025

# Culver City Democratic Club

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/culvercitydems)

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

**General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

**Program: Endorsement votes for State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas and Assemblyman Isaac Bryan**

*President's Message by Jeanna Harris*

## Turning 7 million protesters into 14 million votes

Dear members, friends, and allies,

On October 18th an estimated 7 MILLION people nationwide participated in the No Kings protests. I'm sure many of you were there. Now we need to push beyond the protest and exchange the protest signs for ballots in the ballot box. Imagine if 7 million protesters marched right to the ballot box in 2026. Imagine if those 7 million protesters brought just one friend, because what's a protest without a buddy? Now we've turned 7 million votes to 14 million. Sounds easy right? Not exactly.

While 7 million people agree that we are at risk of completely losing our democracy to this authoritarian legion of doom in Washington, it seems that we are at an ideological crossroads on how we fix it. This is where the difficult conversations come in. We have to learn how to navigate heated conversations without storming away and find the common bridges that connect us as one nation. I know it sounds impossible in the hyper polarized state we currently find ourselves in, but maybe it's the solution we need to try. We also need accountable leaders who can inspire and motivate voters to polls. With open minds and open hearts turning 7 million protestors into 14 million votes is not only possible but it's achievable by the midterm elections.

Another reason why No Kings protests have been so successful is that people are craving community with each other. The pandemic has still left us craving socialization even though we have ended the social distancing, we remain mentally and

emotionally distant. We crave connection. This is why we hosted a luncheon fundraiser with emphasis on sitting and sharing a meal together. No carefully curated program just members and friends sharing a delicious meal cooked by our very own 2nd VP, Sameen Ahmadnia. Thank you to those who joined us for this amazing event. If you couldn't make this one, keep your eyes on our announcements for another social event in November and save the date for our Village Well fundraiser weekend December 13 and 14, which will feature a special book talk event at Village Well on December 13. Details coming soon!

As always, thanks for reading! Now go forth and build those bridges. Also, make sure to turn in your ballot or cast your vote at a vote center for Prop.50 by November 4th. Grassroots Dem HQ is having a big GOTV weekend with special guests including Rep. Jasmine Crockett. [Sign up HERE!](#)

I hope to see you at our November meeting on November 12th where we will be also discussing endorsements for Assembly and State Senate.

In Solidarity for a Better Future,  
Jeanna, President

**Yes On Proposition 50**  
**GOTV Canvass In West LA**  
**November 2:**  
**Rep. Jasmine Crockett**  
**West Los Angeles**

**[Click Here For More Information](#)**

# FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF FATIMA IQBAL-ZUBAIR FOR ASSEMBLY



**with Special Guest Assemblymember Sade Elhawary**

*Co-Hosts: Leah Pressman, Kelly Kent, Meghan Sahli-Wells, Haifaa Moammar, Fawaz Istwani*

**Saturday, November 8th 6:30–8:30 PM**

Join us at **Jackson Market in Culver City** in support of Fatima's campaign for Assembly! Light dinner will be provided!

**RSVP: [secure.actblue.com/donate/jacksonmarket](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/jacksonmarket)**

**\$50**

SUPPORTER

**\$100**

FRIEND

**\$250**

PROGRESSIVE

**\$500**

TRAILBLAZER

**\$1000**

CHAMPION

**\$2026**

ALLY

**\$5900**

ADVOCATE

Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. The CA Political Reform Act (Prop 34) limits contributions to candidates for State Assembly. An individual, union, political action committee, association, committee, partnership, business or corporation may contribute a maximum of \$5900 to Fatima Iqbal-Zubair for Assembly 2026 per election. A Small Contributor Committee may contribute a maximum of \$11,800 per election. Lobbyists registered to lobby the CA State Legislature may not contribute.

Paid for by Fatima Iqbal-Zubair for Assembly 2026 FFPC ID# 1476940



# Fun fundraiser harvest celebration



Food is a beautiful way to build community.



Democratic Club member Lisette Palley repping Yes on 50.



Harvest celebration table.



# Di's Corner:

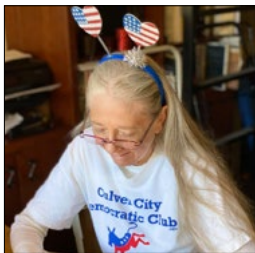
by *Diane Rosenberg*

Today — Sunday October 26 — the Club held a fundraiser luncheon. Called "Harvest Celebration," It was held at the residence of our 2nd Vice President, Sameen Ahmadnia from noon to 3 pm.

Attending were: Club President Jean-na Harris, 1st Vice President Kelly Kent and her husband Hector Marin; Treasurer Cynthia Hart and her husband, Newsletter Editor and former Club President Pete Rockwell; Recording Secretary Shannon Theus, Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg, Former Club President Jeff Schwartz and his wife, Political/Legislative Committee Chair Leah Pressman; School Board President Triston Ezidore; School Board Member Brian Guerrero; former Culver City Mayor Gary Silbiger and his wife, former School Board Member Barbara Honig; Former Culver City Mayor Alex Fisch; Former Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells and her husband Karim Sahli; and Culver City Councilmember Bubba Fish.

The Club would like to thank Sameen for hosting the party at her house and cooking the great persian food.

## New CCDC t-shirts are here!



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 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.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Follow us on Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/culvercitydemclub.bsky.social>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/culvercitydemclub/>

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



### 2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS BEGIN NOVEMBER 12, 2025

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/ccdcmembership>

#### November 4—Election Day

Mailed-in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 4  
MAIL EARLY! Post Office does NOT guarantee same day postmarks.

#### November 10 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Regular Meeting](#)

#### November 18

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)



#### November 12 • 7 PM

CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom  
Be there right at 7pm to hear our district's  
Assembly Member Isaac Bryan and  
State Senator Lola Smallwoor-Cuevas



#### November 20

Trans Day of Remembrance

#### Save the Date

#### December 13

Chris Spitale Author of "How to Win the War on Truth"  
At the Village Well

#### December 13 and 14

Club Fundraiser at the Village Well

Mention the Culver City Democratic Club and the Club will receive 20% of the price of what you buy (except for special orders) on December 13 and 14.  
"Do your holiday shopping at the Well!"

### JOIN or RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/ccdcmembership>

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

Fourteen of the bills the Club took a position on this year passed both houses of the legislature and were sent to the Governor's desk. Of the bills that made it to Newsom's desk, nine were signed into law and five were vetoed.

We were excited to see Newsom sign a bill that will protect tenants from eviction if social security benefits are delayed (AB 246, Bryan), a bill to put campaign finance reform on the 2026 ballot (SB 42, Umberg, Allen, and Lee), a bill to allow multi-family housing near transit (SB 79, Weiner), a bill to speed up the housing permitting approval process (AB 253, Ward), a bill to protect the privacy of those seeking gender affirming care (AB 497, Weiner), and a pair of bills to require law enforcement to identify themselves when holding operations in California (SB 805, Perez and SB 627, Weiner).

It was disappointing to see that two of the most important environmental bills the Club endorsed this year did not make it to Newsom's desk and will return next year. [SB 684](#) (Menjivar) and [AB 1243](#) (Addis) were both called The Polluters Pay Superfund Act of 2025. These bills would have required fossil fuel polluters to pay for some of the damage to our health and our environment they have caused.

More extensive write-ups of these bills were in previous legislative reports that appeared in our newsletter.

### Legislative report

Click on this [link](#) to learn about some of the bills that our Club took a position on and Governor Newsom signed or vetoed.

## FROM RURAL TOWNS TO CITY BLOCKS: MORE THAN 7 MILLION ATTENDED OVERWHELMINGLY PEACEFUL NO KINGS DAY OF ACTION

[click here to learn](#)

## What's Next?

VOTERS HAVE  
THE POWER  
TO CHOOSE  
CALIFORNIA'S MAPS  
THIS NOVEMBER 4TH!

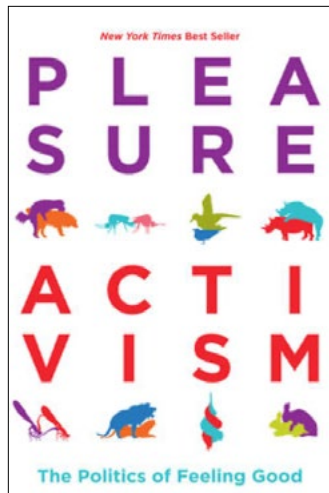


STOPELECTIONRIGGING.COM

# Your activism brain is like a muscle that gets stronger with practice

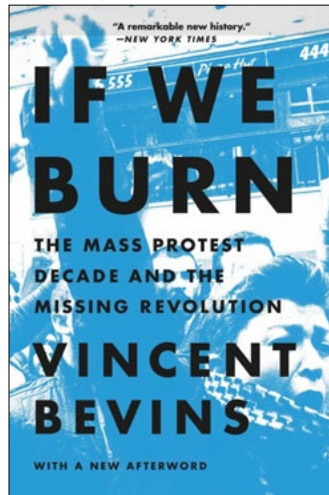
by Kelly Kent

Each day poses yet another challenge to the spirit, and many of us are in a near constant pursuit of understanding what our role is in fighting for a different and better day to wake up to tomorrow. Despite a whole load of years of history with activism and fewer, but still a fair number, of years of history with capital P politics, I have not found complete clarity on this question in our uniquely terrifying times. But always, resistance is an option, and I continue to choose it. One way I'm resisting is by reading books and co-hosting book clubs about activism as a pursuit, a discipline, an ethos.



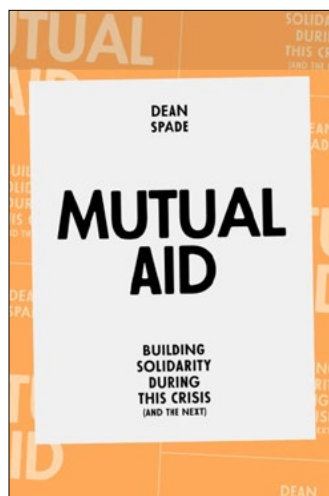
Our beloved Village Well Bookshop has been the home and cultural center for these book clubs. In fact, the idea was raised by Jen Caspar, the owner of Village Well, at an author talk back in April, featuring Alec Karakatsanis and Bianca Tylek that many Dem Club members attended. She asked for folks who might be interested in facilitating or joining, and boom, I was in!

We have just finished our third book, [If We Burn: the Mass Protest Decade and the Missing Revolution](#), by Vincent Bevins. We discussed horizontalism in organizing, social media as a tool, co-option of movement messaging and the purpose of protest; and connected all of that to each attendee's current politically oriented media recommendation, including incredible movies, podcasts, books, musical artists and shows streaming right now.



We have also read [Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis \(and The Next\)](#), by Dean Spade, and [Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good](#), by [Adrianne Maree Brown](#). Each of these three books is so different from the other. It has been an intellectually wild ride already. I invite every Dem Club member and friend to come to our next one taking place on November 11th. We are reading [State of Resistance: What California's Dizzying Descent and Remarkable Resurgence Mean for America's Future](#), by USC's very own Manuel Pastor! Some of you have seen him speak with me at both La Ballona Elementary and Culver City's hosted Speaker Series back in 2018. He will also join us in person for a Q and A about the book and his work at our January meeting.

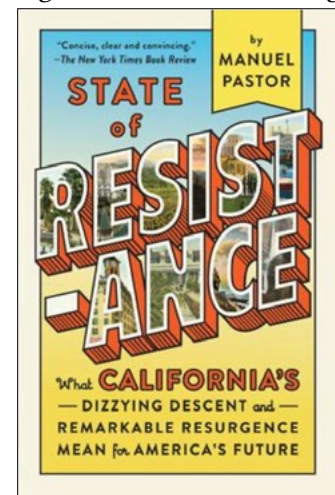
The Book Club co-hosts, there are four of us in addition to Jen, put together an incredible list of titles on activism that



might come in super handy for the holiday season. In December, The Dem Club and The Village Well are partnering again for a fundraiser for The Club where 20% of your purchases on the weekend of the 12th will go toward The Club if you mention us at checkout.

[The Activism Book Club's](#) first subtopic within the general activism umbrella is homelessness, so join us on every second Tuesday of the month for December through March to engage with fascinating people on that series!

While answers may or may not be revealed in the reading or discussing, the capacity building is happening. Thinking about resistance through activism is



a necessary, strategic and muscle-building part of doing the actions that lead to change. If the people are going to be ready to take back their power, strengthening our know-how is just as important as training with long runs is for a marathon.

**December 13**

**Chris Spitale**

Author of "How to Win the War on Truth" At the Village Well

**December 13 and 14**

Club Fundraiser at the Village Well  
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# Endorsement votes begin for November 2026

by *Cynthia Hart*

At our November 12 meeting the membership will be asked to consider endorsement of our Sacramento happy warriors—Assembly Member Isaac Bryan and State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas—for re-election a year from now. Zoom in early to our November meeting to hear from them!

Why so early? Early endorsements are the most valuable, and **as Vice Mayor Freddy Puza said recently, “California is a target. We need strong leadership.”**

**Why Council Member Bubba Fish supports Bryan and Smallwood-Cuevas for re-election:**

“Senator Smallwood-Cuevas has been a champion for working people and an invaluable voice for criminal justice reform, workers’ rights, environmental justice, universal healthcare and childcare, investing in public transit, and so much more. We are behind you, Senator! Thank you for fighting for all of us.

“In this time of deep uncertainty, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan has stepped up. He continues to be an indispensable voice for progressive values, championing bold policies that protect our communities, expand opportunity, and keep California moving forward. Let’s re-elect him to continue doing the hard work for our communities in Sacramento”

**Why Club Member Michelle Weiner supports their re-election bids:**

“In a word, its trust that Isaac Bryan and Lola Smallwood-Cuevas vote their values....trust in this alignment informs my recommendation. Smallwood-Cuevas and Bryan have cast votes to support our undocumented neighbors, to increase wages for incarcerated firefighters, and to establishing a bureau to advise on reparation for descendants of American Slavery. They both have a 100% rating from California Environmental Voters. Bryan and Smallwood-Cuevas have my gratitude, my backing and my vote.”

**Why I support this endorsement vote:**

As a member of the Club’s Legislation Committee, I have watched these two at work. I know I can count on them to always take thought for the most vulnerable members of our community, and to center working people. Whether the issue is [pay for incarcerated fire fighters](#), or allowing gig workers to organize, or child care funding, I can rely on them for values-driven leadership.

In the last legislative session Senator Smallwood-Cuevas proposed legislation (SB366) to erect guardrails to protect California workers in the coming brave-new-world of AI. It is expected that, in the next 8 years, AI will replace 40% of jobs. How will we protect our California standard of living then? SB366 did not survive to become law this session, but I believe that our Senator will not give up her relentless advocacy in this area.

See you in the Zoom room November 12!

## Book recommendation: “Revenge” by Michael Cohen

### Freedom’s just another word for nothing left to lose

by *Cynthia Hart*

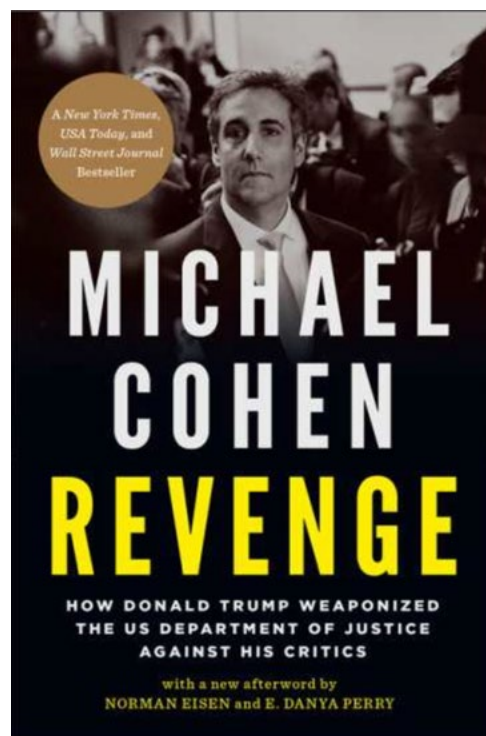
Did you know that Michael Cohen is a Democrat? He has always been a Democrat. So how did a nice Democrat like him end up working for Donald John Trump? There hangs a tale. And Michael Cohen tells it all in his book “*Revenge: How Donald Trump Weaponized the US Department of Justice Against his Critics*.” He has seen the system as a lawyer and as a victim. A weaponized DOJ coerced him into a guilty plea on a tax evasion charge arising from an accounting error. “How many accountants does it take to screw in a lightbulb?” Michael asks. By the way, he made full payment of all the tax he owed. Such things are almost never prosecuted.

Michael Cohen is uniquely positioned to know whereof he speaks when he says that the system has become “...an instrument of those who have power to wield against those us who have none.” This book offers both an outline of the problem and proposes solutions.

Often in Trump’s America I need some verbal comfort food, and then I turn to Michael’s wit and wisdom. He can re-

count even the darkest days of his life but end the story with a dash of wit. Michael rants like a man with nothing left to lose, but he never loses his sense of humor.

I highly recommend Michael Cohen’s



live videos on substacks “Unleashed” and “Raw and Unfiltered,” where he rants with friends, including Malcolm Nance, Lev Parnuss, Don Lemon, and others. Their aim is to build community and share insight, courage, strength, and (dare I say it?) hope.

Call for  
BOOK  
REVIEWS

to print in the newsletter. Email the Club at:  
[CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

by the 25th of November

Shop at the Village Well

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**Chris Spitale**

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