

# 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, December 10, 2025**

**Program: Candidates for endorsement for Congressional District 37**

*President's Message by Jeanna Harris*

## A brief time to reflect but a reminder of what's next

Dear Members, Friends, and Allies,

2025 has sped by us in a blur of extremes. The year began with devastating fires that have permanently altered the lives of our loved ones, neighbors and friends. We have seen what it is like to have our own military used against us and it seems that our constitutional rights are becoming a distant memory. One cannot help but feel helpless and hopeless in times like these and the holidays tend to make those feelings feel even heavier. But I want to remind each of you reading this that we came together like never before during this year. We rallied to provide aid for fire victims, we organized marches to let the world know America is not bowing to a king, we created rapid response networks to protect our immigrant neighbors, most importantly, WE CAME TOGETHER! As long as we continue to do that HOPE is NOT LOST and HELP will ALWAYS be there.

Now that 2026 is knocking at our front door, we know that means midterm elections are coming. Endorsements are already rolling out even though the primary is still six months away. We will continue to have candidates come to talk to our members throughout this election season, including our December meeting where we will hear from the candidates in the race for CD 37, currently held by Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

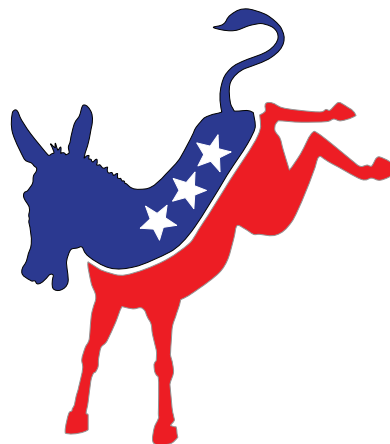
We want the Culver City Democratic Club to continue to be a beacon for progressives, especially as it gets harder and harder to separate real champions for the people from clever campaign slogans.

This is why it is becoming more important to learn to distinguish fact from misinformation. We will be holding a book talk to highlight our Village Well fundraiser weekend December 13th & 14th. The Club will receive a portion of sales, including at the café and gift cards, if you mention Culver City Democratic Club at checkout. We will be featuring Samuel C. Spitale, author of *How to Win the War on Truth: An Illustrated Guide to How Mis-truths Are Sold, Why They Stick, and How to Reclaim Reality*. His book provides insight on how propaganda is used and provides you with tools to help you debunk the

exponentially growing misinformation we are being exposed to on a daily basis. We hope you will join us on December 13 at 6:30 p.m. for this illuminating discussion. Please [RSVP HERE!](#)

Lastly, I encourage all of you to take some time to decompress, relax, and recharge. Leave the screens and touch something green (sand is also acceptable if you prefer the beach).

In Solidarity for a Better Future,  
Jeanna, President



**Renew Club Membership  
for 2026 to be eligible to  
vote in Club endorsement  
votes and the election of  
Club officers**

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO RENEW\*\*](#)



**Our December General Meeting is sponsored in memory of our Club member Conor Profit: beloved community advocate for social justice and safe streets.**

[Link to Culver City Crossroads](#)

# December 10 Endorsement Vote—PLAN TO ATTEND

We have invited the three Democrats running for Congress in CD37 to speak at our December 10 meeting. An endorsing vote will be taken during the meeting. **ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO ATTEND THE MEETING WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.**

The three candidates are listed below. Two have campaign websites. Ms. Mota does not have a website, but she has posted an Instagram video in which she introduces herself.


Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
<https://sydneykamlager.com/>

Todd Lombardo <https://www.todd-forcongress.us/>

Samantha Mota <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DLdDnPrv4lm/>

## A talk by Tad Daley


Dr. Tad Daley has been an active member of the Culver City Democratic Club for many years, and also serves as President of the Americans for Democratic Action Foundation of Southern California. On November 4, he gave a talk to the “Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods California,” which he called: “The United Nations at 80 (in 2025), and the United Nations at 100 (in 2045).” Tad discussed the wholesale inadequacy of the present United Nations for the great existential challenges facing humankind today and tomorrow. And he reported upon the imaginative initiatives taking place today to redesign, democratize, and empower the United Nations—MAYBE aiming for the 100th anniversary year of 2045 for such an epochal historical transformation. If, that is, humanity can hold on until then. The talk meant a great deal to Tad, since he was invited to deliver it by one of his own professors in his PhD program at the RAND School of Public Policy, Dr. Warren Walker. Please [give it a watch](#) and please share it widely!


Culver City  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
POP-UP

FUNDRAISER


AT Village Well

BOOKS & COFFEE



Dec. 13-14


Mention ‘Culver City  
Democratic Club’ at  
checkout & a portion of  
proceeds will be donated to  
the club!



## 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>



**December 1 & 8 City Council Meetings**  
 On December 8 the new Mayor and Vice Mayor are sworn in  
[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**December 9**  
[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

**December 10 • 7 PM**  
 CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom

**December 13 • 6:30 PM to 8 PM**  
[Chris Spitale](#) Author of “How to Win the War on Truth”  
 At the Village Well — [CLICK Here to RSVP](#)

**December 13-14**  
 Club Fundraiser at the Village Well  
 “Do your holiday shopping at the Well and mention the Club at checkout!”  
 Mention the Culver City Democratic Club when checking out December 13 and 14  
 and the Village Well Bookstore will donate 20 percent  
 of your purchase price to the Club.

**December 21**  
 National Homeless Persons Memorial Day [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



## West of Eden: An American Place by Jean Stein

*Book Review by Jeff Schwartz*

Do you like those Vanity Fair profiles of rich people where you can't quite tell if the author is attracted, appalled, or both? Do you want to read five of those back-to-back while also getting a fresh perspective on the history of Los Angeles in the 20th century? Then *West of Eden* is for you.

As the daughter of MCA co-founder Jules Stein and the mother of *Nation* editor Katrina vanden Heuvel, Jean Stein lived in the heart of America's business, political, and literary elites. Her first book was a biography of Robert F. Kennedy, her second, co-authored with George Plimpton, was *Edie: American Girl*, the popular oral history of tragic socialite Edie Sedgwick.

*West of Eden*, her third and last book, is a similar oral history of five Los Angeles families. Each chapter is on one family, subtitled with the addresses of their homes, and we are on familiar ground as she recounts the rise of the Dohenys and the Warners. These are canonical Los Angeles stories, made fresh through the gossipy intimacy of the format. Mental illness and art emerge as important recurring themes and come to the fore in chapter three: on schizophrenic rich girl Jane Garland, whose father and psychiatrist hired artist Ed Moses and curator Walter Hopps to be her companions between hospitalizations, and chapter four: on actress Jennifer Jones, who married David Selznick and Norton Simon and had her own intense psychological challenges.

The concluding chapter is on Stein's own family. It links all of the stories and contains a final bombshell: how Jules Stein, his MCA co-founder Lew Wasserman, and the Mafia created Ronald Reagan's political career. Jean Stein was entering her eighties when she wrote *West of Eden* and only lived a year after it was published. It feels like she wanted to spill all the tea while she still could. Recommended if you like gossip, art, Chinatown, real estate, show business, rich people behaving badly, etc.



Pictured at a recent fundraiser for State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas are: City Councilmember Bubba Fish, former Mayor and current City Councilmember Yasmine Imani McMorris, Vice Mayor Freddy Puza, former Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, former Club President Jeff Schwartz, Club President Jean-na Harris, Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, and Club members Leah Pressman, Disa Lindgren, Corresponding Secretary Haifaa Moammar, and Michelle Weiner

## Giving up is Unforgivable by Joyce Vance

**A Manual for Keeping Democracy**

*Book Review by Cynthia Hart*

"Find joy in the struggle" —Ysabel Jurado, LA City Council Member

Just in time for the holidays, Joyce Vance gives us the perfect stocking stuffer for the disheartened in 2025 with this manual for keeping democracy. In this slim volume of cheer, she makes a very convincing case that the only way we lose our democracy is to give up and let it go. "Hopelessness," she writes, "is where autocrats try to push you so that you'll stop opposing them."

Why fight to keep a democracy that has flaws? Because without it, we wouldn't have a way of fixing the flaws. And if vot-

ing didn't make a difference, the would-be autocrat wouldn't work so hard to make registering to vote and staying registered so difficult.

But to keep our democracy we need to understand how it works. For that, Vance walks the reader through a quickie refresher of eighth grade civics. I blush to admit that I never read the *Federalist Papers* or Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (it's only 47 pages! Who knew?) or Montesquieu (the separation of powers guy), but Vance provides inspiring excerpts.

She contends that the rule of law and our institutions are not broken, only bent. But what is this "rule of law"? We could do worse than think of it as the principle that no one is above the law. No Kings!

In the end, Joyce Vance gives us the bad news/good news that there is no cavalry coming. We are the cavalry. We are already here. We are all in this together. And, hey! It could be fun!

## Candidates endorsed so far

**Marissa Roy ..... Los Angeles City Attorney**

**Fatima Iqbal-Zubair ..... Assembly District 65**

**Isaac Bryan ..... Assembly District 55**

**Lola Smallwood-Cuevas .... State Senate District 28**

# Meeting greatness—a morning with Congresswoman Cori Bush

by Haifaa Al-Moammar

I remember the day watching Congresswoman Cori Bush on television after losing her seat in 2024, addressing her supporters with intensity, saying, "[All they did was radicalize me, so now they need to be afraid. They're about to see this other Cori, this other side. AIPAC, I'm coming to tear your kingdom down.](#)"

And when I was invited to a fundraiser for Cori Bush in Orange County, I went to meet her.



Cori Bush and Haifaa Moammar

## A community united

Most everyone there was an immigrant like me. There was a connection amongst us even if we'd never met before. The congresswoman arrived with three staffers. She beamed grace, confidence, kindness and beauty inside and out. She stood tall in the middle of the room, and started telling us her story—beginning with the killing of Michael Brown by a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer.

## From Ferguson to Congress

Bush's journey to Congress began on the streets of Ferguson during the 2014 protests, where she became a [prominent Black Lives Matter organizer](#). As a nurse and pastor, she put her body on the line for justice. She described the protests from memory:

"We stood in line facing a wall of police approaching us in their riot gear: with helmets, batons, and shields, they marched, and the ground rattled with the thud of their batons hitting the ground. At one point there was a young Black man, whistling a certain song, one police officer charged at him with his baton. I embraced him to shield him with my back to the officer." She felt the baton strike her back; the policeman was going for a second hit when a white 80-year-old woman caught the landing baton with her hand shouting, "Enough!" That stopped the police officer, who backed off, dropped his weapon, and walked away.

The protesters kept marching, facing

tear gas, beatings and rubber bullets. Meanwhile, a Palestinian delegation arrived, standing witness and registering their support to the Black Lives Matter movement. This deeply affected Cori.

## Breaking through

Then she decided to run for Congress against an incumbent who was the son of a congressman who held that seat for decades prior. During the campaign, AIPAC approached her multiple times with offers of support. She declined. They approached her again—she still declined. Finally, they asked her to not comment or say anything about Palestine and Israel and they would leave her alone. She still declined.

# OPINION

In 2020, [Bush made history as the first Black woman to represent Missouri in Congress](#), defeating a 10-term incumbent in the Democratic primary.

## January 6th and her first legislation

As she came to be sworn in on January 6th, the insurrection happened. She said she was well known to MAGA and her name was written to the side of her office. She immediately asked her staff to barricade themselves, moving heavy pieces of furniture to block the door.

After, as she and her staff hid behind a desk, she started to write her [first legislation](#). She turned to Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment—which bars individuals who support insurrection from holding office—and framed the resolution as a tool to investigate whether any Members had violated their constitutional oath. The urgency and shock of January 6th, combined with her commitment to movement-based accountability, motivated her to act quickly and introduce the resolution as her first major initiative in Congress.

## Standing for Gaza, standing Against AIPAC

She became one of the strongest voices besides Rashida Tlaib—who became a close friend and sister-in-Congress—calling for a [ceasefire during the 2023–2024 Gaza war](#). She introduced a resolu-

tion demanding an immediate halt to the violence and expanded humanitarian relief, and she was among the few lawmakers willing to describe Israel's actions as genocidal. Her outspoken support for Palestinian rights put her in conflict with major pro-Israel lobbying organizations—most notably AIPAC—which later poured resources into opposing her reelection bid.

["Being pro-Israel is good policy and good politics!" AIPAC predictably tweeted](#) after the results of the race were announced. However, as usual, AIPAC avoided mentioning Israel or Palestine in any of its ads. According to a May [poll from Data for Progress](#), 83 percent of Democrats support the U.S. calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza.

In the 2024 Democratic primary, [AIPAC poured an unprecedented \\$9 million into defeating her](#) by backing her opponent, Wesley Bell. Much of the advertising funded by AIPAC and allied PACs did not focus overtly on Israel but rather attacked Bush over non-related issues to sway public perception. Despite being massively outspent, she remained defiant.

## Unbreakable Resilience

She stated, "I have faced domestic violence where my spouse strangled me, I fled with my children and became homeless, I faced tear gas and rubber bullets—AIPAC will not stop me nor scare me."

She said she decided to take a break, to be with her family, to take care of her health and practice self-care. Now, [her children have seen enough of her](#), and they are ready to see her back to activism and campaigning to get back her hard-earned seat.

## A Hero among us

I want to thank her. She is a hero of mine and I am grateful I met her. My husband teared up telling me, "Today I met greatness." That says it all.

Cori Bush's story reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear—it's showing up anyway. To learn more about her campaign to return to Congress, visit her [campaign website](#) or follow her journey. Let's support leaders who refuse to be silenced.





# BIRTHDAY & RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICKOFF FOR *Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas*

**JANUARY 10, 2026 | 1PM-4PM**

**DULAN'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN  
202 E MANCHESTER BLVD  
INGLEWOOD, CA, 90301**



**HOST COMMITTEE INCLUDES:  
SEIU 2015**

**&**

**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS**

**SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS:  
TICKETS: \$50 | SPONSORS: \$2,500**

**TO RSVP, EMAIL:  
JELENA@MARVADIAZSTRATEGIES.COM**

Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. The California political reform act (Proposition 34) limits contributions to candidates for state senate. An individual, union, political action committee, association, committee, partnership, business or corporation may contribute a maximum of \$5,900 to Lola Smallwood-Cuevas for Senate 2026 per election. A small contributor committee may contribute a maximum of \$11,800 per election. Lobbyist registered to lobby the California state legislature may not contribute.

FPPC ID#1456867