



WWW.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Find us at www.MeetUp.com/CulverCityDemocratic Club and as Culver City Democratic Club on FaceBook.com

General Meeting – Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Mayor Sahli-Wells

Also Closing Prop 13 Loopholes with Kelly Osajima of Evolve

President's Message:



April 22 is Earth Day!

This February, I was pleased to attend the Green Venice Expo at Mark Twain Middle School, an

event organized by our area neighbors, the Venice Neighborhood Council. The day was filled with informative talks about waste and consumption, recycling, eating locally, and sustainable living. Transition Culver City was one of the many local environmental groups who set up information tables for the public. Luxury electric car brand Tesla Motors even brought in one of its famed Model S sedans to display, and I briefly got to sit inside!

Doing small things like buying energy efficient light bulbs, painting your rooftop white, or reusing containers makes many of us feel good. Yet, when it comes to sustainability on a grand scale, America still lags behind the rest of the world. For example, France just passed a law requiring the rooftops of all new buildings in commercial areas to be covered in plants or solar panels. Green

rooftops lower temperatures and reduce energy consumption, as the vegetation absorbs carbon dioxide. I also read that an architecture firm has proposed designing a system of bike paths in London to be built above existing rail lines. If achieved, the project would be quite an amazing innovation, perhaps even surpassing the extensive bike path network that impressed me on a trip to Copenhagen, Denmark, a few years ago. Canada's largest grocery retailer is going to start selling "ugly produce" at discounted prices as a way to cut down on food waste. Germany and Denmark are leading the way in solar and wind power, with the latter country, according to the Sierra Club, aiming to be free of fossil fuels by 2050.

America certainly has wind turbine and solar energy projects, but if we are to really combat climate change, our country must treat the problem as a top priority and build solutions into public policy. That means counteracting the oil and gas industry lobby's influence, and demanding that representatives and political candidates who take campaign

[See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, April 8, 2015

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

President's Message

(continued) - Page 2

Club Joins AllCare Alliance

- Page 2

About Evolve and Kelly

Osajima - Page 2

Di's Corner - Page 2

About Evolve's Petition to Reform Proposition 13 -

Page 3

From the Editor: 45th

Anniversary of Earth Day

- Page 3

Club Notes

Meeting Sponsor for April:

Pat Levinson in memory of Cecilia Guttenberg.

Renew your membership!

Please use the form on page 4 or to renew online click "Join/Renew" on our web site.

Electronic Newsletter:

Submit your email address to Info@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

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

[**President** from Page 1] money from the industry, cease doing so. It means demanding the mainstream media stop treating climate change as a debate, start relegating deniers to the fringe where they belong, and stop misinforming the public on the issue. It means stopping Republicans from derailing green projects and enacting stupid policies like prohibiting public officials from mentioning the words, “climate change” (see Florida’s Rick Scott).

Fortunately, President Obama and his administration are taking climate change very seriously. In February, the environmental community cheered when Mr. Obama vetoed the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, a project that would have had devastating impacts, while only creating a minuscule number of jobs. Years of work and protests by environmental activists, led by 350.org, pushed Mr. Obama to do the right thing. GOP Senators were unable to overturn his veto. It was a great day for the environment. While Mr. Obama is leading the way on the federal level, here in Culver City, Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells is leading the way locally. The Mayor, whom I

call The “Green Mayor” for her tireless advocacy of biking and sustainable living, will speak at our April General Meeting. April is her last month as Mayor before the City Council rotates the position, so come with your questions about Culver City issues!

Club Joins AllCare Alliance

by Sylvia Moore

At March’s General Meeting, the Culver City Democratic Club voted in favor of joining the AllCare Alliance, a coalition of community organizations advocating for the creation of a publicly-financed healthcare program in California modeled on “Medicare for All.” A motion was introduced to join the coalition, and a majority of the membership voted in favor of the motion. The CCDC will be listed among the other coalition partners on the AllCare Alliance web site at AllCareAlliance.org. CCDC President Sylvia Moore shares a personal story and her thoughts on our web site at CulverCityDemocraticClub.com about why California and the country still need to go beyond the Affordable Care Act.

Seeking Submissions

We would like your articles and letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard! Submissions will be published as space allows. Submissions may be edited for length.

The Club’s Executive Board reserves the right to determine suitability of submissions for inclusion in the newsletter.

About Evolve and Kelly

Osajima excerpted from Evolve-ca.org

"Evolve was founded in the spring of 2011 by a group of Bay Area activists looking for a way to get beyond the current political mess. From Washington, D.C.'s failure on healthcare reform, to perennial budget problems in Sacramento, to ideological battles at City Hall, all levels of government and public life are suffering from the same problem. Politicians, the media, and many activists are too concerned about winning the next [See **Evolve**, Page 3]

Di’s Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

It is my sad duty to inform club members of the passing of Cecilia Guttenberg a long time member of this Club. Cecilia had moved out of Culver City a few months ago to be with her family up in Northern California. She passed away in the early hours of Friday March 20. She leaves behind her two sons Alan & Paul Guttenberg and their spouses, her daughter Michele and Michele's husband David, grandchildren, great grand children, and many friends including as Herb and I.

The Club sends its condolences to her family. We will all miss her very much

2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Sylvia Moore
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

First VP: Khin Khin Gyi
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Second VP: Amy Cherness
SecondVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Recording Secretary:
Patricia Levinson
Secretary@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Stephen Murray
CorrespondanceSec@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Membership Secretary:
Diane Rosenberg
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra
Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

[**Evolve** from Page 2] election or on the horseshoe of politics. As this goes on, real problems go unsolved: 50 million Americans lack access to affordable healthcare, unemployment is still incredibly high, and our public education system is being dismantled.

"Evolve was founded on the belief that there's a better way. Most of the significant problems we face have effective solutions that are not being implemented because of political infighting or the power of special interests. The answer is clear: we need to hold politicians accountable to real results that actually move our society forward. And that's what Evolve does. Through effective, smart organizing and grassroots issue advocacy we know we can make a difference and ultimately, leave our world a better place than we found it. Together, we can rekindle the promise that made California a golden state."

Kelly Osajima, Campus Organizer: Kelly graduated from UCLA in 2012 with a BA in Sociology. Through UCLA's student government, she advocated for college affordability by lobbying, staging direct actions, and organizing with students and community leaders. As Budget Committee Chair for the UC Student Association Board of Directors, she developed a

statewide campaign to fight for alternate revenue for the UC, including Prop 13 reform. She recently served as Program Coordinator for the Greenlining Institute and developed its first voter education campaign for the 2012 election cycle. When she's not trying to tax corporations, Kelly enjoys singing with her a cappella group.

About Evolve's Petition to Reform Proposition 13

excerpted from Evolve-ca.org

"Proposition 13 was passed in 1978 to protect homeowners. Unfortunately, Prop. 13 created massive loopholes for corporations, allowing them to avoid paying fair property taxes even when their properties change hands. This large corporate giveaway hurts homeowners, students, and all Californians. We need to close the loophole and make corporations pay their fair share. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, requiring corporations to pay property taxes based on the current value of their properties would generate at least \$6 billion each year for California, including \$2.5 billion per year for education."

"To Governor Brown and the California State Legislature:

California is ranked 49th in the

country in per-pupil education funding. While our schools are drastically underfunded, we allow Chevron to save a billion dollars every year in property taxes. This is unfair. We must generate more revenue for our schools, and the best and fairest way to do that is by reforming the commercial side of Prop 13.

Reforming Prop 13 to regularly reassess commercial properties will:

- Generate billions in desperately needed funding for education and public services
- Shift our focus from temporary revenue measures to sustainable solutions
- Make our tax system work for people, not just big corporations

I urge you to support a bill to reform Prop 13 and make large corporations pay their fair share of property taxes."

From the Editor: 45th Anniversary of Earth Day

The ravages of the 1969 oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara led Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin to partner with Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey of California to organize the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. On that day 20 million (yes, 20 million) Americans gathered in rallies all over the nation to demonstrate for the environment. This was before scientists widely understood the warming effect of greenhouse gases on the environment. It's past the time for the nations of the world to take seriously the threat of climate change. If the U.S. mustered the resources to spend 1.7 trillion dollars on a war in Iraq, how much should we muster for our future? Find out more at EarthDay.org.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2015!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership OR click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Dues are due by January 1, 2015

For questions please call Membership Secretary
Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2015.
Dues for 2015 are due by
January 1, 2015. Current
dues must be paid by
renewing members before a
vote to get a ballot at the
general meeting. New and
lapsed members must have
paid dues at least 25 days in
advance to vote at a meeting.

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 - Meeting Program:

Mayor Sahli-Wells

**Also Closing Prop 13 Loopholes with
Kelly Osajima of Evolve**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, April 8**

**Monthly General Meeting:
Mayor Sahli-Wells**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocratic
Club.com

► **Sunday, April 19**

Monthly Board Meeting:

10:00 AM at the Rosenberg's
home. All members welcome.
Call Khin Khin at (310) 945-6087
or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticCl
ub.com

► **Wednesday, April 22**

Earth Day!

Celebrate Earth Day's 45th
Anniversary. Take a stand for the
earth and our future. Get more
information at EarthDay.Org

► **Wednesday, May 13**

Monthly General Meeting:

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocratic
Club.com

Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: _____

Membership Dues: Dues may be waived for financial hardship

Member \$30

Student \$20

Supporting Member \$75

Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$_____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

OR Click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com.

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at
(310) 398-5328

Please renew for 2015 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.