

Active Democrat

WWW.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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

General Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2015

**Screening of "Pay 2 Play"
& the Filmmaker John Ennis**

President's Message:



I hope everyone is having a wonderful and festive holiday season. As we take the time to celebrate our community's bounty with our family and friends,

I'm troubled by the spate of incidents across the country that show a contempt and wanton disregard for the spirit of empathy for our fellow human beings. A dark undercurrent in American society is rearing its ugly head. In this hotly contested political season, overt bigotry and attacks on marginalized groups seem to be growing.

Last month, a majority vote in the House of Representatives to ban Syrian refugees from seeking safety in the United States was a particular low point in today's America. What was especially disappointing about that vote was that 47 Democrats joined the House Republican majority in passing a ban. Turning away people in desperate need is not a value the Democratic Party stands for. Fear of "the Other" is certainly not what our party stands for. It's unlikely the bill will pass the Senate, but

fortunately, President Obama has vowed to veto it if it does.

Yet another low point continues to come in the form of Donald Trump's ongoing campaign to try to win the GOP nomination for the Presidency by mocking and denigrating just about every group on the planet except for his fellow white, wealthy, straight, able-bodied and male peers. His bigoted barbs - from suggesting protesters should be met with physical violence to calling Mexican immigrants "rapists" to suggesting that mosques be surveilled and that the names of Syrian refugees be put in a database - sound like they come from a different era. However, what's more frightening is how the mainstream media has for too long given him and other right-wing extremists the benefit of neutrality. When political debates become a matter of "both sides do it," blatant lies are called "controversy," and extremism is mainstreamed, our society becomes debased and lives are endangered.

Where is all this going? Just last month, five Black Lives Matter protesters were shot and injured [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
December 9, 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 Nominating Committee
Selected** - Page 2

**2016 Budget to be Presented
at December Meeting** -
Page 2

**Resolution to be Considered
at the Meeting** - Page 2

**A Statement from John Ennis
on "Pay 2 Play"** - Page 3

More About John Ennis
- Page 3

Di's Corner - Page 2

Club Notes

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]

at a vigil for a young black man who was killed by police in Chicago. Three people were killed at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs. And in Irving, Texas, open carry fetishists were reportedly intimidating Muslim worshippers at a mosque. Are we about to see a new level of political violence in America against people who don't fit the mold of "straight, white, rich and Christian?" Are too many of us going to sit back and look the other way until it's too late?

Club Nominating Committee Selected

The CCDC Nominating Committee was selected and approved on November 11, 2015. As required by the Bylaws, President Sylvia Moore appointed two members: Darryl Cherness and Joel Peck. The three members elected by the membership are: Carlene Brown, Tom Camarella and Herb Rosenberg. Darryl Cherness has accepted the role of Chair and will convene the committee before the December meeting. The slate will be announced at the December meeting. Elections will be conducted at the January meeting. Officers will be sworn in at the Installation & Awards Luncheon in February.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

The election for Culver City School Board was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The Club congratulates Kelly Kent, the Club's endorsed candidate, on her election to the board. The Club also congratulates Anne Burke for being elected as well.

Herb Rosenberg will be undergoing a partial knee replacement on his right knee at Southern California Hospital (formally Brotman's) on Monday, November 30, 2015. He expects to stay at the hospital for 2 or 3 days.

Note: Being nominated by the nominating committee is not a requirement of running for a Club office. It is possible to run from the floor at the January meeting.

2016 Budget to be Presented at December Meeting

In keeping with a long standing Club practice, the proposed Club budget for 2016 will be presented at the December meeting. Our dedicated Treasurer, Eric Fine, will explain the proposed budget and answer questions from the members. The finalized budget will be voted on at the January meeting in addition to the election of Club officers

Resolution to be Considered at the Meeting

The Executive Board has reviewed the following resolution that will be presented at the meeting for adoption:

The Los Angeles Reintegration Council (LARC) has requested efforts to increase resources in communities impacted by mass incarceration.

As a result of split sentencing, Propositions 36 and 47 and realignment, significant numbers of probationers and parolees are reentering communities, which

are unable to meet their needs thereby creating homelessness, re-violation of parole and increased violence. In addition, thousands of federal inmates are being released early as a result of mandatory minimums reforms.

LARC is requesting that resources be increased in those communities heavily impacted as the county has undertaken an ambitious \$120 million jail diversion initiative and Mayor Garcetti recently opened an Office of Reentry.

The Culver City Democratic Club supports LARC's efforts and urges Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, members of the California Legislative Black Caucus and Congressman Karen Bass to hold a strategy session with key stakeholders from Los Angeles, which will result in increased support of those parolees and probationers re-integrating in to our communities, for mental health, education, housing, jobs, medical and dental health and other services..

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

A Statement from John Ennis on "Pay 2 Play"

After traveling throughout Ohio making my election documentary FREE FOR ALL!, I came to realize that our elections aren't just about which names get selected on a ballot — it's how those names even got on the ballot. Where many inspiring and qualified newcomers run for office to bring needed change, the barriers to getting the chance to make your case are overwhelming: approval of party leaders and insiders, reaching thousands of constituents, and money, money, money. A candidate's ability to fundraise is how they are measured as viable from the beginning. Every form of getting your message out costs more—printing, postage, airtime, travel, staff. Instead of sharing ideas and amassing votes, candidates become beholden to amass cash.

And it doesn't end once you're in office — it only kicks in. The need to raise the fortune required for your re-election is hanging over you every day, and business interests with greater money at stake will gladly help fund that campaign somehow.

In helping people look at this ethical dilemma elected officials face daily, I hope that our country will realize the need to change

how we choose our leaders. It comes down to the choices the candidates have to make. And if we can make that process a more level playing field, not only do we encourage better suited public servants, we get better leaders who use their power to help the public, not the richest donors

More About John Ennis

John Wellington Ennis was born in Los Angeles, where his grandfather ran for mayor in 1952 as a Democrat. Ennis grew up in Chicago and then lived in New York before moving to LA. He attended the USC and NYU Film Schools. He has worked as a director, producer, director of photography, and editor on documentary films, reality TV, comedy-reality hybrid, and new media platforms. His production company, Shoot First Inc., specializes in non-fiction entertainment (www.shootfirstinc.com).

Ennis' New York City television show "Toolz of the New School" was a cult hit in the late 1990's. A combination of sketch and stunt comedy blended with political documentary and live Hip Hop, the show was developed with Howard Stern Productions, worked with Lorne Michael's Broadway Video, won awards and screened in top art galleries around the world. His feature

directorial debut was an improvised comedy, "Wild Girls Gone," written by and starring the original Upright Citizens Brigade (Amy Poehler, Matt Walsh, Ian Roberts, and Matt Besser).

Ennis has made films dealing with pharmaceutical companies' impropriety (the award-winning "Money Talks: Profits Before Patient Safety"), and has been a long-time documentarian of the sport of competitive eating ("Major League Eaters; Red, White, & Yellow") His previous film, FREE FOR ALL! follows how corruption and election fraud impacted the 2006 elections in Ohio. He co-DP'ed "A/K/A Tommy Chong," chronicling the comedian's federal prosecution, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Ennis's music documentary experience has allowed him to tell the stories of rock bands forming ("Madison Rose," VH1), breaking up ("Next Big Thing: The 2 Skinnee J's Farewell Show"), and reuniting ("Exposure: Jane's Addiction," MTV).

His latest film, PAY 2 PLAY follows the corruption of our democracy via money in politics and what we the people can do to take our democracy back.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2016!

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, 2016

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

"In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2016.
Dues for 2016 are due by
January 1, 2016. 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, December 9, 2015 - Meeting Program:
Screening of "Pay 2 Play"
& the Filmmaker John Ennis

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, December 9**
Monthly General Meeting:
Screening of "Pay 2 Play"
& the Filmmaker John
Ennis

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

► **Saturday, December 19**
Monthly Board Meeting:

2:30 PM at the Pat Levinson's
home. All members welcome.
Call Khin Khin at (310) 945-6087
or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, January 13**
Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections

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

► **Wednesday, February 10**
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@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me the Club newsletter by email only

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 2016 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.