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General Meeting – Wednesday, July 8, 2015

What to Do after SB4: Fracking and Beyond with C. Tom Williams, PhD

President's Message:



The close of June has seen a stunning series of events for President Obama, our Democratic Party and the American people.

The last few weeks were marked by farce, horrific tragedy and soaring triumph. And we seem to be on the verge of a serious and long-needed national conversation about the impact of race and racism on our society.

Let's start with the triumphs. The U.S. Supreme Court handed President Obama his first victory this session by, once again, upholding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. After dozens of tries, the GOP failed in its latest attempt at stripping millions of Americans of their health coverage. Next, the high Court majority thwarted a right wing attempt to gut the Fair Housing Act by affirming the doctrine of "disparate impact," meaning that people suing over racial discrimination don't have to prove racist intent, but only that the offending behavior had a racially discriminatory effect. And finally, love won out over bigotry as the Court upheld and expanded

the fundamental right of gay and lesbian couples across America to wed.

But for every step forward in human rights, it seems we take three steps backward when it comes to race in America. We seem no closer to stopping the epidemic of police violence against unarmed black and brown people, even when the victims are innocent children simply trying to go to a swim party. And just when we thought it couldn't get worse, it got worse. A young man addicted to the high of white supremacy and drunk on hatred of black people, walked into a Charleston, South Carolina, church with a gun and slaughtered eight parishioners and their pastor, who was also a popular state legislator. The national conversation had suddenly moved from questions of racial identity surrounding the bizarre story of the Spokane, Wash., NAACP leader, who for years had posed as a black woman, to a discussion of racial violence and racist symbols.

Black people in Charleston were immediately exhorted to forgive the alleged killer, and family [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
July 8, 2015**

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

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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] members of the victims did so publicly within two days of the tragedy. But I know from reading many commentaries in online publications and on social media, that many other black Americans do not forgive and are tired of the constant pleas for black people to “turn the other cheek” when it comes to racist violence. To not call this act of violence a terrorist attack — which it most certainly was — not only disrespects black people, but it’s also hypocritical. Whenever an act of gun violence is committed by someone who is Muslim, it is immediately deemed a terrorist attack and Muslims are unfairly lumped together for

collective accountability. But when an act of gun violence is committed by a white American, the go-to explanations are "lone wolf," "hate crime," and/or "mental illness" - never terrorism. This, despite the fact that according to a recent study by law enforcement experts, right-wing, anti-government extremists have been involved in many more deadly terror attacks in the U.S. than jihadists.

That the Charleston massacre took place at a church famously known for its civil rights activism is telling. South Carolina was the first southern state to secede during the Civil War, and old

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.

feelings die hard. For decades, a majority of the state’s legislature had defiantly rebuffed calls to remove the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of their capitol. However, it looks like the flag might not be there much longer. Unfortunately, it may have taken the lives of nine innocent people to finally shame South Carolina officials towards getting rid of that symbol of slavery, racism, violence and outright theft. But removing symbols is easy. Dismantling America’s institutionalized racism is a much harder task.

Di’s Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

The Club sends condolences to Club member Jimmie Woods Gray on the passing of her Mother Inell Woods. She passed away in the early hours of Saturday June 6, 2015. She leaves behind her daughter Jimmie and many family members.

On Sunday June 7, the 54th A.D. Democratic Club held their Annual Awards Luncheon at the Proud Bird Restaurant co-emceed by our own Culver City Councilmember Jim Clarke and former Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells. The Distinguished Democrat Award was awarded to James Butts, Mayor of Inglewood, Dr. Saundra W. Davis, & Olivia Mitchell. The Susan B. Locker Volunteer Award went to Commissioner Gail A. Willis.

There were many distinguished guests attending the luncheon. Among them were former Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, Congresswoman Karen Bass, State Treasurer, John Chiang, and Chair of the LACDP, Eric Bauman.

A memorial service for David Weisman was given by his grandson Aaron on Tuesday June 16, 2015. Among those present at the memorial were his widow Ruth, Commissioner John Frierson, Club Pres. Sylvia Moore, Culver City Councilmember Jim Clarke, former Culver City Mayor and Director of the DMV Steve Gourley, and other Club members.

David passed away on Wednesday May 27 due to complications from cancer. He was 88yrs. old. Ruth and he would have celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this year.

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

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Patricia Levinson
Secretary@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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Membership Secretary:
Diane Rosenberg
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra
Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

About Our Speaker **C. Tom Williams, PhD**

Dr. Tom Williams, our speaker on July 8th, was born and raised in Kansas. He received his BSc from the University of Kansas in Geology and Zoology. This was followed by a Masters in Zoology from University of Kansas and then a Ph.D. in Paleontology/Geology and Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley from 1967-76. He went on to teach as Asst. Prof. of Geology at CSU-San Francisco, and then at U.C. Davis while at Berkeley.

Dr. Williams paralleled these studies with a six year stint at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology/Peabody Museum and another five years at U.C. Berkeley's Museum of Paleontology. The subsequent years were divided between URS Corporation in San Francisco for 7 years, followed by Parsons Corporation in Pasadena for 20 + years and then Dubai World in United Arab Emirates for 10 + years. He has since retired and is a life member of Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community on whose board he serves as a technical advisor. He is also a life member of the Sierra Club, where he has served as a member of the Water Committee.

Having studied Paleontology and

Environmental Changes of the Late Tertiary Period in Central California for his dissertation, Dr. Williams went onto study worldwide cyclical climate impacts on water resources in China, Marshall Islands, Peru, Egypt and Syria. Without doubt, his talk entitled "What to Do after SB4: Fracking and Beyond" should be of interest to those of us who have been concerned with hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing and acidization. Also of concern to us is the recent revelation of contamination of aquifers by products of petroleum extraction.

Resolution to be Considered

The Executive Board will ask the membership to consider endorsing a request to support the U.S. Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2015 at the General Meeting on July 8. The Peacebuilding Act was introduced by Congressmember Barbara Lee on 2/26/15. Here is the body of the letter that would be sent should the membership choose to endorse:

To: Lily Marie
The Peace Alliance/ Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding
lilymarie@infostations.com

The Culver City Democratic Club

hereby endorses the "Legislative Request Supporting a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding."

We support the will and intent of this request to support the U.S. Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2015 and to create a culture of peace that will affect our government's domestic and foreign policies, as well as move our country toward a peacetime economy. This legislation calls for practical and cost effective solutions to reduce and prevent violence and to promote peacebuilding in the U.S. and internationally. We understand that this comprehensive approach will proactively advocate for and utilize mediation, restorative justice, reconciliation, diplomacy, negotiation, and other peacebuilding practices to address the root causes of violence and terrorism rather than reacting to the symptoms of violence.

From the Editor:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

While on the one hand we can celebrate the landmark decisions handed down by the Supreme court regarding marriage equality, the Affordable Care Act, redistricting, and more, on the other hand we mourn the deaths of nine people at the hands of a racist madman, and wring our hands over the injustice within our justice system in regards to the treatment of black and brown citizens. We must continue to hold ourselves and our country accountable to the ideals espoused in our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Let's celebrate the progress and continue to work toward the progress still needed.

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, July 8, 2015 - Meeting Program:

**What to Do after SB4:
Fracking and Beyond
with C. Tom Williams, PhD**

Upcoming Events

► **Saturday, July 4**

Annual Independence Day Picnic

11 AM - 3 PM at Carlson Park.
Public is welcome. Bring
something to be grilled for
yourself and something to share.
Soft drinks, watermelon, utensils,
plates, etc. provided by Club.
Everyone is welcome. Call Sylvia
at (323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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**Monthly General Meeting:
What to Do after SB4:
Fracking and Beyond
with C. Tom Williams, PhD**

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

► **Sunday, July 19**

Monthly Board Meeting:

3:00 PM at the Rosenberg's home.
All members welcome. Call Khin
Khin at (310) 945-6087 or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, August 12**

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: _____

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.