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General Meeting – Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Panel Discussion of "Mansionization"

President's Message:



Twenty fifteen has been a bloody year. As I write this, we've had nearly 300 mass shootings occur since January, according to a Washington Post

more guns to protect us. People hand-wring over what to do — or insist that nothing can be done. And so, no new national laws are passed. The current tragedy recedes into memory, and people go on with their lives. Then the cycle repeats itself with the next massacre.

graphic that went viral. The latest tragedy just took place at a college in Oregon, where the killer took the lives of nine people and injured nine before being killed himself in a shootout with police.

America is now the mass shooting capital of the world. A University of Alabama study released in August asserts that the combination of extremely high levels of gun ownership, Americans' obsession with fame, and the gap between Americans' expectations of themselves and actual achievement creates a uniquely toxic environment for mass shootings. Then add to that the tens of thousands of single instances of gun violence: domestic disputes, robberies, gang warfare, suicide, the killings of unarmed people by law enforcement.

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It's now become a numbingly regular and morbid ritual. The armed perpetrator - usually young, white and male - massacres people in a public place. The media punditry wonders if mental illness is involved. The President makes a statement condemning the killings and demands Congress pass gun control legislation. The National Rifle Association makes a statement saying guns shouldn't be blamed, and besides, we need

Culver City Democratic Club Endorsement:

Culver City Unified School District Board of Education

Kelly Kent

Vote Tuesday, November 3

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, October 14, 2015

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

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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]

So why do we keep coming back here again and again? States that have stricter gun laws have fewer firearms deaths than those with looser regulation, but guns still cross state lines, making this a national problem. National legislation is needed, but that hasn't been possible. We need to confront some hard truths. Some on the left like to point to Australia as a model on how stricter gun regulation can be achieved at the national level after a mass shooting. They say that Australia has a similar frontier history and love of guns, but that did not stop the country from enacting stricter gun laws in a speedy 12 (!) days. Yet, they fail to acknowledge that in Australia, everyone is required to vote. Moreover, Australia, unlike the United States, has a parliamentary system, where the party in power (or a coalition of parties) has total control of the government and opposition parties cannot veto legislation. The makeup of the U.S. Congress is among the most mal-apportioned legislative bodies in the world, meaning sparsely populated states - the ones that tend to be rural, majority white and more supportive of looser gun regulation - have greater political power than more populated states with more urban constituencies, like California. How Congress is currently organized hasn't changed much from 1776. It's

archaic and anti-democratic.

Second, folks need to learn the real history behind the Second Amendment — not the fake one we're taught as propaganda. The amendment was not generally created to "protect citizens from the tyranny of the federal government." It was added to guarantee that southern plantation owners could raise "militias" to quell slave revolts without interference from the feds. In other words, the Second Amendment was created to preserve the Union by protecting slavery. That's not something to be proud about, let alone express endless support for.

Third, Americans need to get real about the disconnect between the high expectations of themselves and actual low social mobility in the U.S. Our national drive to be better than everyone else at everything has created much innovation and wealth beyond belief. At the same time, endless optimism and competition, - but falling short of what is expected - is killing the psyche. Some humility is in order. The reality of economic inequality has made the "American dream" come crashing down to Earth. Many who thought they were immune to hardship by virtue of their privileges or a lifetime of working hard, are finding out how precarious life really is in a country with such a thin safety net.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

At our General Meeting on Wednesday, September 9 the Club held a Candidates Forum for Culver City School Board featuring the three candidates Anne Burke, Kelly Kent, and Scott MacVarish.

We congratulate Kelly Kent who got the Club's endorsement on the first ballot. There was a second ballot but no other candidate reached the 60 percent threshold needed for endorsement.

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.

Note: In last month's President's message I used phrasing in a context offensive to people diagnosed with schizophrenia. I apologize for that usage, and the essay was revised on the CCDC web site.

"In my world, you don't get to call yourself "pro-life" and be against common-sense gun control — like banning public access to the kind of semiautomatic assault rifle, designed for warfare, that was used recently in a Colorado theater."

- Thomas L. Friedman

2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Sylvia Moore
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"Mansionization" Topic of General Meeting

The Club will host a panel discussion concerning "Mansonization" in Culver City. We will have panelists from all sides of the discussion. The following information was submitted for two of the panelists:

Philip Lelyveld: Mr. Lelyveld is a 28 year Culver City resident and home owner. He has degrees in Civil Engineering, Applied Geophysics, and an MBA, and has a longstanding interest in architecture and urban planning. He currently runs the Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality Initiative within the Entertainment Technology Center at USC's School of Cinematic Arts.

Sara T. Hartley: Ms. Hartley's current Position is Asset Manager/Project manager with Prime Group, a private real estate investment company with \$4 billion in assets. From 2001 to 2006 she worked for G.H. Palmer Associates, a Real Estate Development Company.

Ms. Hartley has 38 years of experience in real estate development from due diligence, acquisition and entitlements through the construction of projects. She has worked on mixed-use master planned

communities on both the East and West coasts in a lead role as well as on various zoning and building code issues for Prime Group in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Nevada.

She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design, a dual Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the School of Architecture and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a diploma in Real Estate Finance from the Real Estate Institute at New York University.

She has lived in Culver City for the last 8 years.

To the Editor: Local Politics and Unpleasantness?

(In Response to an article in the 9-24-15 CC News)

Gosh! Were we even at the same meeting on Sept. 9 at the CC Democratic Club? I know I was there and I'm the Recording Secretary.

Steve Montgomery of the CC News, reported on Page 1 "Local politics takes a turn of unpleasantness." I didn't see unpleasantness, sour grapes or nastiness, as described by Steve Montgomery. Was he there? I saw passion, discussion and

integrity in the entire process: the panel, the question and answer period, the "partisan" statements and the voting. "Rigged votes and skullduggery" charges among local bloggers" are opinions and the CCDC continues to support free speech. We do not support slander or libel. I feel like our democratic process was impugned. As Mr. Montgomery stated, candidates "Burke and McVarish and a variety of sources claiming – without offering a smattering of proof – that the endorsement process had been compromised in advance." How can the vote be compromised in advance? All the ballots were blank save the names of all 3 candidates including the usual "no endorsement" phrase. Dr. Kelly Kent won the endorsement on the first ballot. The remaining candidates did not receive the necessary 60% of votes required to endorse on the second ballot.

Was anyone bamboozled? Befuddled? Were personal decisions made by unknown members before the vote? If there were, it was not the result of a telephone tree or robo calling effort by the CCDC. Perhaps we were we all put under a "confundus charm" by Harry Potter?

I was unclear only on one point: as Anne Burke ended her concluding statement, she remarked that she was "the only candidate of color" for the Board election. Huh? Don't keep us in suspense, Anne. Which color is that? Truly why should that matter, anyhow? But she brought it up.

Patricia Levinson
CCDC Recording Secretary

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, October 14, 2015 - Meeting Program:

**Panel Discussion of
"Mansionization"**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, October 14**
Monthly General Meeting:
Panel Discussion of
"Mansionization"

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

► **Saturday, October 31**
Monthly Board Meeting:
10:00 AM at the Pat Levinson's
home. All members welcome.
Call Khin Khin at (310) 945-6087
or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticCl
ub.com

► **Tuesday, November 3**
Election for CCUSD Board
of Education:

Don't forget to vote for our
endorsed candidate, **Kelly Kent**.
Be sure to take along a friend or
neighbor.

► **Wednesday, November 11**
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

**Special Rate for New and Lapsed members: Remainder of 2015
plus 2016 membership \$45**

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.