



Active Democrat

General Meeting – December 9, 2009

Holiday Party & Silent Auction

Also 2010 Club Budget & Nominating Committee Report



President's Letter:

I hope everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving! I'll keep this short, sweet, and light.

services from some of your favorite vendors. We hope you will come and celebrate with us.

Our Nominating Committee will be presenting its slate of officers for 2010. If you want to become more involved with the Club, please let me know. We have LOTS of opportunities.

... and of course, take some extra time to volunteer – helping others is good for all of us!

Have a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Ronnie Jayne, President

Being politically involved can be frustrating and stressful between occasional victories! Try to take it a little easier this month.

At our December 9 meeting we'll be having our annual Holiday party and Silent Auction. Do your holiday shopping at our meeting! We'll have many great gifts – including theatre tickets, restaurant gift certificates and

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, December 9, 2009
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: **Time to Get Involved**
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- 3: **From the Editor: A Lost Decade?**

Club Notes

Renew your membership! The deadline for renewing your membership is January 1. Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information.

Electronic Newsletter:

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

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil:

Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every other Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel. Next vigil on December 18.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2010!
Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for the coming year. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership. **Dues are due by January 1, 2010.**

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

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

Time to Get Involved

By Greg Valtierra

A seminar leader once gave a very powerful demonstration to the audience in the seminar I was attending. He asked for a show of hands of people in the group who considered themselves very good at catching baseballs or softballs. A few people timidly raised their hands and he called on one of them to come to the front of the room. The leader pulled out a tennis ball and gently tossed it to the volunteer. Of course that person caught the ball easily. The leader then asked the volunteer to toss it back and the two of them threw the ball back and forth a few times.

Then the leader threw the ball just to the side of the volunteer to someone in the audience. The audience member caught it and then the leader asked a very important question. He asked the volunteer "Why didn't you catch the ball?". The volunteer replied, "I didn't think the throw was for me to catch."

This is not a Zen Koan where I let you ponder the meaning of this exchange. The point is this, we all go through life and many times we see things going on around us and decide, "It's not my business, not my responsibility". All of us have very busy lives and obligations to meet for our families and employment. However, it's also very easy to decide to let someone else handle things even though we might be very capable or even more capable of pitching in.

As in any volunteer organization our club has many members who are able to support the club financially but are unable to offer more support. The club officers

are very grateful to all the support these members provide. Beyond the financial support a smaller group of members has volunteered to work registering voters, or staffing our booth at Fiesta La Ballona, or helping with are large endorsement mailings, or other important tasks. We are very grateful to these individuals as well. Finally, there is an even smaller group of individuals that commits to serving on a committee or serving as a club officer. Without these individuals the Club would not be able to function.

Having served on the Club Executive Board for several years, and also as a Club officer, I am familiar with the generosity and commitment to the Club and Democratic ideals that motivate the other board members. The committee chairs and officers work for the club for no more compensation than a pat on the back and perhaps a light snack now and again. I am also familiar with how we don't see many new faces offering to serve the club each year.

So now I am asking you, have you been sitting in the audience thinking that the ball is not being thrown to you? Do you have the ability to catch at least a few of the balls that are being tossed for the club? You don't necessarily have to become a committee chair or officer but perhaps you can do a bit more than you've done recently. Perhaps you do have the resources to take on a leadership role. Please consider whether it's time to step up and catch a few things. This Club is yours and if you want the issues you care about addressed and see the changes you want occurring then the best person to see them through is you.

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.

Celebrate With Us at the Club Holiday Party

Once again we'll be celebrating the holidays with our Club's holiday party and silent auction. The Club business will be kept to a very small minimum and the emphasis will be on getting a chance to socialize with your fellow Culver City Democrats and pick up some nice items at the Silent Auction while supporting the Club.

We will have a great variety of items to bid on and I'm sure you're bound to find something you'd like for yourself or perhaps something to give to someone close to you. There are always some great deals on movie tickets, theatre tickets, restaurants, etc.

Take some time out from the busy season and have some fun with us.

"But while they prate of economic laws, men and women are starving. We must lay hold of the fact that economic laws are not made by nature. They are made by human beings."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

From the Editor: A Lost Decade?

As we come to the end of the year it's natural to look back and reflect on all that's transpired. However, this year end is not just the end of the year but also the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century. As a child of the mid-twentieth century, the twenty-first century was to be the great future where space travel would be easy, hunger would not exist, and we would travel in our flying cars served by our talkative robots.

Unfortunately, reality hasn't lived up to the Jetson's vision of the future. Nevertheless, at the start of this century we had many reasons for optimism. We had already seen the end of the Cold War and were in the midst of a technological boom that fueled one of the longest economic expansions in the history of our country. For the first time in decades we were seeing the actual reduction of the national deficit and there was talk of a "new economy" that would no longer follow the old rules. The NASDAQ and DOW reached their highest levels. We had not had any major military engagements in some years and pundits were talking of the U.S. as being the only superpower for the foreseeable future. A Democratic president had a very smart and capable Vice President who could take up the Presidency and build on all that had been achieved

Then, seemingly overnight, everything changed. What from a Democrat's perspective should have been an easy presidential election ended with an unprecedented decision by the Supreme Court to hand the presidency to a Republican. Tech stocks burst the bubble economy.

Giant corporations like Enron went bankrupt. We experienced the most deadly terrorist attack on U.S. soil. The large U.S. city of New Orleans was devastated by hurricane Katrina. Global warming became observable to the general populace as real problems surfaced. Most seriously, we became embroiled in two overseas military operations that continue to this day.

Throughout the decade the bad news kept on coming. In the most recent years the U.S. and the world have experienced the largest economic decline since the Great Depression. We have seen the erosion of the U.S. median family income. The rate of bankruptcy and home foreclosures has reached levels unseen by most living Americans. I could go on but you know the disheartening details as well as I do.

All this did not come about just because of bad luck. There are causes that can be traced to all these effects. In the background the steady reactionary efforts of "conservatives" and "neo-conservatives" have attempted to reverse the gains of affirmative action, Social Security, Medicare, public education, consumer protections, etc. As a society we put off investing in each other and our infrastructure while believing in the illusion of low taxes and deregulation as a panacea for all problems. We stopped working to lift all boats in a rising tide and concentrated on making sure our own boat was well equipped with the latest consumer goods, made eagerly for us by Chinese laborers.

In the end if we want to find someone to blame the first place to look is in the mirror.

Though we can't recapture the lost time of this decade we can

work to ensure that the next decade changes course for the U.S. and the world. We've made a good start by getting a Democrat elected to the Presidency, and not just any Democrat but the first President of color. We can't stop there.

All major changes in society, for good or ill, come about through the efforts of its citizens. Leaders can only take us where we are willing to go and are not likely to change the trajectory of the masses. It is only by the efforts of a large mass of persons that true changes can be implemented. We must be willing to put in the sweat equity to move our society in the right direction. The large corporations and moneyed interests have their minions toiling day and night to ensure their priorities are addressed. We Democrats must work harder to override those interests and compel our government to choose to do what is right for the common good, not just for those with the goods. Don't let us lose another decade.

2009 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Ronnie Jayne
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Karlo Silbiger
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Roger Maxwell
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org
Recording Secretary: Sally Gardner
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra (Interim)

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2010.
Dues for 2010 are due by
January 1, 2010. 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

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December 9, 2009 - Meeting Program:

Holiday Party & Silent Auction

Also 2010 Club Budget & Nominating Committee Report

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, December 9**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Holiday Party & Silent
Auction**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

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

9:00 AM at Tom Camarella &
Ronnie Jayne's home. All
members welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 839-9793 or email
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

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

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, February 10**
**Monthly General Meeting:
City Council Candidate
Forum & Endorsements**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

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

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

Please renew for 2010 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.