



# Active Democrat

Find us at [www.MeetUp.com/CulverCityDemocraticClub](http://www.MeetUp.com/CulverCityDemocraticClub) and as Culver City Democratic Club on FaceBook.com

## General Meeting – May 11, 2011

# Energy Policy: The Perfect Storm

With Evan Gillespie, Dr. Jimmy Hara, Brian Treanor, and Michelle Weiner



### President's Message:

Fellow Democrats: I write to you this month from beautiful Sacramento, where I am joining hundreds of other activists at the California Democratic Convention. Things seem to be quite slow this year as we celebrate the incredible successes of our state in bucking the Republican national trend in electing Democrats to every statewide race, defending each and every Congressional Democratic seat, and increasing our majorities in the state legislature. Looking forward, we are working towards the reelection of President Obama next year.

Locally, we can be proud that we elected two strong progressive voices in Congresswoman Karen Bass and Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell. We can gloat that 80% of our local elected officials are registered Democrats. We can

feel secure in the fact that we have one of the most well-respected Democratic Clubs in the region and that little Culver City has seven delegates to this statewide convention. We can appreciate Culver City's important role in state politics when the redistricting commission chooses our community as the locale for their very first public hearing with the first draft of the newly drawn maps (June 16th at 6:00 in City Hall, by the way).

However, every time that I attend these conventions I leave with some more cautious optimism. While I share in the legitimate pride that comes from all of the hard work and resulting accomplishments, I also understand that Democratic Party control alone does not necessarily lead to progressive reform. Our city council, which has had at least four Democratic members since 1994, has a long history of not approving nearly enough affordable housing (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:  
**7:00 PM Wednesday, May 11, 2011**  
 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 to supply your renewal information.

**Electronic Newsletter:**  
Submit your email address to [Info@CCDemClub.org](mailto: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.

## Community College Board Endorsement

Seat 5: Scott Svonkin  
**Vote Tuesday, May 17**

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) projects, an occurrence now showing up on state audits. At last month's club meeting, a panel with a school board member, a city council member, and 2 union presidents (all four Culver City Democrats) could not agree on the best ways to solve the budgetary crisis in our local government institutions. And here at the Democratic state convention, it looks like a resolution supporting the commutation of all death penalty cases to life imprisonment may not even get a floor vote.

How can we expect to bring about large-scale social and political change when we Democrats cannot even agree on the shape and scope of that change? It is time for us to look inward, to "clean house." I don't mean purging all who dare to disagree with a tenet of our platform, but instead to educate those within our ranks on what it means to be a progressive. Winning is no longer enough, we need to do a better job governing.

On that note, the club is proud to present a program this month that focuses on energy policy and the important work that we need to do to ensure that a nuclear disaster like that gripping Japan does not come to us. Democratic and Republican administrations alike have for too long rejected making the decisions that would have been difficult, but could have put us on a path to energy independence and a cleaner,

healthier environment. As we reflect on what it means to be a real Democrat, beginning with energy policy seems appropriate.

See you then.

Karlo Silbiger

## **This Month's Meeting on Energy Policy**

by Meghan Sahli-Wells

Japan's nuclear meltdowns, the fatal BP explosion and oil spill, ongoing wars in oil-producing countries, and many extreme weather events all stem from our energy policy choices. Today, the number and scale of energy-related catastrophes has reached a critical mass. Meanwhile in Washington, the EPA is under attack and multinational corporations, including oil and energy companies, have unlimited political influence thanks to "Citizen's United."

Our society depends on cheap, abundant energy; but where does it come from? Beyond the individual utility bill, what are the true costs of today's energy? How do they affect social justice, water, air, wildlife, human health? What about war? How long will fossil-fuel, nuclear, coal and natural gas last? Are renewable energy sources going to fulfill our current needs, or do we have to make conservation part of energy policy?

### **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.

What is our government doing to address these issues and prepare for our future? What can we do on a local level?

Finally, what does our energy use say about us as a society?

To help us answer these questions, the Club has dedicated its May meeting to an in-depth discussion on energy policy. We will begin the evening by watching the Post Carbon Institute's short film "300 Years of FOSSIL FUELS in 300 Seconds". Then our distinguished panel of speakers will help us understand the issues and find solutions to one of the most pressing challenges of our time. We are proud to present:

**Michelle Weiner**, director of Transition Culver City  
An educator for 25 years, Michelle has lead workshops on progressive, non-authoritarian education and parenting in the U.S. and India. After taking a Solar Cooking workshop in the mid-nineties, she developed a steady concern about trash, water conservation and sustainable living. She leads the community-centered environmental group Transition Culver City and serves on the Board of Trustees of Play (See **Energy Policy**, Page 3)

### **Di's Corner:** By Diane Rosenberg

The club sends its congratulations to our former Pres. Ronnie Jayne on being appointed to the Los Angeles County Board of Commissioners for Consumer Affairs.

(**Energy Policy** from Page 2)  
Mountain Place. Michelle lives  
and gardens in Culver City.

**Evan Gillespie**, Sierra Club  
Regional Representative  
Evan is the Sierra Club's lead  
organizer on the LA Beyond Coal  
campaign. In addition to working  
actively on LA  
energy/environmental policy  
issues in his role as a Sierra Club  
representative, Evan has a  
Master's of Science and  
Environmental Policy from Bard  
College.

**Brian Treanor**, Director of  
Environmental Studies at Loyola  
Marymount University  
Brian is Associate Professor of  
Philosophy and Director of  
Environmental Studies at Loyola  
Marymount University in Los  
Angeles. He received his Ph.D.  
from Boston College. His teaching  
and research cover a wide range  
of issues, but tend to focus on the  
fields of hermeneutics,  
environmental philosophy,  
continental philosophy and  
theology, and ethics. He lives and  
bikes in Culver City.

**Dr. Jimmy Hara**, Vice-President  
of Physicians for Social  
Responsibility - Los Angeles  
Jimmy has served on the PSR-LA  
Board of Directors since 1981,  
including service as Chapter  
President for 15 years and now  
Vice President. He has served on  
the National PSR Board as Pacific

Regional Director and has been  
active with the International  
Physicians for the Prevention of  
Nuclear War (IPPNW). He is a  
Clinical Professor of Family  
Medicine at the David Geffen  
School of Medicine at UCLA and  
Residency Director Emeritus for  
the Kaiser Permanente Los  
Angeles Family Medicine  
Residency after having served 25  
years as Residency Director.

Hope to see you on the 11th

### **Scott Svonkin Endorsed for May 17 Election**

At our general meeting on April  
13, the club considered making an  
endorsement in the run-off  
election for the Los Angeles  
Community College District  
Board of Trustees, Seat No. 5.  
The club unanimously endorsed  
Scott Svonkin. It was a relatively  
easy decision since Scott narrowly  
missed being endorsed by our club  
for the March 8 Primary and is  
now facing a non-Democrat for  
the position.

Please remember to vote on May  
17 and support our Democratic  
candidate.

### **From the Editor: Fiscal Fitness?**

Much political wrangling for 2012  
will center on budgetary matters

for California and the U.S. While  
there are many factors to be  
considered, it's important to  
remember that the issues are not  
purely financial. There are  
political agendas behind the  
issues being discussed and the  
solutions being proposed.

The influential conservative,  
Grover Norquist, stated the  
ultimate motivation for many  
conservatives when he said "I  
don't want to abolish government.  
I simply want to reduce it to the  
size where I can drag it into the  
bathroom and drown it in the  
bathtub." Having a fiscal crisis  
where revenue is unable to cover  
expenditures plays right into the  
hands of the Norquists out there.

As Democrats and progressives  
we need to fight against the idea  
that cutting social services and  
benefits is the only procedure to  
remedy the situation. Raising  
revenues should be part of the  
solution as well as looking at  
other areas of government to cut,  
like defense spending. Let's not  
cut off our noses to spite our  
budget.

#### 2011 Club Officers and Committee

##### Chairs:

**President:** Karlo Silbiger  
President@CCDemClub.Org  
**First Vice President:** Bill Wynn  
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org  
**Second VP:** Meghan Sahli-Wells  
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org  
**Treasurer:** Eric Fine  
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org  
**Recording Secretary:** Sylvia  
Moore  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Lee  
Welinsky  
**Membership Secretary:** Diane  
Rosenberg

**Web Editor:** Brian Pogue  
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org  
**Newsletter:** Greg Valtierra

### **Renew Your Club Membership for 2011!**

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, 2011.

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

**Renew your membership!**

Now collecting dues for 2011.  
Dues for 2011 are due by  
January 1, 2011. 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.

**Upcoming Events**

► **Wednesday, May 11**

**Monthly General Meeting:  
Energy Policy: The Perfect  
Storm**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,  
Veterans Memorial Building.  
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at  
(310) 202-7255 or email  
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Tuesday, May 17**

**Community College Board  
Election**

Please see our endorsement on  
page 1. Don't forget to vote and be  
sure to bring a friend or neighbor  
to vote as well!

► **Saturday, May 21**

**Monthly Board Meeting:**

9:00 AM at the Rosenberg's home.  
All members welcome. Call Bill  
at (310) 253-9046 or email  
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Tuesday, May 31**

**Democratic Club Happy  
Hour!**

5-8 PM location TBD. Join us for  
some socializing and winding  
down with fellow Culver City  
Democrats. Call Karlo at (310)  
202-7255 or email  
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, June 8**

**Monthly General Meeting:**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,  
Veterans Memorial Building.  
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at  
(310) 202-7255 or email  
President@CCDemClub.Org

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

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**May 11, 2011 - Meeting Program:**

**Energy Policy: The Perfect  
Storm**

**With Evan Gillespie, Dr. Jimmy Hara, Brian Treanor,  
and Michelle Weiner**

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 2011 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.