



**General Meeting – July 13, 2011**

**Arab Spring Panel Discussion  
with Marium Mohiuddin and Dedon Kamathi**



**President's Message:**

Every year in early July, I start seeing a lot of flags around our community, I begin to get a lot of patriotic e-mail blasts,

and politicos from every party speak at great length about their love of America. Yes, Independence Day is here again.

Don't get me wrong, I'm a strong supporter of the ideals included in the Declaration of Independence. I like that our country was built on the foundation of all men being created equal, even if that ideal has yet to come to fruition. I like that our country knew the strain of political oppression brought on by tyrannical leadership and imperialism and hope that we continue to strive for fair political representation for all. And I like that we have enshrined in one of our central founding documents the idea that when one is being oppressed (based on the "laws of nature"), it is necessary to separate and become "free and independent." All good stuff.

What worries me is that a lot of the talk that creeps into our

societal conversation every year around this time seems to be faux-patriotism, in no way based on the document that we are supposed to be celebrating. Independence Day often comes with a lot of recognition for current military personnel and those who have served in the past. While we support our troops and their sacrifice, much of the United States foreign policy over the past 65 years (including the support of dictators throughout the world and the occupation of supposedly free countries) has been in direct contrast with Jefferson's declaration. Putting a flag on the lawn and singing "God Bless America" while members of the gay and lesbian community are not treated as if they were "born equal" (with New York being a welcomed exception) is not how we should be celebrating.

It is great to love your country, but it is even better to make your country a place that can be loved. We as Democrats need to make sure that we use this time of the year to push our country towards the goals that we set 235 years ago.

At the Culver City Democratic  
(See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:  
**7:00 PM Wednesday,  
July 13, 2011**  
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

**Background on "Arab Spring"**  
- Page 2

**Panelists for the Arab Spring Discussion** - Page 3

**From the Editor: Thoughts on Freedom** - Page 3

**Di's Corner** - Page 2

**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.

**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)  
Club, we are celebrating by looking towards the future of Democratic revolution. Over the past several months, a broad coalition of disaffected residents throughout the Middle East have begun insisting that their governments rely on the mandate of the people rather than imposing its will with no regard to human dignity and freedom. This movement started with students in Egypt, but has spread. Many have died, others have been injured. But at the end of the day, one of the most troubled regions in the world will hopefully take a step towards attaining a level of Democracy that they have not yet seen.

Our meeting will feature a panel to look at this “Arab Spring” and the impact that it is having in the region and throughout the world. But once again, our club is not just about informing you, but also about creating the space for us to have the community wide dialog that should be had every year around this time. How has the

media played a role in shaping the rebellion and the image of the rebellion in the western world? Why have young people played such an important leadership role in this and so many other such movements? How does this compare with our own revolution and how might the results be similar or different? Come with answers as we break into small groups and share our own individual analysis. Just for this year, let’s put aside the patriotic pleasantries and get down to the hard work of realizing the vision for America and the world which was developed back in 1776.

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### **Background on "Arab Spring"** by Bill Wynn

Our next Club meeting will feature a discussion of unfolding events of the Arab Spring or "Arab Awakening" (even though not all participants in protests identify as Arab). It was sparked by the first protests that occurred in Tunisia on December 18, 2010 following Mohamed Bouazizi's

### **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.

self-immolation in protest of police corruption and ill treatment.

With the success of the protests in Tunisia, a wave of unrest struck Algeria, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen, then spread to other countries, with the largest, most organized demonstrations often occurring on a "day of rage", usually Friday afternoon prayers. The protests have also triggered similar unrest outside the region.

Numerous factors have led to the protests, including the 2009 Iranian protests, dictatorships or absolute monarchy, human rights violations, government corruption (revealed by Wikileaks diplomatic cables), economic decline, unemployment, extreme poverty. Other causes include a number of demographic structural factors, such as a large percentage of educated but dissatisfied youth within the population.

The catalysts for the revolts in Northern African and Persian Gulf countries have been the concentration of wealth in the hands of autocrats in power for decades, insufficient transparency of its redistribution, corruption, and especially the refusal of the internet-savvy youth to accept the status quo.

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

Club member Jimmie Woods Gray after 32 plus years, is retiring from 24th Street Elementary school in Los Angeles.

Jimmie loved every year she taught in LAUSD. She will continue her favorite pass time Politics. She was recently elected to the California Democratic Party Executive Committee. Jimmie is proud to represent Culver City and the rest of the 47 AD on the L.A. County Central Committee. She is excited about keeping California BLUE.

Herb and I were honored when Jimmie asked us to attend the luncheon on Sat. June 18, 2011.

On Friday June 24, 2011 Council President Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council recognized Jimmie in the City Council Chambers for all the years she has given of her life to LAUSD. She is truly a wonderful woman and human being. Herb and I are proud to have known her.

## Panelists for the Arab Spring Discussion

Bill Wynn has found two well qualified speakers for the Club's panel discussion of the Arab Spring, Marium Mohuddin from the Muslim Public Affairs Council, and Dedon Kamathi from KPFFK 90.7 FM. Here are their biographies:

### **Marium Mohuddin, Communications Coordinator, Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC):**

Marium F. Mohiuddin has worked in communications and publishing for the past 15 years. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, Marium went on to join the staff of the Austin American-Statesman as an editor in the Features department. Besides newspapers, Marium has been the editor in chief and managing editor of several magazine publications and an international manager for the American Heart Association. Marium's work experience extends into the non-profit world, which includes being an active volunteer with Meal n Wheels and More, Muslim Youth of North America, and the Austin chapter of CAIR.

MPAC is an American institution which informs and shapes public opinion and policy by serving as a trusted resource to decision

makers in government, media and policy institutions. MPAC is also committed to developing leaders with the purpose of enhancing the political and civic participation of American Muslims.

### **Dedon Kamathi, Producer at KPFFK 90.7 FM:**

Dedon Kamathi is producer of the KPFFK 90.7 FM program "Freedom Now" which airs on Saturdays 5-6 PM. Dedon was formerly a National Pacifica Board Member and Chairperson of the Station Board for 8 years. Dedon was educated at UC San Diego, UCLA, and Howard University in the fields of Third World Studies and African Studies. He has traveled extensively in Africa. Dedon is an activist in anti-colonial African Liberation Movements, organized 3 gang truces, creates rap music for Motown records and is an active surfer.

The program "Freedom Now" is a Pan-African political and cultural montage of global music, historical calendar, spoken word, interviews and presentations by activists and organizations in the International Movement for Liberation from Oppression.

### **From the Editor: Thoughts on Freedom**

Having just finished celebrating the 235th anniversary of our

nation's Declaration of Independence and with the upcoming discussion of the "Arab Spring" at our next meeting, the idea of Freedom has been bouncing around in my brain. We Americans call ourselves the "Land of the Free" and Freedom is often discussed as the birthright of all our citizens.

However, Freedom can be too abstract a concept when trying to implement policy. When discussing Freedom eventually we must come to terms with what we mean. It begs the question "Freedom to do what for whom?".

Does the American concept of Freedom include the freedom of corporations to pay for the election campaigns of our elected officials? Does Freedom imply the right to not buy health insurance even if it shifts the burden of health costs to someone else? Does Freedom mean we have no obligation to equitably fund public education?

How we answer questions like these will determine the true nature of Freedom in the U.S.A.

#### 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.

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Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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**July 13, 2011 - Meeting Program:**

**Arab Spring Panel Discussion  
with Marium Mohiuddin and Dedon  
Kamathi**

**Upcoming Events**

► **Wednesday, July 13**

**Monthly General Meeting:  
Arab Spring Panel  
Discussion**

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

► **Saturday, July 16**

**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

► **Wednesday, August 10**

**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

► **Sat. & Sun., August 27-28**

**Club Booth at Fiesta La**

**Ballona:** Help us register voters  
and get the Club out in the  
community. We need volunteers  
to staff the booth. If available  
please call Karlo at (310) 202-7255  
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 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.