



Active Democrat

Find us at www.MeetUp.com/CulverCityDemocraticClub and as Culver City Democratic Club on FaceBook.com

General Meeting – September 14, 2011

School Board Candidates Forum & Endorsement



President's Message:

My first Culver City Democratic Club meeting came when I was 10 years old. My mom was running for school

board and we were told that we had to go the club to seek its important endorsement for her election. We came to the meeting, met a lot of new friends, and watched with excitement as the democratic process unfolded before our eyes.

I enjoy all club meetings, but our endorsement meetings are definitely my favorite. They are generally the first opportunity for the community to see the candidates interact with each other and address the concerns of their potential constituents. It is the antithesis of party machine politics or boss controlled endorsements since every member gets to vote and each vote counts equally. Very few of the club members knew my mom before that night's meeting, but by the end of the night, she had placed first in their endorsement list. You can't beat that.

At this month's meeting, our club will continue that tradition with our candidates forum and endorsement for 2 seats on the Culver City School Board. This endorsement is especially important for two reasons. First, this is an incredibly important election for our community. With state funding for education drying up and big decisions on the horizon at CCUSD related to solar powered schools, the treatment of district unions, and the use of consultants, the people who we elect will have a direct correlation with the quality of our schools and property values of our houses. Second, this is a rare election where all five candidates are registered Democrats. Since our club is only allowed to endorse Democratic candidates, this forum provides a rare opportunity to make sure we pick the best of a legitimate field.

Throughout this newsletter, we are including statements from the four candidates who chose to submit them. All four include information on their experience and platform, providing you with the information necessary to come to our forum with relevant questions and an understanding

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Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
September 14, 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

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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 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)

of the issues facing our district. The candidates all come with different experiences that they believe make them qualified to serve on our school board. Some are educators with a professional understanding of educational theory and practice, some are parents with hands on experience in the classrooms, and some are graduates of our district, with a long term understanding of our school culture. With so many choices, I know that our club will pick the best candidates to support.

Our support, by the way, is significant. We mail endorsement cards to all registered Democrats throughout the city. Our endorsed candidates for local office have won 10 of the last 12 elections dating back to 2004. Over almost 60 years of existence, our club has built up trust within the community. Democrats look to us for advice on local elections and we are looking to you. Come join us on September 14th as we go through this important process. Be an informed voter and help us to inform others. After all, this is what democracy is all about.

Candidates Statements

(Text as submitted by candidates)

Laura Chardiet:

I am the coordinator of LAUSD's \$15 million adult literacy program, an experienced classroom teacher, and a parent of two CCUSD students. I know what it takes to build programs, support teachers and ensure student success.

My experience, resourcefulness, and collaborative approach will help turn difficult budget discussions into creative opportunities to improve our schools and community. My on-going, active involvement in our schools helps me understand how to give more of a say to Culver City families.

Our excellent schools have achieved statewide recognition; we can make them better still.

Endorsed by:

- Culver City Teacher's Union
- Plumbers and Fitters Local 761

Supported by Culver City leaders: Current and Former Council members including Mayor O'Leary, Scott Malsin, Jeff Cooper, Andy Weissman, Alan Corlin, Sandi Levin, Ed Wolkowitz

Current and Former School Board members including Kathy Paspalis, Madeline Ehrlich, Dana Russell, Marla Wolkowitz, Stew Bubar, Jessica Beagles-Roos

Background:

- Masters in Educational Administration— CSU, Dominguez Hills
- Member, California Program Evaluation Team, Workforce Investment Act Grant
- President, Culver City Council of PTAs
- CCEF 2007 Volunteer of the Year
- CCUSD Community Budget Advisory Committee
- La Ballona Elementary School Site Council

www.laura4culvercitykids.com

Nancy Goldberg:

I have been a member of the Culver City Democratic Club since 1965. I also am a recently retired Culver City High School English teacher. The beliefs of the Democratic Party of social justice, progressive thinking, and equality are those that I embodied during my teaching career. Students are individuals whose problems deserve careful consideration and thought; the

same is true for the serious challenges facing our school district. I will carefully evaluate each issue presented, researching and studying the underlying factors in order to make informed decisions. Serving as a Board member is a logical transition for me because I will be able to share my expertise, passion, and enthusiasm for education with the community.

During my teaching career with CCUSD, I have seen the impact of federal and state decisions which in some cases have resulted in weakening and undermining public education. In order to overcome these many challenges, we must transform our approach to education.

The district has many excellent programs and going forward we must maintain what is great about our schools and have the wisdom and courage to improve what is not. First and foremost, we must always protect our students and consider the whole child; emotionally, academically, and emotionally.

C. Scott Zeidman:

President Culver City Board of Education

Fellow Democrats, as a Culver City resident for 39 years, a graduate of Culver City schools, and with two sons attending school in our district, I have a vested interest in achieving and maintaining the highest standards for our schools.

Over the past four years, the State has cut school funding by almost 20%. However in spite of decreased funding, CCUSD students continue to thrive and achieve.

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(Statements from Page 2)

During my tenure, with your help, we have:

- Passed Measure EE, which will raise \$6,000,000 for our schools;
- Made our schools safer by implementing a vigorous anti-bullying policy;
- Limited the student population at the Middle and High Schools by limiting the number of inter-district permits;
- Retained counselors and classroom aides;
- Implemented an open, transparent budget process;
- Coordinating with the City on Safe Routes to Schools;
- Hired Patti Jaffe as our Superintendent

By re-electing me, I promise to continue to be your voice on the Board, to work diligently to maintain the highest quality of teachers and staff, and to provide programs that will best prepare our students for the future.

Please cast your vote for me on November 8

Robert Zirgulis:

As the best candidate for School Board, I will generate fresh innovative ideas, entrepreneurial spirit, and creative solutions to combat the dire budget problems

facing the Culver City Unified School District.

I am a prudent fiscal manager and will bring a diverse background of real world experiences as a teacher, entrepreneur, and realtor.

I'm for advancing and promoting the quality of education while holding the line on spending. For example, I will stop the district from wasting millions of dollars on excessive attorney and consultant fees.

As a substitute teacher, I have a broader understanding of what has been happening in our schools because I have taught every grade from K-12 and been in virtually every class throughout the school district.

As a previous candidate for School Board I supported Measure EE which raised \$6,million for our schools.

I want to raise \$3,000,000,000 statewide for our schools by supporting an oil extraction tax on oil companies paying zero taxes in California.

I want to encourage entrepreneurial initiative by supporting practical experiences

through internships and vocational training.

Academics: Master of Science Business CSUN, Public Service BA, UCLA

Culver City resident since 1984.

Please contact me:
zirgulisr@yahoo.com;
310-486-7408,
www.robertzirgulis.vpweb.com

**Come Have a Laugh at
Comedy Night October 27,
7pm!**

Ronnie Jayne, Camille Solari and Betsy Salkind will regale us with an evening of live comedy at Amvets Hall (10858 Culver Blvd.).

Tickets are only \$30 per person or 2 for \$50, refreshments will be served. This fun & funny fundraiser will benefit CCDC so we may continue getting Democrats into office on local, state and national levels - and that's no joke!

For tickets contact Meghan:
secondvp@ccdclub.org or 310-845-5831. We hope you will join us!

**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

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party on Saturday August 27, 2011 held its annual Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Awards. It was held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles. The recipient for 2011 Democrat Of The Year from the 47 A.D. was given to our own President Karlo Silbiger. The club congratulates him.

Herb Rosenberg continues day by day to get stronger. And he wants to thank the members who called with their get well wishes not only to Diane but called Herb in the hospital. Also want to thank members who came to the house after he came home. Herb especially wants to thank Bill Wynn for his caring on how everything was going with Herb when he came and saw him at home.

The club is saddened by the loss of one of its members Gene Agron. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. We send our condolences to his wife Tonia and family.

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.

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

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September 14, 2011 - Meeting Program:
**School Board Candidates
Forum
& Endorsement**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, Sept. 14**
**Monthly General Meeting:
School Board Candidates
Forum & Endorsement**
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, September 17**
Monthly Board Meeting:
1:00 PM at the Camarella/Jayne's
home. All members welcome.
Call Bill at (310) 253-9046 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, October 12**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Diversity 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

► **Thursday, October 27**
Comedy Night:
7:00 PM at the AmVets Hall,
10858 Culver Blvd. Tickets are
only \$30 per person or 2 for \$50,
refreshments will be served. All
members and public are welcome.
Contact Meghan at 310-845-5831
or SecondVP@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.