



**General Meeting – October 12, 2011**  
**Diversity Panel Discussion**



**President's Message:**

While the role of the United States President is vast and complex, the attention given by the American public to that work is

limited. Many Presidents have accomplished historically significant things to then be kicked out of office after 4 years. There is no question that President Obama will have a legitimate argument to make over the next year as he campaigns around the country, touting his accomplishments: a health care plan that provides more people with improved coverage, an end to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which finally breaks a discriminatory and arbitrary barrier to serving in the military, and a financial law that told the banks and credit card companies that they cannot take unlimited advantage of the people they are supposed to serve.

Yes, President Obama has worked hard over the past 3 years and has made a good case for re-election. However, he will undoubtedly face a problem in 2012 that worries most Democratic Party political consultants and those of us who support him: most Presidents do not get re-elected when the economy is bad. Because of the complexities of American politics, many people over

the past 50 or so years have decided to base their vote not on the various social and foreign policy issues addressed by the country, but instead based solely on whether or not the administration has made their economic lives better.

Everyone in Washington knows this phenomenon and that is why we are seeing the political theater of late coming out of Congress and the administration. The President has finally grown the backbone that many of us have been hoping for, calling for the rich to pay their fair share in taxes and developing a jobs bill that will put people back to work. The Republican leadership understands that their job is to stop the President from succeeding at all costs, so they have been fighting him at every turn. However, with unemployment still dangerously close to 10%, it is the President who has to find a way to pass his agenda, even if it means bringing it directly to the American people. When it comes to the economy, it doesn't matter your race, religion, region of the country, or sexual orientation. We are all hurt when we can't find work.

It is within that frame of the current fight in Washington that the Club is proud to present our 3rd annual diversity panel at the October meeting. For the past 2 years, under the leadership of Bill Wynn, our club has presented a look into the (See **President**, Page 2)

**Monthly General Membership Meeting:**

**7:00 PM Wednesday,  
October 12, 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.

**Election Endorsement - CCUSD Board of Education**

**Nancy Goldberg**

**Vote Tuesday, November 8**

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**(President** from Page 1)  
diversity of our Culver City community and the ways in which our differences actually bring us together rather than tear us apart. This year we will focus our discussion on the way that all people from diverse backgrounds are being impacted by the recession and the work that we need to do as a country to provide an equal playing field for all of our neighbors. It is often one of the most moving meetings of the year and I'm sure this year will be no different.

But as a Democratic Club, our role must be more active than just talking about the problem and then going home. We must ensure that the fair tax plan and jobs bill both presented by President Obama get a fair hearing and a chance to begin the path to economic recovery. Every member knows that this is an issue of morality. For far too long, the poor have had to fight for fewer and fewer jobs while the rich pay lower taxes than their secretaries. How can we even tout an "American dream" when we have been unable to provide for those who want to better themselves?

If we want to give the President a chance of winning a second term and simultaneously take a large step towards a fair and equitable economy, then let's get to work.

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### **Impact of the Economic Recession** by Bill Wynn

America is getting poorer. 46.2 million Americans are now living in poverty. The median household income has fallen. The median

wealth of White households is 20 times that of Black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households, according to a Pew Research Center analysis from 2009. The net worth of Hispanic households decreased from \$18,359 in 2005 to \$6,325 in 2009. The drop 66% was the largest among all groups. The net worth of Black households was modest in comparison, falling 16% from \$134,992 in 2005 to \$113,149 in 2009. Asians lost their place at the top of the wealth hierarchy. Their net worth fell from \$168,103 in 2005 to \$78,066, a drop of 54%.

According to a report released in February from the National Employment Law Project, higher wage industries are accounting for 40 percent of the job losses in America but only 14 percent of the job growth. Lower wage industries are accounting for just 23 percent of the job losses but 49 percent of the growth. One out of every six Americans is now enrolled in at least one government anti-poverty program. There are 49.9 million Americans that do not have any health insurance. One out of every five U.S. children is living in poverty. One out of every six elderly Americans now lives below the federal poverty line. Over the past year, the global price of food has risen by 37 percent and this has pushed approximately 44 million more people around the world into poverty. According to the Washington Post, the average yearly income of the bottom 90 percent of all U.S. income earners is now just \$31,244. The poorest 50% of all Americans now control just 2.5% of all of the wealth in this country..

### **Our Panelists for October's Meeting**

**Joy Lusco Kecken** - writer, director, producer, and activist.

Ms. Kecken accepted a 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from Towson University for her work as a writer, director and producer.

For three seasons, she was a writer on The Wire. Her episodic directorial debut for critically acclaimed show aired in January 2008 on HBO. She contributed to the highly successful U.S. and U.K. editions of The Wire books.

She also co-wrote the 100th episode, season finale of NBC's Homicide: Life on the Street, which TV Guide voted the top ten best of 1998.

In addition, she has been a political activist and Field Organizer in Southern California, supervising over 400,000 voter contact calls made during the 2010 election that kept California blue.

With the California State PTA, she has lobbied state congressional members in Sacramento on behalf of the children of California during the state budget cuts to education. Her grant writing work has raised over \$10,000 for La Ballona Elementary School and she coordinates a free book giveaway for Reading Is Fundamental for pre-K through 3rd grade. As a result of her work, she was recognized in April as a community leader by President Obama and was invited to the White House to meet him and his policy staff.

**Shawn Casey O'Brien** - writer, progressive activist and radio talk show host.

Mr. O'Brien currently serves as co-host and co-producer of "Access Unlimited," The disability awareness show heard every Tuesday at 2 p.m. on Los Angeles radio station KPFFK - 90.7 FM.

(See **Panelists**, Page 3)

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

At our September 14, 2011 General Meeting we had School Board Candidates Forum and Endorsement. We are happy to announce that club member Nancy Goldberg got our endorsement. We congratulate her.

Update on Herb Rosenberg - Herb continues to get stronger each day. The surgery was a complete success with no complications. Herb celebrated his 76th birthday on 9/21. He looks forward to coming back to the club. Herb sends his best regard to everyone. And wishes our members who are Jewish a Happy New Year.

Club members Amy and Darryl Cherness has just started a business "Compassionate Disability Advocates" and we wish them the very best in their new venture.

**(Panelists from Page 2)**

Shawn Casey O'Brien has spent most of his adult life as a grassroots activist fighting for the civil rights and economic interests of disabled citizens and their families. He founded and served for nine years as Executive Director of the ruthlessly non-partisan Unique People's Voting Project or, as it became commonly known -- UP. The nation's first grassroots effort to bring disabled voters into the political process. In that role, he was instrumental in registering over 100,000 citizens with disabilities to vote.

Shawn has served in Sacramento as an advisor to the past three California Secretaries of State on voting rights and access matters. Shawn played a pivotal role while serving as a member of the Secretary of State's Ad Hoc Touch Screen Task Force, the first governmental body in the nation to examine and issue a report on the security of touch screen voting machines. This report led to California decertifying all touch screen machines without an accessible voter verified paper ballot.

Shawn Casey O'Brien's latest literary effort is as a contributing author to *Voices from the Edge: Narratives about the American's with Disability Act*, published by Oxford University Press.

**Mykesha A Robinson** - Community Development Consultant President, World Music Commission

Ms. Robinson established the Los Angeles County Community Development Corporation and World Music Commission, a community advocacy resource center and consulting firm. Ms. Robinson a former homeless veteran in Los Angeles successfully managed to discover the keys to success and has been instrumental in the development various workforce readiness programs that have greatly impacted the youth community. As a founding consultant, she has created and implemented ethical business development programs for clients nationwide including the South Bay

Workforce City of Carson, The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association with Franklin Graham, City of Gardena, Force of Hope Economic Development Corporation, Angel Food Ministries and The Macy's Corporation.

Ms. Robinson has written public policy that has received accolades from the University of California and draws upon her vast public relations and marketing experience as a community organizer. Prior to starting the Los Angeles County Community Development Corporation, Mykesha worked with Shelby County Schools in Memphis, Tennessee as a youth student government educator. Her current community involvement remains as a policy advocate, community event producer and Entertainment Show Host.

**Dwayne Wyatt** - City Planner for the Los Angeles City Planning Department.

Mr. Wyatt earned a Masters of Arts degree in Regional, Urban planning from the University of California at Los Angeles. Mr Wyatt. has worked as a professional planner for some 24 years.

While serving with the City Planning Department, Mr. Wyatt has worked on several special city projects and community initiatives such as the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative program, the Hyde Park Pedestrian District Project, the Crenshaw Summit Organizing Committee, the South Central Planning Alliance, the Urban Regional Block Associations Network, to name a few. He currently serves as a land use advisor for the resident organization, Hyde Park Organizational Partnership for Empowerment (HOPE) and sits on the Steering Committee of the Urban Public Policy Round Table.

**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!

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### **To the Editor:**

How would it be if everyone operated under a strictly balanced budget? No (or very few) folks could buy a house, or a car. No sending your kids to college. A medical or other emergency would immediately lead to bankruptcy. Credit cards? Only if you pay in full each month. How about businesses? No more loans to start a business, or issuing bonds to expand – the entire Capitalist system would collapse. And what would the U.S. do in case of a national emergency if it could not borrow? The good news; no more wars! We couldn't pay for them.

As it is, states can afford to have balance budgets – the Federal Government will bail them out in an emergency. I wonder to what extent the Tea Party folks personally abide by their calls to restrict spending to their immediate income?

Sincerely,  
Norman Palley, Culver City

### **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

**Newsletter:** Greg Valtierra

**Renew your membership!**

Now collecting dues for 2012. Dues for 2012 are due by January 1, 2012. 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, October 12**

**Monthly General Meeting: Diversity Panel**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Read about the panelists on Page 2 and 3. Call Karlo at (310) 202-7255 or email [President@CCDemClub.Org](mailto:President@CCDemClub.Org)

► **Saturday, October 22**

**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](mailto:FirstVP@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](mailto:SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org)

► **Tuesday, November 8**

**Election Day**

**Don't forget to vote!**

Bring along a friend or neighbor to vote. Please support our endorsed candidate Nancy Goldberg.

► **Wednesday, November 9**

**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](mailto:President@CCDemClub.Org)

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

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**October 12, 2011 - Meeting Program:**

**Diversity Panel Discussion**

**Culver City Democratic Club Election Endorsement  
CCUSD Board of Education**

**Nancy Goldberg**

**Vote Tuesday, November 8**

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: Remainder of 2011 plus 2012 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

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

**Please renew for 2012 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.