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General Meeting – December 11, 2013
Holiday Celebration, Silent Auction,
and Guest Speaker Sheila Kuehl

President's Message: Happy Holidays



The Holiday Season is upon us as another year comes to a close. For me, the holiday season is a time of reflection. I'm most grateful for my friends,

family and the Culver City Democratic Club members - the people who have supported me on my journey as President of the Club. As I give thanks for my many blessings, I'm aware of the many poor people that we have in this country.

Just as the holiday season begins, when the thoughts and actions of some focus on compassion for others, we could be about to witness the government's forcing the poor to go hungry, the product of political horse-trading in Washington that has erased a critical portion of the already meager subsidy the federal food stamp program provides the more than 47 million Americans who receive it. It's a virtual certainty more cuts in the program will be made. Further cuts increase the threat that millions of men, women and children will, in years to come, endure not only hunger but also a host of health and health-related problems that the combination of hunger and poverty will produce or intensify.

This is the quagmire a nation with a huge surplus of food must find its way out of. As usual when it comes to federal aid to poor and working poor Americans, the issue isn't really the actual availability of funds for aid. The issue is politics and the deepening showdown in the nation between compassion and callousness. But it's also a matter of the House Republican majority's refusal to recognize that the food stamp program is a bulwark against the social and economic catastrophe widespread hunger in America would produce.

On Nov. 1, Congress allowed to expire without replacement a temporary boost in the food-stamp budget provided by funds from the 2009 economic stimulus package. The expiration reduced the monthly allotment food stamp recipients get by \$11 for a one-person household and by \$36 monthly for a family of four.

The increase had been the government's response to the need of the program (its formal name is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program or SNAP) to cope with the sharp rise in the numbers of Americans needing aid to buy food. That increase was driven overwhelmingly by the Great Recession's erasing more than 8 million jobs from the nation's (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
December 11, 2013**

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

To the Editor - Page 2

**Club Nominating Committee
Selected** - Page 3

**About Our Speaker, Sheila
Kuehl** - Page 3

**2014 Budget to be Presented
at December Meeting**
- Page 3

**Support the Club at the Silent
Auction** - 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@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

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)
workplace. As joblessness grew, so did the numbers of people seeking food stamps.

As a result, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the program's budget ballooned from \$35 billion in 2007 to \$80 billion now as its enrollment swelled from 26 million to its current level of one out of every seven Americans.

Earlier this year, a majority of Republicans in the GOP dominated House of Representatives, chanting their call of fiscal responsibility, approved as part of the farm bill Congress is considering a provision that would cut \$40 billion from SNAP over 10 years. The SNAP provision in the Democratic controlled Senate version of the bill differs significantly. It proposes a \$4 billion reduction.

The House proposal would deny benefits to 3.8 million people next year and an average of 3 million each succeeding year, according to the Center on Budget Policy and Priorities (CBPP), a nonpartisan think tank, and usher in a situation of social catastrophe akin to that of some Third World countries.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, most SNAP recipients work, but at low- wage jobs that after paying for their rent and such other necessities as transportation, leave them out of enough money to buy enough food to eat. In 2007, half of all food stamp users lived in the suburbs, according to an analysis of census data by the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. Now, it's 55 percent. More than 900,000 of those enrolled are veterans. The 21 million children in households that get food stamps constitute a quarter of all American children.

In other words, food stamp recipients are ordinary Americans who deserve our compassion and government aid because they have contributed, are contributing, or regarding the children, have the potential to contribute to the larger society. In that regard, the ounce of prevention of funding the nation's food stamp program at a level that properly responds to the need is the far wiser course to follow.

May The Peace And Love Of The
Season Fill Your Heart This
Christmas
- Season's Greetings To All

To the Editor:

After last month's school board elections I believe the time has come to fully value the members of the club. All the members not just a few.

If one pays dues one should be able to voice an opinion regardless of whether they attend the endorsement meeting or not. Imagine the cacophony if general election ballots were only available to voters who had the time to personally hear the candidates speak. When the club started in the 1950's it was probably necessary to attend the endorsement meeting in order to find out about a given candidate. Now with all the different ways people communicate it is not as important. I believe that is why absentee ballots are so popular in modern elections.

If the outcome of the endorsement process of the Culver City Democratic Club is to be an affirmation of who the club believes will best represent the interests of Democrats in Culver City then the endorsement meeting might very well be a hindrance to that end. Failure to endorse even one winner out of the seven recent school board candidates is point in fact.

And besides how many of the people
(See **Letter**, Page 3)

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

Tuesday, November 5 was election day here in Culver City for the Culver City School Board. Two of our Club members were elected. The club congratulates Kathy Paspalis on her being re-elected as President and Steve Levin on being elected. We also congratulate Sue Robbins.

Our November 13 general meeting was a candidates forum for the 54th Assembly District election. There were 3 candidates running for the seat that Assemblyperson Holly Mitchell vacated when she was elected to the State Senate: Christopher Armenta, John Jake, and Sebastian Ridley-Thomas. Ninety percent of the members at that meeting chose to endorse Christopher Armenta. Christopher Armenta has a good track record here in Culver City for following through on his promises to the public. He means what he says. We believe that he will fill Holly's seat up in Sacramento and will support Culver City and the 54th district voters. The Club could not have endorsed a better person to represent us.

Herb and I want to wish all of our Jewish members a Happy Chanuka

Medical update on Diane: I am now recuperating from a full shoulder replacement surgery. There have been no complications and the surgeon is very pleased on how I am recovering.

2013 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Bill Wynn

President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

First VP: Lee Sanders

FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Second VP: Sylvia Moore

SecondVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Treasurer: Eric Fine

Treasurer@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Recording Secretary:

Patricia Levinson

palevinson@ca.rr.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Lee Welinsky

Membership Secretary:

Diane Rosenberg

Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra

(Letter from Page 2)
who attend the endorsement meeting have already made up their minds before walking through the door?

I believe it is time for the club to more fully mirror the Democrats in Culver City by allowing absentee balloting by all dues paying members. Not just the few who have the time and are able to attend the endorsement meeting. Casting a wider net will no doubt allow the club to project its influence to those Culver City Democrats who do not belong to the club in a more meaningful way and will no doubt increase membership.

Once again I ask the Board of the CCDC to consider ways to implement absentee balloting for candidate endorsements.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Corlin

Club Nominating Committee Selected

The CCDC Nominating Committee was selected and approved on November 13, 2013. As required by the Bylaws, President Bill Wynn appointed two members: Ronnie Jayne and Roger Maxwell. The three members elected by the membership are: Loren Scott, Neil Rubenstein and Darryl Cherness. Ronnie Jayne has accepted the role of Chair and will convene the committee at her home before the December meeting. The slate will be announced at the December meeting. Elections will be conducted at the January meeting. Officers will be sworn in at the Installation & Awards Luncheon in February.

Note: Being nominated by the nominating committee is not a requirement of running for a Club office. It is possible to run from the floor at the January meeting.

About Our Speaker, Sheila Kuehl

Sheila James Kuehl served for eight years in the California State Senate and six years in the State Assembly. She represented over a million people on the westside of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley in a district that ran from the ocean to Hollywood and Westlake Village to Universal City. In 2008, she left the legislature under California's term limits statute.

She currently serves as Founding Director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College, an institute devoted to undergraduate and community education and the exploration of public policy at the local level.

She was the first woman in California history to be named Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly and the first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature.

In her fourteen years in the State Legislature, Sen. Kuehl authored 171 bills that were signed into law, including legislation to establish paid family leave, establish the rights contained in Roe vs. Wade in California statute, overhaul California's child support services system; establish nurse to patient ratios in every hospital; require that housing developments of more than 500 units have identified sources of water; further protect domestic

violence victims and their children; prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and disability in the workplace and sexual orientation in education; increase the rights of crime victims; safeguard the environment and drinking water; and many, many others. She led the fight in the legislature to achieve true universal health care in California.

Senator Kuehl graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978 where she was the second woman in the school's history to win the Moot Court competition. She served on the Harvard University Board of Overseers from 1998 to 2005. She received her undergraduate degree at UCLA.

Listen to Senator Kuehl's interview from 11/25/13 on KPFF's Connect the Dots program at http://archive.kpff.org/mp3/kpff_131125_070004ctd.MP3

2014 Budget to be Presented at December Meeting

In keeping with a long standing Club practice, the proposed Club budget for 2014 will be presented at the December meeting. Our dedicated Treasurer, Eric Fine, will explain the proposed budget and answer questions from the members. The finalized budget will be voted on at the January meeting in addition to the election of Club officers.

Support the Club at the Silent Auction

Once again we'll be celebrating the holidays with our Club's silent auction. The Club business will be kept to a very small minimum.

We will have a great variety of items to bid on and 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.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2014!

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, 2014.

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2014.
Dues for 2014 are due by
January 1, 2014. 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 11, 2013 - Meeting Program:

**Holiday Celebration,
Silent Auction,
and Guest Speaker Sheila Kuehl**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, December 11**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Sheila Kuehl, Holiday
Celebration & Silent
Auction**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Bill at
(310) 253-9046 or email
President@CulverCityDemocratic
Club.com

► **Saturday, December 21**
Monthly Board Meeting:
9:00 AM at the Camarella/Jayne's
home. All members welcome.
Call Lee at (310) 293-4436 or
email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticCl
ub.com

► **Wednesday, January 8**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections**
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Bill at
(310) 253-9046 or email
President@CulverCityDemocratic
Club.com

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 2014 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.