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General Meeting – January 8, 2014

Damien Goodman of Crenshaw Subway Coalition & Club Officer Elections

President’s Message: Happy New Year 2014



Get ready for an eventful New Year: Midterm elections will change some faces in Congress; U.S. troops are scheduled to leave

Afghanistan by year's end; Sports fans await the Winter Olympics in Russia and the World Cup from Brazil. Here in Culver City we will have a City Council election in the new year.

Last year at this time, we as a nation were grieving the death of 20 children and 6 adults at a school shooting in Connecticut. Our federal legislators proved they were cowards when they later refused to pass a bill which would require the registration of every gun sold in this country. On December 15 the pageant of death played itself out again as our ultimate gift to the NRA. A student at a high school in Colorado, near infamous Columbine, walked into the school he attended and shot at a few people, hitting two, before he shot and killed himself.

I'm happy to have served two terms as your President of the Culver City

Democratic Club. I plan to play a significant role continuing to inform our members, involving the community, and pushing forward a strong agenda at all levels; local, state, national and international. I hope to continue to provide the foundation for the important work that will need to be done over the next year, to elect good candidates to our city council, state legislature, and congress. I look forward to the presidential election in 2016. I hope we will continue to recruit new members and convert independents back into the Democratic Party.

My wish is that we will continue to make the Club more diverse and youthful through better use of social networking. It is critical that we get every Democrat registered to vote and to the polls if we are to take our country back and help Democrats retain their seats in all levels of government. Many other important local and state wide races and propositions will be on future ballots, and with the much publicized, energized Republican base at work, we need to be sure we're all doing our part to help that people's interests are first.

Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season and in the New Year!

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, January 8, 2014

6:45 PM – Refreshments Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building 4117 Overland Avenue Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

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Club Notes

January Meeting Sponsors: Herb and Diane Rosenberg celebrating their 48th anniversary

Renew your membership! Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information or see the inset on page 2 to renew online!

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!

Renew Your Club Membership for 2014!

Use the form on page 4 or call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

To The Editor:

In a December Letter to the Editor, Alan Corlin asserts that the outcome of the Culver City Democratic Club's endorsement process should "be an affirmation of who the club believes will best represent the interests of Democrats in Culver City." Corlin suggests that the club does not fully value all its members, but only a few. He claims that "failure to endorse even one winner out of the seven recent school board candidates is point in fact."

I believe one of the biggest reasons the club's endorsed candidates did not win is apathy and Culver City Democrats' failure to fully engage in the process of informing themselves about issues of preserving democracy that were at stake in this school board election. Many Democrats did not bother to attend our forum or even to vote. Contrary to Alan Corlin's opinion, I believe our club's endorsement forum is necessary, as it provides excellent education, especially during the portion where individual members (like myself) speak about why they choose to endorse certain candidates.

Beyond providing an excellent educational opportunity at the endorsement meeting, however, our club failed to adequately educate community members who were not present at that meeting. Culver City Democratic Club should have educated the public about why the candidates we endorsed represent democratic values (little "d")—not just "the interests of Democrats in Culver City," as Alan Corlin claims the endorsement should do.

At our November meeting, our club president Bill Wynn behooved us to ask ourselves why our endorsed candidates lost—candidates who indeed represent democratic values (little "d"). "Answers are found in Common Unity," Wynn writes in his November essay. "There is a shared goal, or a desired outcome which is

common to the whole. . . . We can have a reputation as a city that cares as well as enjoys all the wonderful amenities offered by a bustling economy."

Unfortunately, some Democrats who were actively engaged in the school board election focused more on division and contention than on Common Unity and democratic values. Whereas Alan Corlin points to the CCDC's erroneous endorsement process as the reason for our club's failure to "endorse even one winner," I am wondering if part of the reason for that failure is that some "self-interested" Culver City Democrats purposely propelled to victory the endorsed slate of an anti-union PAC. I am wondering if some Democrats purposely participated in eliminating Karlo Silbiger from the school board, which was the PAC's intention from its inception.

In contrast to candidates on the anti-union PAC's slate, the Culver City Democratic Club endorsed Karlo Silbiger and Claudia Vizcarra, also endorsed by the Culver City Federation of Teachers and the Culver City Association of Classified Employees. At our forum, union representatives made an articulate case for the democratic values demonstrated by their endorsed candidates.

Though the Culver City Democratic Club's endorsed candidates lost this school board election, not all is lost in Culver City Unified School District. To support the principle of Common Unity, I strongly suggest that our club invite Superintendent Dave LaRose as a guest speaker, who will inspire us to become involved in the district's Whole Child, Whole Community approach to education. "Success for ALL takes US all."

To further educate our club at that meeting, I also advise the screening of a 5-minute video, which is posted on the Facebook page for Culver City

Pay Dues Online!

You now have the option to renew your Culver City Democratic Club membership online through ActBlue! ActBlue is a secure web site that allows Democratic and progressive organizations and political campaigns to fundraise online. You can also send in extra contributions to our club through ActBlue. And in the future, you will be able to buy tickets to CCDC events as well. It only takes a few minutes. And since ActBlue is a nonprofit organization, consider supporting them as well by adding a 10% tip on the form in addition to your CCDC contribution.

Link:

<https://secure.actblue.com/page/ccdcmembership>

PEERS (Parents and Educators for Equity and Resources in Schools.) The "Five Myths about Our Schools that Fall Apart When You Look Closer" video ends with an admonition for the U.S. to learn from the highest-performing countries in the world: treat Teachers, Community groups, and Unions as PARTNERS in improving Public Education. In other words, Common Unity.

- Carlene Brown, MA. Ed.

About Our Speaker

Damien Goodman is the Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit Crenshaw Subway Coalition and United Community Associations ("UCA"). Both the Coalition and UCA's Citizens' Campaign to Fix the Expo Rail Line, seek to empower stakeholder groups in the Crenshaw-Leimert Park-Hyde Park area and highlight the issues of equitable and community-centered transportation planning in the pursuit of racial and economic justice for South Los Angeles.

Mr. Goodman was named to the national staff of the Wesley Clark for President 2004 campaign at the age of 21, and in 2004 he served as the Senior Communications Advisor and National Spokesman for StopJohnRoberts.com.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

We send Club member Rick Beaver get well wishes and hope he has a speedy recovery from surgery.

Long time Club member Hannah Oman passed away on December 25. She is survived by her son Samuel Oman, daughter Miriam Bermann, four grandchildren and their spouses and five great-grand children. The Club sends condolences to the family.

Club Officer Candidates Statements

The following members have been nominated by the Club Nominating Committee as announced at the December meeting:

President - Lee Sanders:

As a candidate for President of the Culver City Democratic Club, I would like to make a brief statement on the purposes and usefulness of our club.

1. Like most clubs of any kind, we encourage the growth of long-term friendships and networks of activists with common interests. These can be personally rewarding, and lead to electing to local offices our friends and those we know we can trust to represent us.

2. We can educate our members, the public, and especially the young Democrats about important issues: healthcare, human rights, environment, economics, and taxes, as well as demonstrating how to engage in practical politics. Our meetings will allow contacts with candidates, office holders and other political speakers. We will offer copies of significant political articles, and show some documentary films. We will be open to our members' ideas for political activism at our meetings and elsewhere. I was fortunate to have parents, aunts, and uncles who were active in the Young Democrats and FDR Club of Pasadena, so I was educated, mentored, and volunteering, beginning when I was six years old.

3. We are the grassroots of a large and powerful Democratic Party of America. The club movement in California (California Democratic Council) was most influential in the fifties and sixties, and politicians appreciated us as the experienced volunteers who did the work that got them elected. We must restore that movement as the democratic alternative to the Wall Street Party.

First VP - Sylvia Moore:

Sylvia Moore is a blogger who writes about politics, media and universal health care. A member of the Culver City Democratic Club since 2008, Sylvia served as Recording Secretary for two years and 2nd Vice President for the past two years. While on the club's board, Sylvia launched the

CCDC into the 21st century, by creating and administering the club's Facebook and Meetup.com pages. A Progressive Democratic activist, Sylvia is currently a delegate to the California Democratic Party. As a member of Move to Amend LA, Sylvia helped organize a successful effort to get the Los Angeles City Council to pass a resolution in support of a Constitutional amendment stripping corporations of constitutional rights. In addition to her activism, Sylvia runs a monthly social club for liberals on Meetup.com called LA Progressive Friends.

Second VP - David Bromberg:

David Bromberg recently graduated from UCLA. He studied political science with a minor in public policy. David was involved in politics his entire life. From discussing issues at the dinner table from a young age to volunteering on local campaigns in his high school years he has always had an interest in what was going on in the world. While in community college, he served on the student senate and organized a rally of a few hundred students to protest the budget cuts on education in 2011. If elected as Second Vice President to the Culver City Democratic Club, he hopes to use his organization skills and out-of-the-box ideas to fund-raise more money for the club.

Treasurer - Eric Fine:

Eric Fine is a Beverly Hills High Graduate. He went on to be Student Body President of Santa Monica College in the Spring of 1985. He was also President of the Hillel Club from 1983-1984. Eric was also Vice-President of the Santa Monica College branch of Americans for Democratic Action club from 1984-1985. Eric then transferred to The University of Nevada at Las Vegas where he graduated from in 1988 with a Bachelors degree in business management. Eric, now owns and manages property and lives in Beverly Hills. Eric gets the occasional part in commercials. He is also currently the Treasurer of the Westside Progressives. Eric is also active with Medical Marijuana groups and marijuana legalization groups.

Membership Sec. - Diane Rosenberg:

I first became membership chair in 1996. In 2000-2004 I was a delegate to the 47th A.D. In that time 2002-2003 I was President of this club.

I went back to being membership chair in 2003. For ten years I have held this position with the Club. I thoroughly enjoy being chair and a board member of the club.

In 2014 I would very much like to serve again as membership chair.

Corresponding Sec. - Stephen Murray:

Stephen Murray has a passion for fixing things and has enjoyed successful careers in varied fields including software development, project management and teaching. Stephen's political passion is campaigning for environmental and food justice, sustainability and an open democracy free from the excess power of corporate influence. As a progressive, Stephen is heavily involved in campaigns against fracking, in favor of GMO labeling and against the TPP. Stephen ran as a candidate for a Culver City council seat in 2012 and was pleased to receive a few nominations during this Club's endorsement process. As a board member Stephen looks forward to helping find concrete ways help the Club's candidates and issues win. Stephen asks for your support in electing him to the position of Correspondence Secretary..

Recording Sec. - Pat Levinson:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Recording Secretary to the CCDC. I welcome the challenge to fully participate in our efforts to pursue a democratic majority in our electoral processes.

Although recently retired after 38 years in Los Angeles County educational settings, including education administration, I grew up in Culver City. My previous commitments included working with CC educational and health organizations and working on local political campaigns.

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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January 8, 2014 - Meeting Program:

**Damien Goodman of
Crenshaw Subway Coalition
& Club Officer Elections**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, January 8**
**Monthly General Meeting:
Damien Goodman & 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

► **Sunday, January 26**
Monthly Board Meeting:
9:00 AM at the Rosenberg's home.
All members welcome. Call Lee
at (310) 293-4436 or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticCl
ub.com

► **Wednesday, February 12**
Monthly General Meeting:
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.