

Active Democrat

WWW.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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General Meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2015

Club Officer Elections

& Report from Kamala Harris' Campaign Office

President's Message:



Happy New Year Democrats!

Twenty six years marks our President Obama's last year in office. I feel rather sad as it seems like his historical and amazing tenure as

our first Chief Executive of color flew by so fast. But I also feel wistful as I remember that historic night in 2008, sitting inside a Los Angeles-area restaurant/nightclub with my friends and about 100-plus other people watching the election returns. As Barack Obama's photo flashed on the television screen with the words, "44th President of the United States," the crowd erupted in cheers and jubilation. The crowd kept screaming as the newly-elected President and his family stepped onto the stage and waved to adoring fans. It was indeed an incredible night.

Fast forward through nearly eight years filled with incredible achievements on the economy, healthcare reform and foreign policy, but also much social unrest and ugly racial tension. For this November's Presidential election, I have as much trepidation as I did on Election Night 2008. I must confess that back then, I wasn't sure America was going to actually elect a black President up until the very moment Pennsylvania was called for Mr. Obama. I feared very much the specter of another

reactionary GOP presidency in the form of John McCain, along with his fundamentalist lightweight running mate, Sarah Palin. But those two are practically progressives when it comes to what the Republicans are offering up as presidential candidates today.

People are now openly talking about the "F-word" - fascism - as possibly taking root in America. But, thanks to the candidacy of Bernie Sanders, people are also talking more about "democratic socialism" and democratic socialist policies like universal health care, free college for all, a living wage and paid family leave. Sanders would be the "first" openly socialist President if he wins. And people are also talking about the possibility of having the first female Chief Executive in Hillary Clinton. A woman as the most powerful leader in the world would have a tremendous cultural effect in how the contributions of women to our society are perceived.

All these tantalizing "firsts" are great, but I want to caution my fellow Democrats and progressive friends into putting too much expectation onto the one person they hope wins the Presidency. I saw this with President Obama: supporters who had unrealistically high expectations of how much he could achieve in office, and who were disappointed when he couldn't deliver everything [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
January 13, 2016**

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 or

to renew online click

"Join/Renew" on our web site.

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!

January Meeting Sponsors:

Diane & Herb Rosenberg celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

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]
 they wanted. I see these same unrealistic expectations among my fellow Democrats and progressives today. I think it is the unique culture of American individualism, as well as the fact that the United States elects its executive and legislature separately (as opposed to most parliamentary governments), that drives this desire to put all of one's hopes for fundamental change onto one person. I think it's why Congressional, "off-year" elections - which are just as important - don't get the same attention as they should. The President, at the nation's founding, was envisioned as an "elected king" - a national figurehead. But, to get back to Civics 101, the President is by law a co-equal partner with the Congress and the Supreme Court. The President can't do much without Congress' cooperation and the Supreme Court's blessing. I think too often many people forget that. And so, they think that the President can change everything. They think that the President affects their lives the most (when in truth, it's their local City Council that does). So whether our new President in November is Hillary, Bernie or even Martin O'Malley - and we do hope it's one of those three - please cut him or her a bit of slack. Because a Democratic President also needs a progressive Democratic Congress to make the kinds of policies we liberals want to see to make America a kinder, gentler place to live.

Annual Awards and Instalation Brunch

The Culver City Democratic Club will be holding its annual installation brunch on February 21, 2016 from 11:30am-3:00pm at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, located at 6333 Bristol Parkway in Culver City. The price for the brunch is \$40.00 for those who pay in advance and \$45.00 for those who pay at the door. All members and their guests are invited. For information, please contact Diane Rosenberg at 310-398-5328.

Nominating Committee Report & Candidates Statements

The Nominating Committee met on Saturday, November 21st at the home of the Rosenbergs. The following slate of officers was nominated:

President: Khin Khin Gyi
 First Vice President: Amy Cherness
 Second Vice President: Ronnie Jayne
 Treasurer: Eric Fine
 Recording Secretary: Patricia Levinson
 Corresponding Secretary: Stephen Murray
 Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Here are their candidate statements:

Khin Khin Gyi - President:

As a board member of Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community and

as a neurologist, I have worked tirelessly to inform the residents of Culver City and LA County about the adverse health effects of chemicals produced in the course of oil extraction. As a member of the Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club, I have worked to defend our right to clean air, water and land use over the right of corporations seeking profits at the expense of our health.

Having served as President Emeritus of the Culver Crest Neighborhood Association for two years has taught me the skills of engaging and empowering a community to stand up for its rights, whether it be facing parking issues with West LA College or standing up for more transparency from Freeport McMoran Oil & Gas Co. at the monthly CAP (Community Advisory Panel) meetings.

Currently, I am working with SCADA (Southern California Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action) to educate, inform and galvanize our constituents to stand up for our rights to clean air, land and water. I would be honored to receive your vote for the position of president and will be bringing a collaborative coalition to work to achieve our common vision and shared mission

Amy Cherness - First Vice-President:

I will soon be completing my second term as Second Vice President in Charge of Ways and Means. It gives me great satisfaction to know that my various fund raising activities i.e. a theater party to "Into the Woods," the sale of Menchie's frozen yogurt, and the monthly raffles have contributed to the financial well being of the Culver City Democratic Club.

I now look forward to assuming new challenges as First Vice President. I would be honored to have your support.

[See **Officer Candidates**, Page 3]

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

City of Culver City Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Saturday January 16, 2016 from 11:00am-4:00pm at Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Ave. Culver City, CA. 90230. For more information visit www.culvercity.org or call 310-253-6675 Culver City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

On January 9 2016 Herb and I will be celebrating our 50th anniversary by renewing our vows at Temple Akiba.

Update on Herb: The surgery on November 30 to do a partial replacement on his right knee was successful. That he was home two days later. He is doing extremely well, going to physical therapy three times a week, and walking. He is now free of pain and looking forward to getting around on his own two feet.

[Officer Candidates from Page 2]

Ronnie Jayne - Second Vice-President:

Ronnie Jayne is a CCDC Past President and has formerly served as 2nd VP in charge of Fundraising. She has chaired our Holiday Silent Auction for a number of years, and has extensive fundraising experience. This will be an expensive year for our Club, with 3 elections needing postcard mailers. We can do this, but it will take work, ... and your help! Join me for a year of fun fundraising activities, ... including a theatre party, bingo night, raffles and more.

Eric Fine - Treasurer

Eric Fine served as Student Body President of Santa Monica College in the Spring of 1985. He was also President of the Hillel Club from 1983-1984 and Vice-President of the Santa Monica College branch of Americans for Democratic Action club from 1984-1985. Eric graduated from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas in 1988 with a Bachelors degree in business management. Eric, now owns and manages property and lives in Los Angeles. Eric is also active with Medical Marijuana groups and marijuana legalization groups

Patricia Levinson - Recording Secretary:

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 and current commitments include working with CC educational and health organizations and working on local political campaigns.

Stephan Murray - Corresponding Secretary:

I am honored to be nominated for a 3rd term and will commit myself to moving the election mailings forward and supporting the club's various tech issues.

Diane Rosenberg - Membership Secretary

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 twelve years I have held this position with the Club. I thoroughly enjoy being chair and a board member of the club.

In 2016 I would very much like to serve again as Membership Chair.

"A Raisin in the Sun" Fundraiser

Save the date! The Culver City Democratic Club is scheduling a fundraiser night at the theater with a production of the play "A Raisin In The Sun".

"A Raisin In The Sun" is the groundbreaking play which starred Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Ruby Dee and Diana Sands in

the Broadway production which opened in 1959.

The Club will be attending the play on Saturday January 23, 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 It is a presentation by the Kentwood Players at the Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue Westchester, CA. 90045 www.kentwoodplayers.org

Contact person is Bill Wynn 213-300-1194

To the Editor: Help the Club! by Darryl Chernes

Next year is an important election year. There will be a City Council Election in April, a State Primary Election in June, and a Presidential Election in November.

If the Club is to play the same critical role in these election that it has played over the years, we will need to send out thousands of post card mailers and/or newsletters to Democratic households throughout Culver City urging them to support candidates and issues endorsed by the Club. This is an expensive proposition costing the Club thousands of dollars in printing and postage.

One of the most effective and efficient ways to raise this money is through Club dues. The more members we have, the more dues money we have!

This is where you, the rank and file member of the Club, can help! Each member of the Club must act as a salesman/saleswoman for the Club. If you have friends, relative, neighbor, or co-workers who are Democrats, invite them to a Club meeting. Once they attend a few meetings and find out how interesting and informative are meetings are, they will want to become members.

Do something good for the Club, the Democratic Party, and your community. I will thank you, and the Club will thank you.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2016!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership OR click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Dues are due by January 1, 2016

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2016.
Dues for 2016 are due by
January 1, 2016. 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

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 - Meeting Program:
Club Officer Elections
& Report from Kamala Harris'
Campaign Office

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, January 13**
Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections &
Report from Kamala Harris'
Campaign Office

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Saturday, January 23**
Monthly Board Meeting:
10:00 AM at the Rosenberg's
home. All members welcome.
Call Khin Khin at (310) 945-6087
or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Saturday, January 23**
Night at the Theater Club
Fundraiser
8 PM at the Westchester
Playhouse All members and
guests welcome. Details on Page
3. Call Bill Wynn at (213) 300-
1194

► **Sunday, February 21**
Annual Awards and
Installation Brunch:
11:30 AM to 3:00 PM at
Courtyard by Marriott in Culver
City. All members welcome. Call
Diane at (310) 398-5328 or email
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.
com

Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me the Club newsletter by email only

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

OR Click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com.

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

Please renew for 2016 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.