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..important time to be on the board

..next budget revise is in May.....bad news

called back teachers all the way to the first day of school last year

..more flexibility in using parcel tax funds

..2.5% salary concession..

..furlough days...

..priorities..class size reduction.. secondary students a 7th period ..

..much better off than other towns .



Everyone has to Give in Budget Crisis: Interview with Sheila Allen
by Tim Fenton

Sacrifice was again the theme of our recent talk with Davis school board member Sheila Allen. Of course, we were talking about how the school board responds when the state taketh away some \$5.6 million from the 2010 -2011 school year budget. To close this huge gap, Allen says, everyone -- students, faculty, school administrators, parents, taxpayers, volunteer fundraisers -- has to give something.

Sadly, Sheila Allen knows more than she'd like about sacrifice. Days before we talked, she had been laid off from her part time position as the HIV program manager for the Davis Health Department. Allen had brought a PhD in nursing to that important job, now sadly vacant.

When we spoke, Allen reported that the Davis Teachers Association was mulling over a salary concession proposed by the board of \$1 million. Also proposed is a 2.5% salary concession by the superintendent of schools and other senior administrators plus five furlough days. Last budget year, she said these same folks came forward with a generous 5% concession.

She and her fellow school board members, who receive a modest monthly expense stipend, are giving back 20%.

Allen added that she hopes a retirement incentive offer will save some teachers from layoffs; however, thirty must accept the offer for it to produce positive results

Davis taxpayers can expect to be asked to chip in, Allen suggested. Parcel taxes established by voter approval of Measure W in 2007 and Measure Q in 2008 have been pouring more than \$6 million a year into Davis's education system. But, Allen said, these taxes they've raised expire in 2012. The school board is grappling with whether to ask voters to extend the existing taxes or to ask for approval of new measures to raise more funds. Allen says the board understands all too well that these difficult times aren't ideal for asking taxpayers for more. A two-thirds majority of voters is required to enact parcel taxes.

As if things couldn't get worse, Allen warned that a revision of the governor's budget due in May may bring further cuts. But, she

remains hopeful that some of the millions in cuts can be restored before school resumes next summer. She said layoff notices must be presented to teachers in April. But she noted that last year, nearly all of the teachers who received them were able to be re-hired by the first day of school due to savings from retirements.

Should any money come back to the schools, Allen's priorities for distributing it would begin with restoring counseling time. She'd also like to see class size reductions for grades 1 to 3, and the availability of a 7th academic period for all secondary students.

Sheila enjoys working with her fellow board members and says she expects all current members to seek reelection, as fellow member Gina Daleiden remarked in an interview in last month's newsletter,

She ended our talk with kudos for the Davis School Foundation's past and hopefully future fundraising efforts and for her fellow board members' collegial approach to solving difficult problems. Sheila, please know that your fellow Democratic Club members thank you.

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Calendar of Events & Activities

April 6: Tues. 7:00-9:00 monthly **business meeting** of the **DDC Board**, all Club members invited, Odd Fellows Lodge, Davis

May 4: Tues. 7:00-9:00 pm **City Council Forum**, presentations and discussion of issues by candidates for City Council, Odd Fellows Hall

May 12: Wed. 7:00-9:00pm, **PT 109 Rescue of JFK; eyewitness report of this historical event** By Lt. Cmdr (Retired) Ted Robinson Odd Fellows Lodge, Davis

June: 13: (tentative date) Sunday 11:00am-2:00pm **Annual Champagne Brunch** Buffet and social hour followed by presentations from candidates for statewide and local offices.

July 4: Sunday 12:00-8:00pm Community Park, Davis. **Celebrate Independence Day** by distributing information, registering voters and enjoying the fireworks.

Sept. 19: (tentative date) Sunday Annual Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed, BBQ dinner and fall campaign kickoff featuring candidates for federal and state offices.



(Photo: JFK (r.) with crew on the deck of PT109.)

HEAR a FIRST HAND REPORT of JFK's rescue by a WWII veteran and noted author. DDC is pleased to announce that Lt.

Cmdr. (retired) Ted Robinson will be our guest speaker at the **May 12 meeting**. LCDR Robinson volunteered to rescue the PT 109 crew from enemy waters and subsequently shared a tent with Kennedy learning the future president's epic survival story. Join us for our speaker's unique reminiscences. LCDR Robinson authored "Water in My Veins: The Pauper who Helped Save a President"

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Dr. Ami Bera (above) enjoyed introductions by **Cass Sylvia** (l.), **Mariko Yamada** (m.) and **Lois Wolk** (r.) endorsing his candidacy for the 3rd CD.

Spirited race in neighboring congressional district by Carl Schmid

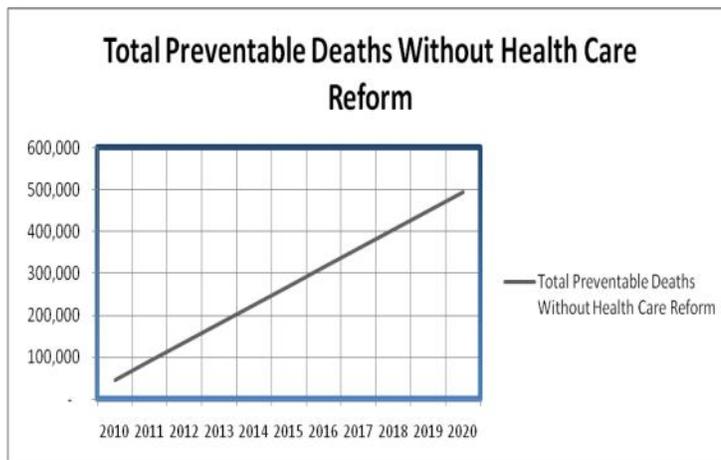
Dr. Ami Bera leads an enthusiastic, energetic campaign to unseat incumbent Dan Lungren (R. Long Beach?) in the 3rd CD, which runs south of Putah Creek and east toward Wyoming. Initially, this gerrymandered district was absolutely safe for Republicans but its demographics have markedly changed with Democrats now outnumbering Republicans. In 2008, CD #3 voted for Obama with Lungren barely won reelection against a poorly financed candidate. Under Ami's leadership, CD#3 is targeted by the DCCC as a "Red to Blue" seat for Democrats to switch in November. Ami, a son of immigrants, epitomizes the American Dream and intends to keep opportunities open for tomorrow's children. Check out his website, <Beraforcongress.com>; join the campaign and fun.

45,000 Deaths Each Year Linked to Lack of Health Coverage by Paul Ulbrich & Marilu Carter

*"One American dies every 12 minutes from lack of health insurance."**

Harvard Professor of Medicine, Steffie Woolhandler, and Primary Care Physician at Cambridge Health Alliance, observes: *"Historically, every other developed nation has achieved universal health care through some form of nonprofit national health insurance. Our failure to do so means that all Americans pay higher health care costs, and 45,000 pay with their lives."**

Some 45,000 Americans now die each year from preventable causes related to our dysfunctional health care systems. Some 45,000 of us will continue to die each year from preventable causes for every year that Republicans block legislative reform of health care. "Uninsured, working-age Americans have 40 percent higher death risk than privately insured counterparts."*



The Republican campaign to block legislative reforms is a travesty directed by special interests. It has made our health care system twice as expensive as costs for other industrialized nations. The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks our system in overall health care in 37th position and below.

No one should ignore these abuses of legislative power by special interests. Democrats and Republicans live in different universes, intellectually and morally. Intellectually, Democrats understand the need for reform. Morally, Democrats are willing to pass health care legislation to benefit the American people rather than moneyed special interests.

*(David Cecere, et al. Harvard Medical School and Cambridge Health Alliance. 17 September, 2009) <http://harvardscience.harvard.edu/medicine-health/articles/new-study-finds-45000-deaths-annually-linked-lack-health-coverage>

Excerpt from Congressman Mike Thompson's letter to DDC Pres. Arun Sen

Dear Arun,

.....As you no doubt know, our health care system is not sustainable. I've been working with health care providers throughout our district for as long as I've been in elected office to incrementally address this issue. We're now at the point where little fixes fall short and we need to make some serious changes in order to help ensure that people have access to quality affordable health care. We can't afford to ignore the cost of uncompensated care anymore, and passing it on to the insured, the tax payer, or the next generation just doesn't work.

I've been vocal in my support for many provisions in the health care bills. Recently, I co-signed a letter with a number of my colleagues in the House in support of the public option. I've also written leadership urging them to retain a provision that would increase Medicaid physician payment rates. Further, I continue to strongly support repealing anti-trust laws for insurance companies, a provision that was passed by the House on February 24, 2010 .

Both the House and Senate have passed bills and now we need to sort out the differences and see if we can get a final bill that improves the delivery of health care, reduces costs, is paid for and can get the votes necessary to pass Congress and be signed into law. I continue to remain guardedly optimistic. I understand this will be challenging, but after more than a century of trying, now isn't the time to give up. The president's recent bipartisan health care summit was an historic effort in advancing a solid piece of legislation that both sides of the aisle can stand behind.

Ed. Note: Printed above is part of Congressman Thompson's reply to DDC's recent letter (see March Newsletter) encouraging his continuing support of Health Care Reform.

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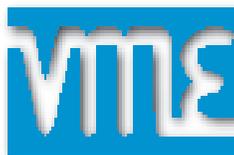
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