

January, 2012

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A Very Happy Holiday Party by Carl Schmid

In addition to universal agreement that the buffet dinner (photo below) was excellent, the Holiday Party was just great fun enjoyed by the capacity crowd at I-House. Mick Syvanen coordinated the dinner dishes, which



were prepared by the Board and club members, people who combine good politics with good cooking. Board Member Mary Serra decorated the hall and staged the event with the help of Betty Woo among others.

Betty also wrapped raffle prizes that were contributed by supporters including most notably the grand prize, a beautiful pearl necklace, which was generously donated by De Luna Jewelers (see photo). Jan Lee Wong and Mary Sera contributed to the fun by their stellar performance in selling raffle tickets. By happy coincidence, Mary's husband Fred won both the grand prize as well as pearl earrings and a pearl bracelet

contributed by Robin and Steve Souza (photo below).



Betty Woo presenting the grand prize, a pearl necklace contributed by De Luna Jewelers to the winners, Mary Serra and Frederic Hzu

State Senator Lois Wolk (see p.3-4 for additional photos) led by wishing all "Happy Holidays." In addition to contemplating her own reelection bid, Lois stressed the need to stay focused in the coming year as the 2012 ballot will likely contain as many as five or six initiatives concerned with taxation.

Assembly Member Mariko Yamada praised the Club and Yolo Democrats for being "net exporters" of political power to assisting in more closely contested elections in other jurisdictions.

All city council members commented upon the collegiality and effectiveness of the present city council: As Sue Greenwald explained, "This council is quite amazing, just the council that we

need. It is amazing to see us address these issues." Similarly reflecting on the challenges confronting the city, Joe Krovoza said the council is "a wonderful working group taking on tough issues in a collegial manner. I am convinced that we will get it right." Steve Souza, himself a former student activist, reflected on the recent referendum saying we should "pride ourselves in the involvement of the public." Steve is also meeting frequently with the local "occupy" group to encourage them to move beyond mere symbolism into constructive action. On a lighter note, Steve observed that the Republican Party just replaced its philandering front runner with another philandering front runner making it "the gift that keeps on giving." As the newest and the youngest council member, Dan Wolk wants to address problems such as the "complete disinvestment in infrastructure by the state and federal governments" and "not kick the can down the road."

Supervisor Jim Provenza best captured the overall mood observing "things have fallen out of balance" where Republicans insist that "wealthy people should not pay a dime's worth of tax. People see that as wrong. Democratic principles are necessary to move this country forward." (See p2 "A bang for your buck" for Sheila's party comments.)

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 (continued p. 3)

Calendar of Events

Tues., Jan. 3, 7:00-7:30 pm, School Parcel Tax Forum; 7:30-8:00 regular DDC Board business meeting. The Forum featuring **Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction**, will explain the purpose of the proposed parcel tax renewal. Immediately following this forum, the regular monthly DDC Board business meeting will commence. Club members and the public are welcomed, Davis Library Meeting Room.

Tues., Feb. 14, 5:30-8:00 pm, Love your Electeds Pot-Luck Valentine Party Share your favorite dish: A-F desert, G-M vegetable, N-Z entrée. Brief presentations by local elected leaders. I-House, Davis.

Select your next President NOW! by Arun Sen, DDC President

The election of all Club Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Sec'y, Publicity and Membership) will be held at an early March meeting (details TBA). All current members (those who paid dues in 2011 or prior to Feb. 1, 2012) are eligible to vote and nominate candidates, including themselves for these offices. Nominations should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Bob Bockwinkel (530-219-1896), prior to Feb. 7, 2012. We urge members to participate actively in the Club and encourage you to consider serving in one of these offices. In the event that you do not wish to run for an elected office, the Board also includes non-elected appointees opening other avenues for you to join the Board and

participate.

Work in the Club is rewarding, enjoyable and important to our community. In particular, I now complete my own third term as Club President with a deep sense of personal satisfaction. During this time, the Club has grown substantially and become even more active and successful in promoting Democratic values. I thank my many friends and colleagues who have contributed their talents and efforts to make these achievements possible. I also thank them for their personal support and friendship. Along with my fellow Board members, I welcome you to be next leaders in this ongoing cause.

A lot of bang for your buck (Attend the Jan. 3 Forum) by Carl Schmid

Reviewing an interesting bit of civic history at the Holiday Party (p.1), School Board Member Sheila Allen explained that in 1984 Davis was the first community in California to pass a parcel tax following Proposition 13. According to Sheila, "Davis Schools are plugging along doing the best that they can. Davis really gets education" and we get "a lot of bang for your buck."

In addition to the State budget trigger, which will automatically cut school funding, Davis Schools face the loss of funding from Measures Q+W, which will ex-

pire June 30, 2012. As explained by Barbara Archer, parent co-chair of the parcel tax renewal committee, *The basics of the tax renewal are that since 1984 Davis residents have had a parcel tax to fund core programs gutted by Prop 13 and continuing state cuts in education.*

The Club is pleased to sponsor a community **informational forum featuring Delaine Eastin on Jan. 3 (7:00-7:30 pm, Davis Library)** to present the facts of the proposed property tax renewal. Please join us at this community gathering.





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Why I am a Democrat by Don Saylor

We live in complex times and desperately need to work across all divides to meet the needs of real people. I am a Democrat because I believe the Democratic Party stands for fairness, compassion, inclusion, and optimism.

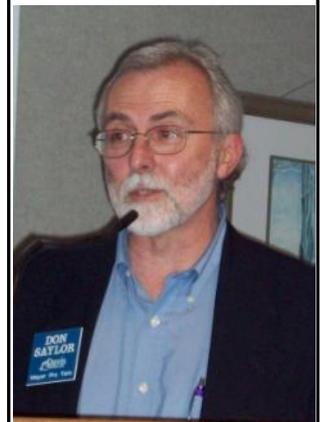
My first memory of election politics was riding in the back seat of my parents' car one dark Tuesday night in November 1960. My mom the waitress was telling my dad the butcher that she had just voted for Richard Nixon for President and he explained that he had voted for John Kennedy. I remember that mom was a bit miffed that they had "cancelled out" each other's votes. The first time I was old enough to vote, I was a first year college student and voted for George McGovern at a tiny country school several miles outside Laramie, Wyoming. I cancelled out my mom's votes for many elections, until she finally got fed up and voted for John Kerry.

The values that drive me to public service align with what I believe the Democratic Party stands for. I believe that we come together in community to form governments to address purposes bigger than what we can tackle as individuals. I believe that our public agencies are legitimate expressions of and instruments to achieve our deepest values. I value environmental stewardship and commitment to the future of the planet. I am committed to education for every child, regardless of their needs and support for the democratizing contributions of public schools and colleges. I believe that everybody should have access to affordable health care and that the mark of a civilized society is how well we care for children, the elderly and the most needy among us. I believe we should reject capricious and vindictive wars that suck the life out of the economy. I support reproductive rights. I believe in freedom to marry whomever you love with all of the rights that accompany that choice being equitably assured. I value the right of people to assemble, organize, and speak out. I believe we need rational economic strategies, job creation, and fair opportunities for everybody, including people like my mom the waitress and dad the butcher and everybody else working to feed their families. Based on these values and beliefs, I am a Democrat. And don't forget that the past 20 years demonstrates beyond question that the Democratic Party is the only fiscally responsible party in the United States.

We live in complex times and desperately need to work across all divides to meet the needs of real people. We all know that one does not have to be a Democrat to believe in and pursue some of these same values. We also know that Democrats can fall short in aligning actions with values and timid in embracing the right course of action. But watching the events of the past year in Wisconsin, Mississippi, Iowa, and across the country and planet, it is pretty clear to me that my mom the waitress and my dad the butcher would be rooting for the Democrats to get it right these days.

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Ed. Note: The Newsletter invites essays from leading local Democrats and thanks County Supervisor Don Saylor (photo above) for inaugurating this new series

Select the (DDC) President Now!

Parcel Tax Forum Jan. 3

RENEW your MEMBERSHIP TODAY (last chance)!

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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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