

**March, 2013
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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

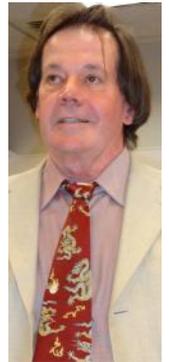
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Love Your Electeds by Carl Schmid

Recognizing that Davis is particularly fortunate to be represented by outstanding, elected officials, the DDC expresses its appreciation for their service in its annual "Love Your Electeds" themed Valentine Party. Of particular note, many of these same officials are also members and supporters of the DDC including the following who attended this event: State Senator Lois Wolk County, Supervisors Jim Provenza and Don Saylor, the President of the Yolo County Board of Education, Don Owens, Davis City Councilmembers, Joe Krovosa, Dan Wolk and Lucas Frerichs and DJUSB Trustee Sheila Allen.

The party, which was organized by DDC VP Mike Syvanen featured a pot uck dinner while watching President Obama's State of the Union address. The audience particularly enjoyed seeing the reaction from the Republican side of the aisle to his comments.

In contrast to the gloom and doom that has ensued since the Great Recession of 2007, our elected officials were unanimously upbeat in their reports of the "State of our State" and also County, City and School District. Senator Wolk opened her remarks by fondly remembering her dear colleague Jerry Kaneko (see p. 2), whom she described as "a real mensch." Lois was pleased to announce that this is the first year that the state did not have to make additional



budget cuts, that our credit rating has gone up and that the State now even shows a surplus, "Happy Days Are Here Again" in contrast to the federal situation. She described work in progress to strengthen background checks for firearm sales ("20,000 to 40,000 prohibited persons should not have guns") and to institute an oil severance tax in California.



Jim Provenza repeated the theme that for "the first time there are not huge deficits" and that "the County has built up reserve and contingency funds" and has the further prospect of

restoring and rebuilding crucial services. After mentioning that he was delighted by the President's decision to confront gun violence, Don Saylor described his own excitement with working in elected office, "an amazing opportunity, what we get to do." When asked how much time, do you spend as County Supervisor, his answer is "All of it." Bill



Owens reported that Head Start is fully subscribed in Yolo County and that if universal preschool is instituted as the President proposes, we will have the resources. He described a "terrific project" combining a "living laboratory" of renewable energy, solar academies, with education and job training supported by federal funding. **(continued p3)**

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tues., March 5, 7:00-9:00 pm, regular DDC Board business meeting. Club members and the public are welcome: Pres. Sen and Secretary Yamagata draft the agenda. Davis Library on 14th Street.

Friday, March 22, 6:00-9:00 pm, Ravioli Dinner with Congressman John Garamendi, Veterans Memorial Center 203 East 14th St, Davis The Club has reserved a table for its members which you may join by contacting Arun Sen. For general ticket information check the website <www.garamendi.org> or phone 916-776-1838.

Remembering Jerry Kaneko by Richard Yamagata



In remembrance of Jerry Kaneko, I believe that he is/was one of the finest citizens of Davis and Yolo County. He gave so much to the poor and disadvantaged of this city and county. He continued to serve food at the commu-

nity meals program up to the last week before being hospitalized from a massive stroke. He also served on the Davis City Council and city & county boards and commissions too numerous to list. The Yolo County Concilio recently honored him for his community works and contributions.

In my undergrad days at UC Davis, he was held up as an example by the JACL [Japanese American Citizens League] of what can be achieved by people of Asian descent. Many of the UC Davis faculty referred me to him as a person to talk to and get advice from as an undergrad student at UC Davis [1974-79]. Jerry Kaneko was a force and phenomena all in his own right.

Jerry as a past president of the DDC, remained active on the board and he and his wife, Teresa hosted the DDC Ice Cream Social for the club for 18 years at their home. With Mariko Yamada, they also opened their home to host an election fundraiser as recently as October for the 2012 November election. He and Teresa almost invariably attended the main events that the Club holds each year, for example the "Love Your Electeds" Valentines Day party, the Champagne Brunch, the Fall Barbecue, and the Holiday Party.

During Jerry's senior year in Stockton High School, World War II broke out on December, 7, 1941. In March, 1942, Jerry was interned with his parents and siblings in a camp on the Gila Indian Reservation in Arizona. This experience deeply affected his political views. He was always for the underdog and for people whose civil rights were being violated. He was also always for the poor and disadvantaged. He never forgot that without public vigilance, the relocation of American Citizens by Executive Presidential Order could happen again. These are the reason he always remained politically active and a supporting member of the Democratic Party.

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On The Other Side of the Lens by Carl Schmid

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DDC President Arun Sen made a surprise announcement at the Valentine Party, inaugurating a new annual award intended to recognize distinguished volunteer service to the Club entitled "The Davis Democratic Club President's Award."

I am personally proud and gratified to report that Arun selected Luba Schmid as the first recipient of this honor in recognition for her contributions as "Photographer-Historian" for the Club.

Luba was surprised and thrilled by Arun's recognition. However, while recognizing her own contributions as the Club's photographer, she was perplexed that Arun described her as being a Club "Historian". Arun's ready answer is that her photographs recorded the Club's history. Reporting from first-hand knowledge, I entirely agree with Arun's assessment: During the years that include two Presidential campaigns and all of the Club's intervening activities, Luba has taken literally thousands of pictures documenting all local Democratic events. Many of her photos appear on the Club website <www.davisdemocraticclub.org>, some have been published in this Newsletter and yet others have been distributed to campaign organizations and interested individuals. Her photos provided a key element of volunteer appreciation during the local election campaigns. Luba promises never to post an unflattering picture. She reports that her subjects always oblige by smiling and being willing to pose for a photo. In fact, people invariably smile when they see her with a camera.

On a monthly basis, Luba also selects and collates photos for this Newsletter and serves as an unacknowledged copy-editor finding innumerable picky little errors that escape this Editor's attention and even interest! Thank you, Luba



(Valentine Party continued from p.1) Dan Wolk and Lucas Frerichs described a number of major issue that have recently come before the City Council including contract negotiations with virtually all of the 400 city employees. They are pleased to report a reduction in both the fraction of the city budget supporting salaries and its rate of growth. School Board Trustee Sheila Allen was delighted to report that "There is not a school parcel tax election" in the coming year and that while the district has lost one hundred positions "For the first time, we are not issuing pink slips."

Democrats from the President down to the local school board are displaying newfound, confident optimism. Love your Electeds.

**Congressman
John Garamendi's
Ravioli Dinner
March 22
In Davis**

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