

**June, 2013  
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# DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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## **Democrats are speaking out in support of gun control.** by Tim Fenton



Tom & Martha advocating universal background checks at Farmers Market

Gun control has long been a priority of Democrats in the U.S. Congress but never more than following the December massacre by a lone gunman of 20 first-grade students and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. Responding to the tragedy and led by our own Senator Diane Feinstein, Congressional Democrats put forward a package of common sense gun control laws including bans on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines, universal background checks for all gun purchases and programs in mental health to detect and treat potential mass shooting perpetrators.

By May, Republicans in Congress, at the bidding of the NRA and other gun rights organizations, shot down (pun intended) the universal background check bill after chewing up and spitting out all of the other measures proposed by the Democrats. I am proud to say Democrats have not retreated to lick their wounds.

Ninety percent of Americans backed the universal background check bill and they are not letting politicians put gun control on ice. Republican and Democratic members of Congress who voted against universal background checks are facing crowds of angry constituents back home demanding to know why they voted against the will of the people.

Congress's cynical behavior appears to be energizing gun control activists as never before. Former Congresswoman Gabby Gifford (America's most prominent gun violence victim) and her husband Mark Kelly have formed Americans for Responsible Solutions, a gun control advocacy group that is raising millions and millions of dollars to continue the fight.

Here in Davis, as in so many cities and town, gun control activists are getting organized. A group of activists have come together to found a Yolo County chapter of The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the leading gun control activist organization founded by Jim Brady who was gravely wounded in the attempt to assassinate President Reagan.

Several Democrats are among the founding members including DJUSD Trustee Susan Lovenburg, OFA leader Martha Beetley and your reporter. We're just getting started, but we encourage Davis Democrats who have an interest in the gun control issue to get involved. Pending further organization and election of a board, Naomi Williams is acting as interim group leader. She can be contacted at [yolobradycampaign@gmail.com](mailto:yolobradycampaign@gmail.com).

Americans have made it clear, they want sensible gun controls. As groups like the Yolo chapter of the Brady Campaign proliferate, pressure on the Congress will turn no votes into yes votes and the peoples' will shall prevail. (see p. 3 & 4 for further Brady Bill information)

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## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Tues., June 4, 7:00-9:00 pm and again Tues., July 9, 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.

**Sunday, June 9, 11:00-2:00 pm, Champagne Brunch,** The event will be hosted by Bill Julian and Robin Kulakow at their home at 43556 Almond Lane, Willowbank. The brunch includes a buffet provided by Board members and refreshments which will be followed by presentations featuring state and local elected officials. You are also invited to share your favorite dish.

**Thursday, July 4, 2:00-8:00 pm,** The Club will host an information booth and register voters at Community Park prior to the fireworks. Contact Carl Schmid to volunteer a few hours greeting the public.

**Saturday, August 17, 12:00-8:00 pm, {save the date & volunteer}, The Yolo County Fair.** The Yolo County Democratic Central Committee sponsors a booth at the County Fair for public outreach and voter registration. The Club will staff the booth on this day; you are invited to join the fun greeting. Contact Rick Gonzales.

**Sunday, September 15, {save the date & volunteer}, The Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed** will be held in Davis at Veterans Memorial Hall (details TBA).

## *In Remembrance of Dr. Herbert Bauer, by Captane Thomson M.D.*



Herbert Bauer died at home on May 7, 2013 at 103. He was a fearless pioneer and lifelong committed liberal and peace-nik. Born in Vienna, Austria on January 21, 1910 he was home schooled by his mother to age 10. He caught up quickly when he entered school and was soon teaching classical Latin and Greek to help support his fatherless family and support his own education in college and medical school. He was a resident in Internal Medicine when the Nazis took over and targeted him as a liberal student leader. He left through the back window as the Nazis knocked on the front door. He travelled to Milan, Italy, where he had an aunt and then to London to tutor Hanna Goldsmith, who would become his future wife. She studied psychology at UC Berkeley while he interned at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. He became the only physician at the San Luis Obispo County Hospital during WW II. They were married quickly at the Court House in Santa Barbara while his patient was in labor in the next county.

After the war, he entered the first class at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and became the Tuberculosis Control Officer in Sacramento County and then in 1952 as the first-full time Public Health Officer in Yolo County. Always on the cutting edge, he personally vaccinated more people against polio than anyone in the state. His Well Baby clinics were known far and wide for their good sense parenting advice. He established the first family planning clinics to help people have as many--or as few--children as they wanted. In routine health screenings, he asked if patients had ever considered killing themselves and began volunteer suicide prevention groups. *(continued p.5)*

**[Editor Note: The following information, which is copied from the Brady Campaign, is provided for your information in conjunction with Tim Fenton's report (p.1). While your Club has not yet taken an official position on these particular bills, the Party from President Obama on down supports sensible gun laws. You are invited to communicate your support of these bills to the legislative leadership, Senator Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Member John Perez.]**

## **The LIFE Act**

### **Lifesaving Intelligent Firearms Enforcement**

**California Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence strongly support the LIFE Act. The package of bills will close loopholes in California's assault weapons law and reduce the proliferation of rapid-rate-of-fire weaponry, help keep firearms and ammunition out of dangerous hands, and foster responsible and informed gun ownership.**

#### **SB 374 (Steinberg) - Assault Weapons Law Reform**

SB 374 simplifies and strengthens California's assault weapons law by prohibiting future sale or transfer of semi-automatic rifles that can accept detachable magazines. This bill decisively closes loopholes by requiring semi-automatic rifles to have fixed magazines accepting ten or fewer rounds. A detachable magazine is the key military-style feature that enables the rapid reload and continuous fire of bullets that can kill many people very quickly.

The bill also requires current owners of rifles with detachable magazines to submit a Firearm Ownership Record to the Department of Justice (DOJ). These records will significantly increase the information in the Armed Prohibited Persons System program and enable DOJ to disarm potentially dangerous persons if they subsequently become prohibited from possessing firearms. Additionally, the records will assist law enforcement efforts to trace firearms and solve gun crime.

#### **SB 396 (Hancock) - Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines**

SB 396 prohibits the possession of large capacity ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds, regardless of the date the magazine was acquired. High capacity ammunition magazines can hold upwards of 100 rounds of ammunition and allow a shooter to rapidly fire without reloading. The ability to fire a large number of bullets in a short period of time escalates the number of victims and lethality in any shooting incident. California has prohibited the importation, manufacture and sale of large capacity ammunition magazines for over twelve years. Large capacity magazines possessed before year 2000 were "grandfathered," but law enforcement is finding that it is difficult to prove when a large capacity magazine was acquired or whether the magazine was illegally purchased after the 2000 ban. Additionally, magazine repair kits, which contain parts to repair large capacity magazines, are legally purchased and later assembled into new large capacity magazines. Since the possession of large capacity magazines is currently permissible, this practice, which clearly evades the intent of the law, is legal. A ban on the possession of large capacity magazines will enable better enforcement of existing law.

#### **SB 47 (Yee) – Assault Weapon Modifications**

SB 47 updates and strengthens California's assault weapons law by closing the loophole allowing for devices that enable the quick release and rapid reload of ammunition magazines. For example, the bullet button mechanism and magnet feature enable a shooter to quickly detach and replace the weapon's ammunition magazine.

*(Continued p4)*

**(SB 47, continued from p.3)** By exploiting the definition of detachable magazine, it is currently legal for weapons with these devices to have another military-style feature, such as a pistol grip, thumbhole stock, folding or telescoping stock, or forward pistol grip. In form and function, these weapons, which enable the rapid and accurate spray of bullets, are assault weapons, but are becoming widely marketed and sold in California. SB 47 closes this loophole by providing, in statute, a precise definition for fixed magazine. The bill also requires current lawful owners of assault weapons that do not have a fixed magazine to register their firearms. This will enable DOJ, through the state's Armed Prohibited Persons System program, to disarm potentially dangerous persons who have an assault weapon and subsequently become prohibited.

### **SB 567 (Jackson) – Shotgun Definition**

SB 567 updates the definition of shotguns to close a loophole in California's assault weapons law. Among the weapons currently banned by the law are smooth bore shotguns capable of accepting a revolving ammunition cylinder. New weapons that possess a rifled bore but are otherwise identical to the banned shotguns are now being manufactured and are not specifically banned. These weapons allow many shots to be fired in a short period of time without reloading. SB 567 will update the definition of shotgun by specifying that the interior of the barrel may be either smooth or rifled.

### **SB 53 (de León) – Ammunition Purchase Regulation**

SB 53 requires anyone wishing to purchase ammunition to first pass a complete background check, after which an ammunition purchase permit will be issued by DOJ. The permit will be valid for five years and can be renewed in an expedited manner. The bill requires that anyone selling ammunition must be licensed by DOJ and must submit information regarding any sale, including the buyer's identification, to DOJ. The bill requires DOJ to crosscheck persons who acquired ammunition with the Prohibited Armed Persons File to determine illegally armed people buying ammunition. The bill also amends current law regarding handgun ammunition sales to apply to all ammunition. SB 53 will enable the tracking of who is selling and buying ammunition and provide an investigative tool to law enforcement. The bill will help keep ammunition out of the hands of potentially dangerous people prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

### **SB 755 (Wolk) – Expanding Firearm Prohibitions**

SB 755 adds to the list of misdemeanor criminal offenses that carry a ten year prohibition to purchase or possess a firearm or ammunition. These include offenses related to firearms, ammunition, and gangs; and being convicted of two or more drug or alcohol related offenses within a three year period. Also, any conviction for violation of a firearm prohibition will extend the prohibition for an additional ten years. SB 755 will help keep firearms out of the hands of people who have shown dangerous or risky conduct related to firearms, ammunition, or substance abuse by prohibiting their purchase of firearms. Such individual who already possess firearms could be identified and disarmed through the state's Armed Prohibited Persons System program.

### **SB 683 (Block) – Firearm Safety Certificates**

SB 683 expands the existing Handgun Safety Certificate program to all firearms and requires any person purchasing a firearm to hold a valid Firearm Safety Certificate. All firearm purchasers will be required to pass a written test and demonstrate that they know how to handle the firearm safely. SB 683 will ensure that all firearm purchasers – including those buying long guns – have knowledge of current firearm laws, ownership responsibilities, firearm storage, and prevention strategies.

*Continued p. 2*

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(Herb Bauer continued from p2 ) He advocated for the passage of the Short Doyle Legislation to establish community mental health programs and once enacted, set about to bring those services to the Yolo community by gaining the support of the Board of Supervisors in that trail blazing endeavor which brought Helen and me to Davis.

You can tell by the white dove on the front of his home that Herbert has always been fiercely opposed to war and to combat for women, and for men, too!

One of his great gifts was succinctness. His favorite poem was the Limerick. He complained that many speakers lacked "terminal facility," the ability to make their point and stop.

Herbert loved his fellow liberals, whether at the Davis Unitarian Church, which he helped found, or at the Davis Democratic Club, where he was an active member for over 50 years or as a strong supporter of the United Nations.

Both Herbert and Hanna were named Covell Citizens of the Year in 1976. In 1996, the California Medical Association awarded Herbert the Plessner Memorial Award as "the physician who best exemplifies the practice and ethics of a rural practitioner." In 2000 the Sierra-Sacramento Medical Society awarded him the Golden Stethoscope Award, recognizing him as "mentor, advisor, teacher, resource and friend over many years to his medical colleagues. In 2006, the Yolo Board of Supervisors named the new Health and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health building in Woodland for Herbert Bauer, MD.

We have lost an amazingly erudite yet single-minded champion of the underdog, whether child or adult. In California he has had 4 professional lives:

1. As the sole physician in San Luis Obispo County Hospital during WW II.
2. As the first Public Health Officer in Yolo County for 20 years.
3. As a Forensic Child Psychiatrist and Professor of Preventive Medicine for 20 years.
4. As a Bioethicist and "the Conscience of Davis" for the remainder of his days.

We will all miss his sharp wit, pithy observations on the world and human condition, "Letters to the Editor" and substitute columns for Bob Dunning.

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*Photo below: Herb Bauer mugging for the camera at the Bean Feed with his friends, Evelyn Rominger (l.) and Helen Thomson (r.)*



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11:00 am-2:00 pm**

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