

February 2014

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# DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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## Reflections of a President by Arun Sen

At a DDC meeting in the Davis Library, Bob Bockwinkel told me that I should run for President. I asked, "Why ME?" and he replied "because you listen!". That was EIGHT YEARS ago!

Over these years, DDC has become an integral part of my life. The first few years were rough, I just couldn't pull my Board to work together, quite often I felt that I was wasting my time ... and that of the Board!!! That was EIGHT YEARS ago in marked contrast to today's DDC.

We also went through difficult changes: Unfortunately, our monthly pot-luck meetings had to be scrapped after four years as most speakers did not attract sufficient interest to entice our members to pay for attendance AND to bring their own food. Compounding the problem, speakers would often cancel out at the last minute! We moved our meetings from the library to Odd Fellows Hall and then back to the library again. Thanks to Carl Schmid who now makes sure that we have a meeting place at the library.

In one City Council election, all five candidates were great Democrats. I was strongly and indirectly pressured to endorse only three for the three openings. All five were excellent candidates and I was able to persuade the Board to endorse all five. We received good support from the community for this action.

The DDC was and is proud of having great County and State leaders. Helen Thomson, Mariko Yamada and Lois Wolk raised the bar high with their dedication and perseverance. Helen was recognized with a billboard on I-80 thanking her for her support of the Nurse's Association; Mariko demonstrated that you CAN beat the odds and win the Assembly position. Lois had many of her bills signed by Gov. Brown and even by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

Eight years can make a difference and today, our Club works effectively and harmoniously. Our recent events have been successful in attendance and fundraising. Routine Club business is accomplished *rou-*  
*tinely* and our finances are solid. I am particularly proud of our extraordinary team of Board Members. Each one has been unique in his/her own way of supporting me and the Club by contributing their own special talents: Rick Gonzales sold more Obama T-shirts than any other member. He also arranged to have a great beer booth at two July 4th events. [While I hope that this does not happen again, I almost got arrested defending one of our members during a hot summer July 4th event. I was told to leave the park and go home - which I happily obliged. I did say it was a hot summer around 102 degree that day!]. Betty Weir provided a sense of the Club's enduring legacy. When we needed a Newsletter Editor, Bill Ritter stepped forward to help saying that he would undertake this responsibility "just for you." Today, under the guidance of Carl and Luba Schmid and Tim Fenton, our Newsletter is one of the best. Mike and Richard tirelessly help at our social events pouring Mimosa, bringing huge amounts of strawberries, cooking sausages, and cooking exquisite salmon! And what will I do without Bob's "synergistic" thoughts which he relays to me at 7am when I am still asleep! **Continued p2.)**



Arun (photo above) in a familiar, oft-repeated gesture of presenting a plaque to recognize and inspire the contributions of others



Arun with just three of his many friends: (l. to r.) Ameer Alsawaf, Arun, Luba Schmid, Mayor Joe Krovoza

## Davis Democratic Club Board

President:

Arun Sen

Vice President:

Mike Syvanen

Recording Secretary:

G. Richard Yamagata

Treasurer:

Ameer Alsawaf

Publicity:

Tim Fenton

Editor &

Membership:

Carl Schmid

Board Members:

Bob Bockwinkel

Elly Fairclough

Rick Gonzales, Jr.

Bill Julian

Jim Provenza

Betty Weir

Photography:

Luba Schmid

## 2014 DONORS

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Arun Sen

Steve & Robin

Souza

Mariko Yamada &

Janlee Wong

G. Richard

Yamagata

PATRON (\$200)

Carl & Luba

Schmid

*Continued p 3*

## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 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.

**Sunday, February 23, 5:00-9:00 pm, International House: Love your Electeds** Annual Potluck Valentine Party recognizing our local elected leaders. Bring your favorite dish: **A-J salad with bread or side dish, K-R entrée, S-Z desert.** Local elected leaders each give a brief presentation of recent developments and plans while also affording an opportunity for individual discussions. While not yet confirmed, we also hope to host a major statewide political leader at this event, details TBA pending developments.

## Club Office Nominations (nominate yourself or, better yet, a friend!)

The DDC will hold regularly scheduled elections for all Board Offices in March. The President and Vice President have each indicated that after years of dedicated service, they will not stand for reelection creating **two important vacancies**. Under **President** Arun Sen's guidance, the Club has developed smoothly running procedures in all of its routine operations, including its finances (see p.1). **Vice President** Mike Syvanen has successfully staged an ongoing program of annual Club activities establishing a template for future events. Building on their leadership, current Board Members will provide continuity for sustaining the Club's momentum during the next election cycle. The DDC has never been in better shape or better positioned to advance the Democratic cause in Yolo County including the reelection of John Garamendi to Congress in 2014. **However, the DDC needs new leadership to fully develop the potential that Mike and Arun have established.**

This is where you can make a difference: **Nominate yourself or a friend for a leadership position.** If you wish to serve in any capacity, please contact Bob Bockwinkel 219-1896 or Carl (cwschmid@comcast.net) to discuss the different ways in which you might serve and the process by which Board members are elected. Do not be shy, your help is needed now.

**Reflections (continued from p.1)** Having Ameer on the Board as our Treasurer has been a breath of fresh air, a great relief. Many others, who are reading this today, also helped make this a better Club and deserve our thanks.

I also have a dream. I wish us to have an annual event where the Davis community will participate, something that will be appealing to everyone, something that will be unique. The proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause/project. I wish an Annual Black and White Ball with food, dance and socializing. The name "Davis Democratic Club" will be in the forefront in our community. When Davis citizens see us, in our signature DDC caps, they will know who we are and what we also do for the community.

You shall always remain a vital part in my life.

"You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness". [**Ronald Regan**]

Finally, I thank you for your faith in me, for being there when I needed a friend, your support and your camaraderie.

God Bless You and THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.

SPONSOR (\$100)

Barbara & Pete  
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Susan Lovenburg  
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Cass Sylvia &  
Craig Reynolds  
Barry Wilson

## Celebrating my 82nd Birthday by Tansey Thomas



I want to thank all for attending and participating in such a wonderful night! I was delighted by Rick's [Gonzales] enthusiastic comments, and I enjoyed reading Carl's informative article as described in the January 2014 Newsletter articles. I want to thank the Davis Democratic Party for honoring me with such a joyful event, thank you for including my birthday surprise into our annual holiday celebration. Special thanks to Rick Gonzales for spear-

heading this memorable occasion. And, my daughter, Lisa Thomas, for her most tireless efforts in all this....Aladrian Mack and Yvonne Marsh for all your support. Livia Burton thank you for your artistic displays highlighting my life.

I greatly appreciate all the speeches, awards, and resolutions given in my name; these awards are a welcomed decoration on my walls. The kind words spoken throughout the night were very gracious and a bit overwhelming. I enjoyed the night completely!

December 2013 is now Tansey Thomas Month-*throughout the world!* AND, I surely will not forget our time together. All my love, True Icon and Pioneer.

**[Ed. Note** *The Club enjoyed celebrating Tansey's Birthday as part of its Annual Holiday Party.*]

## Please Renew Your \$ Support

The Davis Democratic Club relies upon your continuing membership support to promote Democratic values in Davis and Yolo County. Membership dues are nominally paid for the calendar year beginning on January 1st. You will be notified by the infamous "red dot" if your dues are no longer current. However, many find it more convenient to pay at other times of the year. In this event, your name will be kept on the membership list with the understanding that you renew your dues in approximately twelve-month periods although you will be alerted by red dots that your dues are no longer current.

The Club uses your contributions for: 1) voter out reach (e.g. at Farmers Market, our July 4th booth and the County Fair), 2) printing and distributing voter information as well as this Newsletter, 3) support for the Davis campaign headquarters in election years, 4) direct contributions to local Democratic candidates (e.g. Rep. Garamendi, Rep. Bera, St. Senator Wolk, and Assemblymember Yamada) 4) contributions to the County Democratic Party to support its activities such as voter registration and 5) hosting periodic events featuring your local elected leaders and candidates for office. We hope that these activities meet with your approval and earn your continuing support. The Board also welcomes your advice on other worthwhile projects that the DDC should undertake. You might also consider serving in a leadership position as several Club Offices are vacant (*see p1 and p2*).

As further information, the yearly cost of printing and mailing Club correspondence approximately equals the price of dues for the basic Membership. Funding for the projects and activities mentioned above, therefore, relies on the generous donations of many members (approximately 200 in CY 2013). Please consider adding your name to the 2014 Donor list (see side bars).

**Mark your calendar:  
Love your Electeds  
Sunday, Feb 23**

**Please Renew your  
2014 Membership**

PLEASE RENEW your  
MEMBERSHIP

If you have a RED DOT  
attached to your newsletter,  
please pay your Club dues.

See the website photo  
gallery:

[www.davisdemocraticclub.org](http://www.davisdemocraticclub.org)

Davis Democratic Club

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*Are you interested in? (circle all that apply.)*

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Circle your Level of Membership:

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