

**January, 2013
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Celebrating Victory at the Annual Holiday Party by Carl Schmid

Seventy Club Members gathered at I-House to enjoy Holiday Cheer resulting from the November election victories. A buffet was provided by Board Members and by DDC members contributing their favorite dish; the party was organized by Vice Pres. Mike Syvanen, who with Sue Greenwald's help decorated the hall.

Andrew Kim, Congressman John Garamendi's Deputy Campaign Manager, specifically noted that our Club's support was crucial in enabling them to open a Woodland HQ and thanked you, the Clubs' members, for your support. (According to semi-official tallies on the web, Congressman Garamendi received 20,000 more votes than his Republican opponent in Yolo County but only carried the District by 15,400 votes! DDC members can feel that they made an important difference.) Recognizing the importance of Yolo County and Davis, in particular, Congressman Garamendi has selected Davis to be the site of his regional office, which will open soon. Andrew introduced some of the many young people, who worked hard on the Woodland campaign (photo left). This wonderful experience will undoubtedly shape their future political activism.



Club members Martha Beetley and Tom Hagler (photo below) gave fascinating accounts of their experience as OFA volunteers in Ohio. (They spent over six weeks staying at the home of a friend!) According to Tom, all of the volunteers knew exactly what they were expected to do and the entire campaign was precisely organized down to the level of each individual voting precinct. In Franklin County, where Martha and Tom worked, individual precincts were each canvassed four times in the days immediately leading up to the election. (According to tallies on the web, Obama carried Franklin County by 118,000 votes but only carried Ohio by a total of 104,000 votes. Just as in the previous example of the Garamendi campaign in Yolo, a decisive victory in one county or even one precinct may prove to be crucial.) Democrats may take pride in these well run campaigns.



Enjoying the great victory resulting in a legislative supermajority, Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (photo left), recognized that the voters, "expect us to take this opportunity with some restraint...laying the foundation for rebuilding" our state. Her optimism was buttressed by the fact that the state deficit four years ago was 60 billion dollars, then dropping yearly to 42 billion, 26 billion, 23 billion and now only 1.4 billion dollars in the coming fiscal year. (With this great news, Democrats will soon need to relearn the lyrics of the classic Depression-era song *Happy Days Are Here Again*.)



In the same vein, Supervisor Jim Provenza (left with Ameer Alsawaf) makes a 2013 New Year prediction that Obama will go from "being a very good to a great President in his second term." He adds that because of Obama's victory "we are going to have National Health Care, a gift that will keep on giving. Republicans will rue that day that they called it Obama-care."



Democrats had much to celebrate this Holiday Season (photos continued p.3)

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(continued p.3)

Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tues., Jan. 8 , 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. This upcoming meeting will be devoted to future planning (see below). Davis Library on 14th Street.

Tues. Feb. 12, 6:00-9:00 pm. Love Your Electeds Annual Valentine Party. Buffet dinner provided by the DDC Board (guests may bring a favorite dish), beverage, meet and greet local leaders at the **International House in Davis.**

Invitation to January 8 DDC Planning Meeting by Carl Schmid

Assuming that the world does not end on Dec. 21, as has been popularly predicted by the Mayan Calendar, DDC Pres. Arun Sen will devote the January 8 Board Meeting to planning future Club activities with the goal of revitalizing our programs during the coming year. You are invited to attend this meeting to determine the Club's direction.

In brief, the question to be considered is how can the Club best promote Democratic values in service of our community. Some recent history is relevant to the issues to be considered.

Until recently, the Club sponsored regular monthly meetings in addition to about six special events each year. While the special events (namely the Holiday Party, Valentine Party, Champaign Brunch, Ice Cream Social and Fall BBQ in addition to the Bean Feed sponsored by the county party) were generally well attended and successful, the monthly meetings waned in popularity and were discontinued. The question becomes is there a meeting format, e.g., a forum on community issues that will serve the membership and community? Our special events meetings also require consideration; the once popular Ice Cream Social has been in abeyance for two years.

During elections, the DDC naturally provides organization and resources for marshaling volunteers and supporting the campaigns. However in both election and non-election years, the Club presents an ongoing outreach program by hosting a table at the July 4th celebration in Community Park and by working at the Party's County Fair booth. We should explore other ways of engaging the public. Our recent experience at the Davis Farmers Market suggests one possible approach. Another approach is to join with other organizations to advance causes of mutual interest.

As many recall, the DDC suffered a near-death financial disaster at the beginning of 2012. Due to excellent guidance, including especially that provided by Bill Ritter and Arun Sen, the Club has largely recovered from those difficulties to the extent that we were able to make many significant contributions to the 2012 election campaign. The Club has contracted with a professional accountant who specializes in filing the complicated reports required for political contributions providing confidence that these problems will not reoccur. In the absence of a Treasurer, Arun has served as interim-Treasurer, and hopefully this vacancy will soon be filled, thereby completing our recovery. Most of the funding for the Club is provided by your membership dues, particularly those of the 2012 Donors listed on the sidebars of this Newsletter. Your support was crucial for our recovery during this difficult period. The Board greatly appreciates both your support and your continued confidence in our management and hopes that you will renew your contribution in 2013.

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(continued on right)

Photo Gallery from the Holiday Party (see p1.)



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Democratic Newsletter

**Planning Meeting
Tues., Jan. 8**

**Valentine Party
Tues., Feb. 12**

Davis Democratic Club

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