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...came to town, living in a trailer..

Creating efficiency and saving money helps us sustain our facilities

The water which leaves our system has to be cleaner than the water which comes into our system. That water should be reused.

How do we as a community sit down, discuss growth and get to a yes?

Measure J, renew it as it is.

..captured what it means to be a caring sustainable community

Visit the DDC web site

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

now posting the Club By-laws

Interview with Davis City Council Member Stephen Souza by Tim Fenton



Tim Fenton interviewing Davis City Council Member Steve Souza

At a get together with Davis City Councilman Stephen Souza, we found him bubbling with ideas many of which are about, well, energy. He sees Davis becoming an energy producer developing a combination of photovoltaic (solar panels) and biomass power generating capacity. In biomass, organic material from crops grown in Yolo County could be processed to produce clean burning methane gas to provide heat to drive steam turbine electric generators.

Using resources like 700 acres of town owned land to develop mega arrays of solar panels and grow crops to fuel biomass, Souza envisions a day 10 to 15 years off when Davis could become energy independent producing over 60 MW of power from 100 percent clean, green sources. Pursuing public/private enterprises, Davis, for example, might partner with PV Energy, which operates the large solar electric installation north on Pole Line Drive. Who knows? We might even

sell power to PG&E.

Another focus of Souza is reorganizing city government for greater efficiency and to meet emerging needs. He floats the idea of merging the Davis and UCD Fire Departments. He sees redundancy of functions among Parks & Rec, Public Works and even our schools. He wonders why multiple organizations, each with its own equipment and staff that do similar groundskeeping and building maintenance functions, couldn't be merged into one more efficient one.

Water is gold

Souza sees opportunities for Davis to become cleaner, greener, more efficient and independent. He proposes a new Department of Sustainability that would oversee wastewater treatment, energy development and management of open space resources. Water coming out of Davis's water treatment plant by law must be cleaner than the water from our taps. Souza proposes that instead of dumping that water it be repurposed to water crops for biomass fuel or animal feed. He notes that the city owns or has easements on thousands of acres of open space. Why couldn't Davis's treated water grow crops for Davis's biomass energy facility on Davis's land? Did anyone mention synergy?

Keeping Davis fiscally sound is a must. Souza strongly supports maintaining the city's 15% reserve as it has since the 90s. He urges development to fill gaps of our Greenway Parkway System, which can play a role in maintaining the integrity of our borders with a green cushion between our city and possible future developments nearby.

Councilman Souza laments the recent marathon Council meetings and urges that he and fellow members do more advance preparation including getting key questions answered by city staff prior to meetings.

How do people become involved in public policy?

Souza encourages Davisites to get involved with shaping the city's future by volunteering for the many civic boards, commissions, clubs and councils working to improve life. With his 21 years of public service for Davis, Councilman Stephen Souza provides an ideal role model.



Steve and Robin Souza with then Lt. Gov. , now Congressman, John Garamendi

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Calendar of Events & Activities

FEBRUARY 11: Thursday 6:00-9:00 Love your Elected Leaders: Annual Valentine Party, International House Davis, Potluck Dinner followed by highly informative talks by virtually all local elected officials providing an excellent opportunity to learn what your representatives hope to accomplish and how well they are representing you. Contact Mike Syvanen 756-5831

FEBRUARY 15: 6:30-7:00 DDC/YCDCC social mixer Odd Fellows Hall, Davis. This special event is an opportunity for Club members to meet Yolo County Democratic Central Committee members during a half-hour reception with beverage and appetizers to be immediately followed by the YCDCC business meeting (7:00-9:00pm), which Club members may also attend to learn about YCDCC activities. Contact Arun Sen 756-7093

FEBRUARY 18: 7:00-9:00 PLEASE COME AND VOTE Biennial Election of Club Officers, Odd Fellows Hall, Davis. Club members vote on nominees for all elected Club offices. See the left sidebar for the list of offices and the article below for details of the election process and voting eligibility requirements.

Calendar Notes: THREE CLUB MEETINGS in February by Carl Schmid

As reported above, February will be an unusually busy month for the Club with three membership meetings in addition to our regular monthly Board Meeting to which you are also invited, (7:00 pm, Tues., Feb. 3, at the Odd Fellows Hall): 1) **The Annual Valentine Party** has been great fun while presenting a unique opportunity to meet and hear from nearly all of your local elected leaders in a relaxed setting. 2) **The novel YCDCC/DDC Social mixer** is an unprecedented effort to introduce you to both the members and the activities of our County's Democratic leadership. 3) All 2009 members as well as new members joining prior to Feb. 11 are eligible to vote in the **Biennial Election** of officers. Bob Bockwinkel is currently assembling the list of candidates. Please contact Bob (2191896) if you wish to serve in or nominate another for an elected office. The responsibilities of the Club offices are summarized in the By Laws on our web site. This is a good opportunity to provide needed leadership to the Club by volunteering your service and by simply voting.

Report on Davis College Democrats by Kelsey McQuaid



DCD members at the
Tahoe Retreat

The past month has been extremely busy for the Davis College Democrats in both this region and other states. We volunteered to help at the YCDCC Annual Bean Feed and, most recently, at the DDC Holiday Party, by preparing the halls, serving dinner and cleaning up. We were involved with several campaigns during this election cycle: DCD organized a campaign invasion in CD-10 during which our members walked approximately 30 turfs for John Garamendi in Fairfield. The club assisted the No on Question 1 campaign, by sending a volunteer to canvass in Maine while club members in Davis phoned banked Maine voters. In addition, we were one of the largest delegations to attend the California Young Democrats' Biannual Tahoe Retreat. While there, we attended numerous workshops to learn more about fundraising, utilizing technology and social media, and conducting long-range event planning. In the coming months, we will use these lessons to further our goals and improve our club. We also debated health care with the campus Republican Club; we won.

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HOLIDAY PARTY: POETRY & OFF KEY SINGING

by Carl Schmid

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Seventy-five members enjoyed the Holiday Party at the Odd Fellows Hall. Mike Syvanen coordinated the dinner dishes that were individually contributed by the Board members. Several remarked on the decorations and presentation that were beautifully arranged by Betty Woo, who was quietly assisted by her husband Jim. Jim spent unseen hours working in the kitchen and later cleaning up. We were privileged to enjoy the assistance and collegiality of the Davis College Democrats, who with youthful enthusiasm helped with both the set up and the clean up. (Thank you Don Gibson *et al.*) The Davis chapter of the College Democrats has been extremely successful (see page 2). In celebration of his 100th birthday, Herb Bauer suffered through an off-key rendition of Happy Birthday, directed by our Master of Ceremonies, Arun Sen. The cultural high point of the evening was Robin Souza's recitation of her Davis adaptation of the poem, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. As a special service, Robin's version is reprinted on the enclosed flyer, which you will enjoy reading to Davis friends on Dec 24. Among twenty-some raffle items, the grand prize was a 100-year old bottle of wine (that may or may not have turned!) contributed by Steve Souza. To sober our coming New Year, Don Saylor reported that over twenty complicated, and often self-contradictory, propositions are already under consideration for the upcoming 2010 ballot. Mariko concluded the evening by stating, "It is a privilege to serve you." Considering the difficulties that confronted our State government during the Old Year, we are lucky that she has been there for us. Hopefully, our State will enjoy a Happier New Year.



Herb Bauer celebrating 100 great years*



Steve Souza donating the grand prize in the raffle, a 100-year-old wine, to Betty Woo and Arun Sen

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB BEST SERVE YOU?: DDC President's report by Arun Sen

As reported above and on page 2, wonderful young people through the Davis College Democrats (DCD) are becoming engaged in a lifetime of public service. We are fortunate to support and share in their excitement. To cultivate our friendship, DCD and the Club are exploring future joint meetings. The Club thanks them, Mike Syvanen, Jim and Betty Woo and the many others that made our Holiday Party a great success. The coming holidays provide an opportunity for reflection and introspection.

The Board has been seeking answers as to how the Club might best serve your interests and aspirations. Among other challenges, we seek to design a program that involves the Club membership in affecting public policy. In addition to six successful, special events (namely, the Valentine Party, Champagne Brunch, Ice Cream Social, Fall BBQ, YCDCC Bean Feed, and Holiday Party) that the Club holds each year, how might we best design a program that addresses and advances your goals? I am charging an *ad hoc* committee to investigate this question and recommend necessary changes in our By Laws. I would value your advice.

The Club is currently seeking nominees to stand for election in the February Meeting (see Calendar) for each of our Club offices. Please contact Bob Bockwinkel if you wish to serve or nominate another. California is entering what might become an important election year. This is an opportune time to join us in strengthening our Club and making needed changes in our State Government.



Following her spirited talk, Mariko, as usual, rolled up her sleeves and helped young students clean off tables.*

*Portrait photos generously contributed by Corky Brown

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Davis Democratic Club

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RENEW your 2009
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!

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

**Valentine Party Thurs.,
Feb. 11**

Recruit a friend to join DDC Today!

To **JOIN** or **RENEW** (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: **Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Registration
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Circle your Level of Membership: Individual \$15;
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