



Contents

Interview with Cass Sylvia 1
by Tim Fenton

Calendar of Events 2

Legislating Peace? 2
By Carl Schmid

City Council Candidate 2
Forum by Carl Schmid

Interview with Joel Butler 3
by Tim Fenton

Medicare for all by Marilu 3
Carter

Remembering JFK by Carl 3
Schmid

I believe in helping people out .

...sense of responsibility to my clients.

...help clients function the best they can.

...love the interaction with our clients..

Small departments get squeezed a lot tighter than big ones.

too young to retire

ENDORSEMENT

DDC Board
unanimously endorses

Joe Krovoza for
City Council

in recognition of his accomplishments (e.g. restoration of Putah Creek waters) of his vision for Davis (e.g. integrating bike paths with our transportation requirements, land use and quality of life) and of his creative ideas (e.g. low cost, attractive, after school programs proposed for our children). He will be great on the City Council,

Public Guardian with a Sense of Responsibility by Tim Fenton



We recently met with Yolo County Public Guardian Cass Sylvia. Not only did we learn all about this little known but vital public office, we got to know one of our county's most compassionate public servants. Cass running for re-election on June 8 has served in the office since 2000.

The Public Guardian manages the welfare of Yolo residents, who cannot care for themselves because of serious physical or mental illness or disability. Often, these individuals have no family to turn to for help. Cass Sylvia and her recently pared down staff manage some 150 cases of this sort.

Clients are referred to the guardian by law enforcement or social service agencies. Then Sylvia and her staff arrange for a medical or psychiatric evaluation and make a recommendation to county court for referral to guardianship and possi-

ble medical conservancy. Next, a treatment plan is developed, including medication compliance. Clients are then referred to treatment facilities located around the state, depending on the level of their needs. These range from lock-down facilities for the most seriously mentally ill to privately operated board and care houses for those requiring moderate supervision. Finally, the guardian's office monitors individual client's ongoing care.

Beyond the guardian responsibilities, Cass Sylvia's office provides financial conservator services for Yolo residents not competent to manage their own affairs. When someone dies alone and indigent in Yolo (roughly one a week), they seek out survivors or make arrangements for dignified burial. And, they help Yolo veterans obtain services: Yolo vets are provided with 10,000 rides a year to VA facilities throughout the region.

We should note that these are huge responsibilities the Public Guardian's office takes on, and today Cass Sylvia manages them with half of the professional staff she had prior to the budget cuts mandated by the

state financial crisis. While her staff has been severely shrunk, the case load has not. Worse, more cuts may be ahead.

Here's where that compassion comes in. We asked Cass why she would consider running again given the withering cuts her department has suffered while the workload has remained the same or increased. (Note: While we talked she was sorting and opening the department's mail, a job that used to be done by the clerical worker she recently had to cut.) She said that though her department is hanging on by its fingernails, her determination to continue comes from a sense of responsibility to her clients and her worry that the county might not do right by them if she is not on the job.

Though extremely warm and friendly, Cass Sylvia's determination to carry on in her work is clearly strong. Facing opposition in the June election, she welcomes the light that an active campaign will shine on the Public Guardian office. Wish your fellow Democratic Club member Cass well on June 8 because Yolo County needs her determination and compassion now more than ever.

Democratic News

Page 2

Davis Democratic Club
Executive Board

President:
Arun Sen

Vice President:
Mike Syvanen

Recording Secretary:
G. Richard Yamagata

Treasurer:
Betty Weir

Publicity Chair
Tim Fenton

Editor:
Carl Schmid

Membership Chair:
Carl Schmid

Board Members:
Bob Bockwinkel
Rick Gonzales, Jr.
Bill Julian
Pam Nieberg
Jim Provenza
Bill Ritter
Barry Wilson

Betty Woo
Photography:
Luba Schmid

Calendar of Events & Activities

June 1, Tues.. 7:00-9:00 pm DDC Board Meeting regular business meeting of the Board, all members invited. Odd Fellows Hall

June: 13: Sunday 11:00am-2:00pm Annual Champagne Brunch hosted by Bill and Robin Julian at their home featuring a buffet and social hour followed by presentations from candidates for **MAJOR** statewide and local offices. (*Mark your calendar for (hopefully!) a SPECIAL GUEST appearance TBA.*)

July 4: Sunday 12:00-8:00pm Community Park, Davis. **Celebrate Independence Day** by distributing information, registering voters and enjoying the fireworks as a volunteer at the Club's July 4 booth.

Sept. 19: Sunday Annual Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed, Veteran Memorial Hall, Davis, BBQ dinner and fall campaign kickoff featuring candidates for federal and state offices.

Legislating Peace (HR 808): naiveté or a neat idea? by Carl Schmid

At various times, including, for example, the prelude to WWII, countries throughout Europe with the support of their progressive citizenry, outlawed all future wars. At the May 4 meeting, Ms Lilly Marie passionately urged DDC to endorse HR 808 and to ask Sen Boxer to serve as its Senate cosponsor. HR 808, introduced by Rep. Kucinich and cosponsored by 70 House Democrats, would establish a "Dept. of Peace" with an appropriation pegged at a tiny fraction of the DOD budget. The intention is not to naively outlaw war but rather to understand the nature and causes of all forms of violence, be it a family dispute through international affairs, and to design and implement peaceful alternatives to avoid and resolve conflicts. **Check out HR 808 for yourself.** Ms. Marie urges everyone to spend even just a few minutes each day working toward peace. She convinced us: **The DDC Board unanimously endorses HR 808.**

2010 Donors

BENEFACTOR (+\$200)

Joe & Betty Tupin
Richard Yamagata

PATRON (\$200)

Eric Conn
Mike Harrington
Carl & Luba Schmid
Arun Sen
Bruce & Lois Wolk

SPONSOR (\$100)

Bob, Marie & Julie
Bockwinkel
Tim Fenton
Myra Gable
Andrew & Judith Gabor
Paul Goldstene
Jeff & Sandy Granett
Mary Louise Greenberg
Jerry & Teresa Kaneko
Jim & Kathleen Kaneko
Alan Hirsch &
Vera Sandronsky
Barry Melton &
Barbara Langer
Grace & Grant Noda
Demosthenes & Alice
Pappagianis
Jim & Donna Provenza
Bill Ritter
Don & Julie Saylor
Warren Taylor
Captaine & Helen Thomson
Fredric & Linda Troy
Betty Weir
Janelleyn & Terry Whittier
Kathleen Williams-Fossdahl
Barry Wilson
Mariko Yamada
& Janlee Wong
Jane & Richard Zeiger

PASSPORT (\$50)

Yvonne Clinton
Val Dolcini & Solveig Monson
Clyde & Peggy Froehlich
Richard & Erlinda Gonzales
Calvin Handy
Vick Lim
Ryan Loney
Mary Majors
Judith & Eldrige Moores
Julia Sadler
Thomas & Joan Sallee
Alan & Sandra Sokolow
Bob Schelen
Norma Turner



City Council Candidate Forum

by Carl Schmid

Sydney Vergis, Daniel Watts and Joe Krovoza, (shown l.-r.) kindly presented a forum to thirty Club members at the May 4 meeting. Sydney described her professional expertise in city planning and land use, as well as her personal experience of serving on several city commissions as being unique assets that she would bring to the Council. With great humor, Daniel articulated the need for student representation on the Council. Joe described his candidacy as being a logical progression from his work in protecting natural resources, e.g., providing water rights for Putah Creek, and his ongoing community involvement, e.g., AYSO and promoting bicycling throughout Davis. On the highly contentious issue of growth, the candidates were in general agreement; each, for example, supported annexing Westlake while recognizing complications. Sydney noted that with "several hundred units that have been approved and not yet built," there is ample time to critically consider any future proposals. Joe emphasized the need for "planning to come from a well-grounded process that reflects our values" as contrasted to plans that are conjured up by developers. Addressing finances, Daniel would assume flat revenues for three-year planning cycles and avoid hiring permanent city employees as much as possible. Each candidate impressed the audience.



Assessor Joel Butler says he's having fun. *Really?* by Tim Fenton

Our recent chat with County Assessor Joel Butler called to mind the ancient Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." The bursting of the real estate bubble has brought interesting times in spades for Assessor Butler who's running for re-election on June 8.

Case in point, the excruciating belt tightening brought on by the mega recession has forced Butler to cut his staff some 13 percent and

more bad news from Sacramento could force further cuts. At the same time, workload for the assessor's office is growing rapidly, driven by falling property values. For example, three years ago, Butler's team handled 220 assessment appeals; two years ago, it was up to 750; last year, it reached 1,150, and this year to date has already seen some 1,250 appeals. But, Butler's shrunken team soldiers on.

Another fallout of falling property values? Butler notes that his department proactively reviewed tons of assessments last year, resulting in tax reductions for 12,000 Yolo County

properties. That drove the County tax rolls down 3%, something that never happened before. And Butler expects to review some 20,000 properties this year.

With all this grief, we asked Butler why he's seeking four more years as assessor. Surprisingly, he answered that he wants to stay on "as long as I'm having fun." In those four years, he aims to complete the digitization of all assessor's office documents. Sounds like fun, huh?

Though he's running unopposed, be sure you check your ballot for Joel Butler. He needs your moral support.

(California) Medicare for all by Marilu Carter

Addressing Club and YCDC members on May 4, Senator Mark Leno described Senate Bill 810 as "Medicare for All." The California Universal Health Care Act, SB 810, works by creating a universal health care trust fund, pooling the money that government, employers, and individuals spend on health care.

Our current health care system is failing us. We are drowning in epidemics of autism, diabetes, cancer, obesity, heart attack, and stroke.

Californians currently spend about \$200 billion on health care. SB 810 would use that \$200 billion better. Currently, 30% (\$60 billion) of the cost is wasted on administrative bureaucracy. Insurance companies are in business to amass profits for shareholders and administrators. Their *business* is to deny care. Denying care is their "medical loss ratio." They cancel your insurance and call it policy "rescissions." In California alone, 6,000 insurers reward their "utilization reviewers" to deny care.

This year, for example, Wellpoint Inc. [Blue Cross] profited by



Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, Senator Mark Leno and Marilu Carter (l-r.)

\$12.2 billion. Wellpoint's CEO received a bonus of \$100 million. We pay twice per capita for health care compared to all other industrialized countries. The World Health Organization ranked the United States 37th among nations in health care results—just below Costa Rica. SB 810 offers a better way for all Californians.

To learn more, visit CaliforniaOneCare.org.



Hero describes his friend, young JFK, to the DDC by Carl Schmid

Standing just over five feet tall at age 91, LCDR Ted Robinson, war hero, author, celebrated speaker and dedicated public servant (currently chairing a Sacramento park commission), cut a truly impressive figure at DDC's May 12 meeting. His captivating, first-hand account of JFK's rescue was presented in the context of daring PT boat captains, whose only hope against overwhelming odds was high speed escape, running blind while hidden in nighttime darkness. Among many tales, he described how Kennedy, just recovering from his own wounds, volunteered for a dangerous mission to rescue a marine unit facing certain death. The rescued party of over 100 men could scarcely fit on JFK's small, wooden PT boat. The great lesson of this tale is perhaps not young Kennedy's heroism but rather his motivation. He undertook this personal risk because of his determination to help others, the same wonderful attribute that motivated him as our own future, political leader.

Democratic Newsletter

Champagne Brunch

Sunday, June 13

Please join us in celebration

RENEW your 2010
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!

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

Visit our web site

www.davisdemocraticclubg.org

Davis Democratic Club

P.O. Box 73014

Davis CA, 95617

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD

US POSTAGE PAID

DAVIS, CA 95616

PERMIT NO 59

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

Telephoning Newsletter

Circle your Level of Membership: Individual \$15;
Household \$25; Passport \$50; Sponsor \$100;
Patron \$200; Benefactor \$200+; Student membership \$10.



Virtual Market Enterprises

G Richard Yamagata, Ph.D

On the web since March 1995

CEO / President

We specialize in placing individuals, businesses, and organizations on the World Wide Web

Phone: (530) 848-8634
(530) 753-9750

www.vme.net

Email: yamagata@virtual-markets.net
Web: <http://www.virtual-markets.net/vme/>



Bob Bockwinkel
Direct: (530) 297-2210
Mobile: (530) 219-1896
Fax: (530) 758-5784
Email: bbockwinkel@golygon.com

