

Contents

Interview with Mariko Yamada by **1**

Calendar of Events **2**

100th Birthday Celebrations **2**

Endorsement of Sheila Allen and Gina Daleiden for Re-election **3**

Financial Reform Legislation **3**

Personal note from Rick Gonzales

...great privilege to serve..

....mood of the electorate has gone from discouraged to angry.

...how to break the log-jam..Proposition 25..one step

...Delta remains a top priority, ground zero for the water future of 38 million Californians

...water bond, classic example of raw politics as opposed to good policy

..essentially dismantled dismantled education from pre-school to higher ed..

....a strong education system...the cornerstone of a successful nation..

...see unbridled greed..makes me ashamed..complete lack of ethics..

...cannot ask the taxpayer for additional revenue when we know there are problems.

...require transparency..ensure restoration of good conduct and ethics.

..get back to basics and common sense.



Assembly member Yamada wants to get back to basic ethics.

by Tim Fenton

Recently your reporter enjoyed a coffee date with our 8th Assembly District representative Mariko Yamada to learn about the progress of her re-election campaign and about matters of governance important to her. She stressed how different the circumstances are for this year's election versus 2008 when she was first elected. The excitement and voter engagement of 2008 has been replaced by an electorate that's just plain grumpy with the state of things. Now she says California voters need to be convinced of the importance of voting, citing the nine propositions on this November's ballot: Outcomes on these will have major impact for the state's future.

Recently Yamada voted against a proposal to delay voting on Proposition 18, the water bond authorization, until 2012. An opponent of Prop. 18, which she finds highly flawed and filled with "pork", she would prefer to keep it on the ballot in hopes that it will be defeated. On the other hand, she thinks the two-year delay would allow time to educate voters on the water issues affecting the Delta and, hopefully, to improve the legislation. Regarding another ballot initiative, Yamada urges a "yes" vote on Prop 25, lowering the vote required for state budgets to a simple majority from the two-thirds vote required now.

Yamada told us she

longs for a return to basic values and ethics in politics and government. She's concerned the direction some public servants are following citing the scandal over the outrageous salaries collected by top officials in the southern California city of Bell. She finds the "unbridled greed" evidenced there to be "breath-taking" and says we all should be ashamed for tolerating the behavior of Bell's elected officials and others who follow their corrupt path.

Yamada laments the way the ballot initiative process has been corrupted by money. She believes some initiatives, paid for by special interests, are taking control of our democracy. And with so many lawsuits challenging the results of initiative votes, she says in many cases the state is being governed by the courts, not the governor or legislature.

Three things are going to have big impact on California's future, Yamada says. First, the 2010 census will be reported out on January 1. The new census data will then set off our state's new citizen-led redistricting process. Yamada supports the new way of redistricting but feels that too many citizens are disqualified from serving on the redistricting panel. She notes that the new panel will give equal representation to Democrats and Republicans which she finds unwarranted by the actual numbers of voters in each party: Registered Democrats far outnumber Republicans in

California.

The third change agent Yamada cited is the state's new open primary mandated by the passage of Proposition 14. She laments the possibility of two candidates of the same party opposing each other for top state offices and predicts open primaries will lead to longer and more expensive campaigns. "If you believe there are significant differences between the two major parties, you have to be against open primaries," she says.

As we drained our coffee mugs, Assembly member Yamada remarked that we are so fortunate to live in Davis with its forward-looking electorate. We hope for her that a look forward will show her victorious on November 2. Let's make it happen Davis Democrats!



For more information on Mariko's positions on public issues, visit www.marikoyamada.net.

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Calendar of Events & Activities

September 7: Tues. 7:00-9:00 pm DDC Board Meeting regular business meeting of the Board, all members invited. Odd Fellows Hall
August 21: Saturday 12:00-8:00pm Yolo County Fair. Club members are invited to volunteer to greet the public at the Democratic Party's information booth. This is a fun activity to include in your day at the County Fair. Contact Richard Yamagata 888-8634
August 26: Thursday 6:00-8:00pm Ice Cream Social. Enjoy ice cream and toppings served with soap box oratory at the home of Jerry and Teresa Kaneko 556 Reed Dr., Davis. Contact Jerry 756-2324
Sept. 19: Sunday Annual Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed, Veteran Memorial Hall. BBQ dinner and fall campaign kickoff featuring candidates for federal and state offices. This annual event typically draws major guest speakers- Barbara Boxer appeared in 2009. Vic Fazio will be the guest of honor. Contact Kelsye McQuaid, klmquaid@ucdavis.edu
Sept. 26: Sunday Fall Sausage BBQ, hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home. Mixed grill with trimming and beverages served in a relaxed friendly atmosphere, Hawaiian shirts optional. Contact Steve Souza

Standing on their shoulders: 100+100+95=295 years by Carl Schmid

The Club has long benefitted from Betty Weir's enthusiasm, dedication and guidance; we congratulate her on her recent 95th birthday. This same year, Herbert Bauer, another long-term, active Club member, celebrated his 100th birthday. And just this month, Ruth Painter celebrated her 100th birthday. Ruth, a child of missionaries, grew up in China becoming fluent in Mandarin before eventually settling in Davis with her husband, Ed, UCD's first bio-chemistry professor. Betty credits Ed, Ruth, Herb and herself for starting the Stevenson Club in 1952 that they guided into becoming the DDC. We stand on their tall shoulders.

DDC Endorses Reelection of Sheila Allen & Gina Daleiden



The DDC Board endorses reelection of Sheila Allen and Gina Daleiden to the Davis School Board. Despite an incredible budget shortfall, a hallmark of the School Board has been its ability to consistently achieve collegial consensus on very difficult (more accurately, heart breaking) decisions. Even more impressively, the Board

has provided extraordinary leadership creating a sense of shared sacrifice enabling parents, teachers and staff and the wider community to make significant, painful concessions compromising and balancing tax increases with cuts in salary and programs. Throughout this challenge, Sheila and Gina have each demonstrated true leadership.

Furthermore, they each maintain a sense of optimism. While preserving our schools' essential programs today, they are actively planning to improve these programs in the future (see the March and April Newsletter). We thank Sheila and Gina for their outstanding service.

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 (Continued p.3)

Financial Reform Legislation by Carl Schmid

Among many accomplishments during the very brief period, (just nineteen months!) that Obama has been President, Congress has enacted a major economic stimulus program, health care reform and, most recently, much needed financial reform. Health care and job creation have each traditionally enjoyed the support of Democrats. In contrast, financial reform has only recently emerged as a high priority because of the financial crisis now gripping the country and Democrats may be less familiar with the intention of this law. News reports indicate that wealthy Wall Street executives are contributing heavily to the Republican Party because of their vehement opposition to financial reform. Exactly why are these "malefactors of great wealth" so upset? We Democrats need to understand the significance of this new law. In an "Enews" to constituents, Congressman Mike Thompson describes *The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act* as a "historic piece of legislation" adding "I'm proud to have supported the bill." He concludes that "The bill is not perfect. But, it does take a big step forward in putting protections in place for average Americans, and safeguard against future bank bailouts. We can never again make the American people pay for the excesses of Wall Street." To better understand the reasons for this new law and its intentions, the following remarks are excerpts from Congressman Thompson's Enews:

Americans have paid too high of a price for the greedy behavior of Wall Street. Eight years of Wall Street pursuing short-term profits at any cost was in large part responsible for the eight million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings and personal investments Americans have lost. This is far too steep a price to pay for Wall Street's misdeeds. The legislation President Obama signed into law on Wednesday will help rein in Wall Street, put safeguards in place to help prevent future bailouts of big banks, and create a consumer financial protection bureau.

Taxpayers should never have to pay the price for Wall Street's irresponsibility. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act will help prevent the risky financial practices that led to the financial meltdown and put safeguards in place to prevent large financial firms from gambling with Americans' retirement and college savings and home values. The bill creates a process to shut down large, failing firms whose collapse would put our entire economy at risk. After exhausting all of the company's assets, additional costs would be covered by a 'dissolution fund,' to which all large financial firms would contribute.

Since the financial crisis began, I've said that we must enact these changes in order to minimize the risk that we have to bail out big banks again. I would have liked to see stronger rules to prevent banks from becoming 'too big to fail,' but this bill puts many good protections in place for the American people.

This new law also puts some strong protections in place for ordinary Americans, so that we won't be taken advantage of by unfair and abusive financial practices....The bill creates the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to make sure that there is one agency whose only job is to look out for consumers. They will be tasked with making sure that lenders provide clear and accurate information to families and small businesses to ensure that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair and affordable. Just like the FDA does for medical safety, the CFPB will set safety standards to prevent practices such as hidden credit card fees, deceptive 'fine print,' and other financial abuses that have escaped oversight so far.

The new law will also help put an end to abusive practices by the financial industry. Mortgage brokers and bank employees will no longer be able to earn bonuses based on the type of loans they sell a client. This will help eliminate any incentive to push high-interest loans on borrowers (who might otherwise qualify for a better deal) in order to inflate bank profits.

And the law will help clean up after the mess created by the under-regulated mortgage industry. State and local governments will be eligible for a part of the \$1 billion in neighborhood stabilization funding provided in this bill. This will allow local governments to combat the problems that go along with high concentrations of foreclosures by rehabilitating, redeveloping, and reusing abandoned and foreclosed properties.

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Personal Note from Rick Gonzales: Sadly noting the recent passing of his daughter-in-law, Shel Gante Gonzales, Rick wants Club members to know that both she and he each appreciated the community's generous support during her difficult illness. Three days prior to her demise, Shel specifically expressed her thanks for all that had been done on behalf of herself and her family, which includes three young children.

Democratic Newsletter

Bean Feed

September 21: Sunday

4:00-8:00pm

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www.davisdemocraticclubg.org

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