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**“Governor Culbert Levy Olson - Past, Present and Future: A Statesman Ahead of His Time” – A Special Appreciation By His Granddaughter, Debra Deanne Olson**

**Sacramento, Calif.** –Debra Deanne Olson recounts the remarkable story of her grandfather, former Gov. Culbert Levy Olson, as part of a special collaboration between the California State Archives and the California State Library, Thursday, January 22 at 2 p.m. at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, 914 Capitol Mall, Room 500, Sacramento.

Elected in 1938, Olson was the 29<sup>th</sup> governor of California -- the first Democrat to hold the office in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He served one term from 1939-1943. As a loyal supporter of President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Upton Sinclair’s failed “End Poverty in California” campaign, Olson hoped to implement similar liberal reforms. He was only able to enact a few programs before being defeated by Republican Attorney General Earl Warren in 1942. Olson’s controversial pardoning of labor radical [Tom Mooney](#) may have contributed to his being a one-term governor. Born in Utah and raised Mormon, Olson became an atheist at age 10. He served as president of the United Secularists of America from 1957 until his death in 1962.

The California State Library and the California State Archives are creating a digital archive of a number of Olson’s papers, speeches, photos, personal letters, and memorabilia. Many of the items being digitized were loaned to the state by Debra Deanne Olson. For more information on Governor Olson, please check out the Governors’ Gallery on our website <http://governors.library.ca.gov/29-Olson.html>. Debra Deanne Olson’s website is <http://www.peacesolutions.org/debra-2.html>. Additional information on Governor Olson can be found at <http://www.californiascapitol.com/2011/11/happy-birthday-governor-2/>.

**WHAT:** Debra Olson Presents “Governor Culbert Levy Olson – Past, Present and Future: A Statesman Ahead of His Time”

**WHERE:** Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building  
914 Capitol Mall, Room 500  
Sacramento, California

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 22, 2 p.m. Reception and light refreshments to follow. **The event is free with RSVP.**

**RSVP at Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-guest-speaker-at-the-state-library-debra-deanne-olson-tickets-13320583223>. Please print free ticket and present at the door.

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor’s office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, visit [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov).

**About the State Archives:** Founded in 1850, the California State Archives collects, catalogs, preserves, and provides access to the historic records of state government and some local governments. The Archives collection is primarily composed of records from California state agencies, the governor's office, the state legislature, and the State Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal. For more information, visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>.

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