



The Official Publication of ACT

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

United Democratic Headquarters 2010 Opens at 260 S. Lake Avenue

We are pleased to announce that the United Democratic Headquarters opened on August 16, 2010 at 260 S. Lake Avenue in Pasadena. It is a beautiful headquarters in a great location. We are literally in the heart of S. Lake shopping and dining. The headquarters is located in the block north of Del Mar and South of Cordova (next door to Wahoo tacos on the east side of Lake). There is plenty of free two-hour parking behind the building. Come on over and help us phone voters. We will be hosting a grand opening on Labor Day from 1 PM till 3 PM. Hours of operation are 10 AM till 8:30 PM Monday through Friday; Saturday 8 AM till 6 PM and Sunday 12 Noon till 8:30 PM.



We have a great team of consultants: Vickere Murphy is the campaign coordinator; Karen Huante-Alexander is our volunteer coordinator; Wendy Soltes is our fundraiser; and Lonnee Hamilton will lead the field operation. Lonnee also serves as our social media consultant. We also want to thank Fred Register for chairing our Strategy Committee. Thanks Fred! Come on by starting August 16th and say hi! For more information go to pasadenademocrats.com and check out our new website. Call us at 626.449.2008. We need your help more than ever. We ask you to give us just 2 hours of your time each week to elect Democrats into office! A special thanks to Assemblymember Portantino for being a major sponsor of our new headquarters.

-- Bill Hackett, UDH Committee Chairperson

Research Committee

The Research Committee will consider the November propositions at a meeting on September 1st, at 7 p.m.. Please contact Committee Co-Chair Greg Harrison for information at or

gregandnikki@earthlink.net or 626-797-7021. We request that you RSVP to Greg if you plan on attending. The meeting will be held at 1291 east Howard street in Pasadena.

John Kulli (Democrat)
Oct 25, 1919 – July 26, 2010

The passing of John and Jean Kulli marks the end of an era for ACT. They were both charter members but to many of us they were Pasadena foster parents. Beth Gertmenian and I visited John the Friday before he died. He was very weak and thin. He was unable to get out of bed on his own but he still was mentally alert and his old self. We visited with him for 45 minutes and he used the visit to tease me about my humble beginnings growing up “South of the Slot” in San Francisco. This is a real old timer’s term that was very derogatory when I was growing up. It meant you lived on the east side of Mission Street (which had a slot in the middle of the street to pull cable cars) and were not only working class but either an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. Most of the people on that side of Mission in those days were mostly Irish and some Italian, Latinos and Russians. The first time he used that term with me was when I moved here in 1968, I reacted in a shocked manner and that reaction encouraged him to use the term the rest of his life.

When Sandra Kulli called me on the night he died we reminisced about Jean and John. One of the last things he said to Sandra was that he was ready to go home. She asked him where he was and he stated the address of his house and said it had not been home since her Mom died. Jean and John are now together in a wooded area near their Wrightwood Cabin that they loved. There will be a gathering to honor John in a month or two.

John was born in Highland Park. Jean and John attended UCLA and he graduated in 1940. They had 68 years together. John served in WWII and the Korean Conflict. He was a Navy Lt. Commander. After retirement from Sears he graduated from law school and



started a second career as a volunteer at a non-profit. He was a member of several Boards. But most of us knew him as an outstanding gardener that really cared for their gardens on South El Molino. He was always happy to show you the results of his labors and I will miss those walks around the garden learning about plants and how my over-watering was killing everything I planted.

With Love and respect, Ralph Hurtado

P. S. John had requested that any memorial donations be made to All Saints Church or to a charity of the donor’s choice.



Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the September *Phoenix* will be Sunday, September 12. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, September 16 at 7 p.m. at Chuck’s house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)

Ned Munger

We are sorry to note the death of **Ned Munger**, longtime Caltech geography professor and a renowned expert on Africa and race relations on the African continent, on June 15 of cancer. Ned first traveled to Africa in 1947 and returned in 1949 as the first Fulbright Fellow to Africa. In ensuing years he lived in Africa for a decade, visited every African country and revisited the continent more than 100 times. He worked with the Peace Corps, was an advisor on Africa to the State Department, and served in myriad other capacities, including 14 years as president of the Leakey Foundation and as founder of the Cape of Good Hope Foundation to aid mostly black universities in southern Africa. He also authored several books on Africa including his '83 memoir, "Touched by Africa." Ned was 88.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ann. The family suggests that any memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Beckman Auditorium at Caltech or to the Institute of Current World Affairs, 4545 42nd Street, NW, Suite 311, Washington, DC 20016-4623.



The 2010 Judy Boggs Memorial Internship

ACT has solicited applications and nominations for the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship. ACT is one of the oldest progressive grassroots political organizations in Southern California. In memory of its long-time executive director, Judy Boggs, **ACT will award a stipend of up to \$2,500 to an outstanding student to intern at the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters during the 2010 November election cycle.**

Preference will be given to students in good standing at a local college, university or

graduate school, although recent graduates may also be considered. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in good government and electoral politics; possess a commitment to progressive issues and political grassroots participation; and be able to commit to 20 hours a week to working in the United Democratic Headquarters.

The goals of the program are: to give interns experience in all aspects of a local campaign; to provide an opportunity to meet and work with candidates and elected officials; and to develop potential future leaders in local politics.

Interviews will be held the week of August 16. The Internship period is from August 23, 2010 to November 5, 2010.



Web Page News

Find the current issue of the Phoenix **in color** at our web page, www.ACTPasadena.org. We will update each month so that the current Phoenix is available to ACT and ADC members online. (Earlier issues are available to everyone.)

Membership renewal is now available online, as well. Also, relevant meeting dates, videos, links and news items.

P.S. Please "friend" us on Facebook.



Special Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating and Political Accounts:

Michael Cornwell, Pasadena
Joan & Jeff Palmer, Pasadena

Ferol Mennen & Dick Smoak, Altadena

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



August 7

As we approach November's mid-term elections, voters' gut-level sense of how we're doing as a country is solidifying, with two key factors -- the economy and unemployment, and the BP oil spill -- probably having a dominant influence. Neither bodes well for the Administration, pointing to a tough mid-term election.

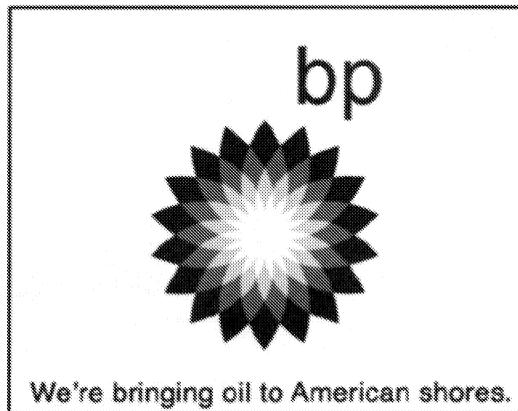
On the oil spill front, there is finally some good news. BP seems finally and permanently to have capped the leak. Further, with leakage reduced to nearly nil over the last few weeks, there seems little evidence of any substantial oil slicks remaining, so no more beaches or wetlands will be overtly affected. Controversy remains, however, as to what long-term effects the dissolved or dispersed oil may have on fish and plant life.

From a longer-term perspective, however, the

question remains why this happened, and whether other deep-sea wells are equally at risk. The New York Times, in its June 21st edition, ran a four-page story with the best reporting I've seen on the technical details underlying the oil spill and their systemic implications for the drilling industry.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig -- the towering structure floating above the well -- was owned by Transocean, the world's largest offshore drilling contractor, and leased to British Petroleum. (Once a wellhead is securely established, these drilling rigs move on to the next well to be drilled; in stormy weather, they can even disconnect themselves from a well in progress and move to calmer seas.) Each drilling rig has a blowout preventer (BOP) designed as the last line of defense against oil spills.

These BOP's sit on the sea floor over the well and stand 50 feet tall. The pipes to the well go through the center of these BOP's. Inside the BOP is what's called a blind shear ram -- somewhat like a huge pair of scissors held open by a spring. Release the spring and the scissors snap shut, cutting and crimping the pipe to the well and thus sealing the well.



An actual 1999 BP ad - reprinted from the Summer 2010 issue of PEERreview.

These blind shear rams can be activated electronically by personnel on the drilling rig, and they also have emergency systems designed to trigger them automatically.

Because of the importance of these blind shear rams, many drilling rigs have dual systems -- like two pairs of scissors, one atop the other -- in their BOP's. All the rigs that BP currently rents have two rams; 11 of the 14 rigs that Transocean operates have dual rams. But the Deep Horizon, built in the 1980's, had only a single ram.

Industry experts have long recognized the danger inherent in this design. One study looked at 15,000 wells drilled in the North Sea and off the American coast; 11 wells had significant leaks, and the blowout preventers worked in only 6 of those 11 incidents. In a recent quarterly earnings report conference call, Transocean's CEO noted revenues, based on drilling days rented, were down that quarter because of "a handful of problems" with BOP's.

The problems with BOP's center on whether the blind shear rams -- the scissors in our analogy -- can really cut through the well pipeline and seal the well. Modern drill pipe is twice as strong as piping used to be, when these BOP's were designed. Further, they operate at greater depths now, so the intense pressure and frigid temperatures at 5,000 ft. below the surface exacerbate the challenge. The blind shear rams are driven by hydraulic pressure, and a leak in that system or the valve that triggers them is now recognized as a potential "single point of failure." Industry consultants checked 14 new drilling rigs as part of their report; seven had never been tested to see if the BOP would truly work in deep water, and of the seven that were tested,

only 3 passed the test.

Despite these industry findings, which the government helped fund, the industry has been pressing to reduce the scale and frequency of required testing on BOP's. They point out that of 90,000 tests of BOP's over several years, only 62 failures were noted. And, until this spill, they had a remarkably clean record.

On the basis of those industry reports, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) -- the Interior Dept.'s agency in charge of permitting

and oversight -- adopted new regulations in 2003, requiring companies to submit test data proving that the blind shear rams in BOP's would work with the specific pipe being used, and at the actual depth of the well for which a permit was being sought. But the MMS engineer who approved BP's drilling permit for this particular well never asked for that proof. Indeed, that engineer testified at the Coast Guard hearing that he was never trained or told

to ask for that proof. BP noted they had not been required to submit such proof -- for this or any other well. The MMS regional supervisor, however, insisted such proof was routinely required.

So where do we stand now? Of all the rigs in the Gulf coast area, 2/3 have only 1 blind shear ram in their BOP's. Interior Secretary Salazar is moving to update drilling regulations to require that all rigs have two blind shear rams, that they improve the emergency back-up systems to ensure that the rams are activated when necessary, and that government inspectors personally witness BOP tests, rather than simply accepting industry test results.

All of these are good improvements in the regulatory scheme, yet the Administration is like-



ly to get little credit for them. What will stay in voters' collective memory are the pictures of vast oil slicks at sea and tar balls on beaches and oil covered birds in marshes. And all of those images feed a gut-level sense that the Administration wasn't up to the challenge.

The Administration may be facing a similar problem on the jobs front. The August data shows continued private sector job growth, but at a relatively anemic level. Further, the data gets distorted by the huge surge in governmental jobs earlier this year, as the Census hired hundreds of thousands of temporary workers, and the expected loss of those jobs in June and July as most of the Census work has been completed.

So despite 7 straight months of private sector growth, we still have 9.5% unemployment, and substantial underemployment, with consumer confidence dropping. Those who are employed seem to be saving more and paying off debt. Both of those are good things -- our economy had gotten way out of whack. But they also mean consumer spending is lessened and economic recovery therefore will be quite slow. We'll be better off in the end, with lower debt burdens and more realistic consumption patterns, but in the meantime voters will not be happy. Once again, the gut-level sense will be that the Obama Administration has not done enough, or moved fast enough, to get the country moving again.

Normally, these conditions would spell real danger for the incumbent party. But in Senate races, at least, Democrats seem to be faring better than one might reasonably hope for. Part of the reason is that Tea Party candidates are splitting the Republican vote and alienating independents. In Nevada, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was thought to be in mortal peril. But Republicans nominated Sharron Angle, whose extremist stands have turned the race around and put Reid on top.

Similarly, in Kentucky, the Republican nomination of Rand Paul has turned what was a safe Republican seat into nearly a toss-up.

Symptomatic of this split among Republicans is a funny little story from Utah. Incumbent Republican Senator Bob Bennett was denied renomination, losing to a Tea Party extremist in the Republican primary. Bennett had been a reliable and consistent conservative vote, yet he was judged insufficiently pure. Just this weekend, his son, who had also been his campaign manager, publicly endorsed the Democratic challenger. That's not likely to affect the Utah race very much, but it does exemplify the deep divisions the Tea Party candidates are generating.

As it stands now, Democrats are likely to lose three, or perhaps four, Democratic seats: in North Dakota, where incumbent Byron Dorgan is retiring, Republican Governor John Hoeven is practically assured victory; in Arkansas, incumbent Blanche Lincoln, after surviving a tough primary battle, is trailing Republican John Boozman by over 20 points, a nearly insuperable margin; in Indiana, Evan Bayh is retiring and former Senator Dan Coats seems likely to return to the Senate from this fundamentally Republican state; and in Delaware, Republican Michael Castle, who has represented the entire state in the House for 20 years, is running against a lesser-known Democrat, Chris Coons, the County Executive of Delaware's largest county.

But Republicans have their own vulnerable seats; retirements in New Hampshire, Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky, and a weak incumbent in North Carolina, mean Democrats could well pick up between 2 and 5 seats. Further, the Senate could see two extremely moderate Republicans if Castle wins in Delaware and Charlie Crist, running as an independent in Florida, wins his election. That could seriously weaken the Republicans' ability to hold

their votes for filibusters against judicial candidates or environmentally-oriented measures like cap and trade limits on carbon emissions. So I'm still holding to my prediction that Senate Democrats will end up in a stronger position after the election, rather than a dramatically weaker one as most pundits predict.

In the House, most observers think Dems will lose between 25 and 40 seats, narrowing their current margin substantially. I also think we'll lose seats, but not nearly that many, recognizing that we now hold many traditionally Republican seats because of our victories in 2006 and 2008. So the pendulum may swing back a bit, but not so far as to give the Reps control of the House.

And talking about pendulums, one of the most interesting things about this political season is how the opinion polls have gyrated from week to week. One week the Reps have a significant edge in the traditional generic question -- would you vote for the Republican or the Democrat for your Congressman? But the next week the Dems lead, and then the following week the Reps are back on top. Polling for particular candidates also seems to show unusual variances.

It appears that public opinion is rather more fluid than normal this year. That could mean voters are reacting to the latest news and have not firmed up their opinions -- good news for President Obama, who will be hard on the campaign trail in September and October. It might also mean that pollsters, in trying to construct models of which voters are likely to vote in the November midterms, are finding it difficult to identify a stable population of likely voters. So read the current polls with an extra dose of skepticism. The key to this coming mid-term will be voter turnout -- if Obama and the Democrats can turn out many of the Democrats that voted in 2008, we'll be in good shape. If not, there'll be a lot of Democratic incumbents looking for work in 2011.

Closer to home, as soon as the mid-term elections are over, we'll be looking at local City Council and School Board elections. In Pasadena, Mayor Bill Bogaard is up for re-election, as are Councilmembers Jacque Robinson (District 1), Margaret McAustin (District 2), Steve Haderlein (District 4) and Steve Madison (District 6). Few candidates have formally announced their intentions, but the only incumbent who appears ready to retire is Councilmember Haderlein. Among the potential candidates considering a run in District 4 are Gene Masuda, who ran 4 years ago and was narrowly defeated; Allan Shay; and Jill Fosselman, one of the Mayor's appointees to the General Plan Update Committee. Both Masuda and Fosselman are Republicans, as are most voters in District 4. Masuda would seem to be the early favorite, based both upon his prior run and his strong support for Measure CC, which may earn him support from traditional Democratic voters. No opponents for Councilmembers McAustin and Madison have surfaced yet, though it's still a bit early; nor do we know yet if Mayor Bogaard will face any serious opposition.

On the PUSD School Board, Renatta Cooper (Seat 2), Bob Harrison (Seat 4) and Tom Selinske (Seat 6) are all up for re-election. Indications are that all three will run again, which normally would mean a relatively quiet election. There are rumors that a slate of candidates may be forming to oppose them, but the discontent with these incumbents seems based not so much on policy or ideology as on process and personality. One Board member, Ramon Miramontes, seems clearly at odds with most of his colleagues and appears distinctly unhappy with the current Superintendent. Whether that dissatisfaction will lead to an effective electoral challenge to Board incumbents remains to be seen.

-- Jon Fuhrman

Proposition 8 Ruled Unconstitutional

By Bill Hackett

The tension in our household was palpable the night before Judge Vaughn Walker was to issue his ruling in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*. My husband Thom and I had been waiting nearly two years for this day. The time for the decision was at hand.

A Federal Court was finally going to rule on the constitutionality of Proposition 8, the anti-gay marriage initiative that was passed by California voters in November of 2008. At approximately 2 PM on August 4th the decision was released online. Thom called me with the news.

“Having considered the trial and the arguments of counsel, the court pursuant to FRCP (Federal Rules of Civil Procedure) 52 (a) finds that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional and that its enforcement be enjoined.” Page 3 of the decision.

Plaintiffs in the case had challenged Proposition 8 under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. The due process clause says no “State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” US Const. Amend. XIV Section 1. The Equal Protection clause states that no “state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” US Constitutional Amend. XIV Section 1.

The Court found that Proposition 8 was indeed a violation of both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. The Court went on to state on page 135 of the decision. “Because California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from its constitutional obligation to provide marriage on an equal basis, the court concludes that

Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.”

We are thrilled that the court has found that Proposition 8 is indeed unconstitutional. Thanks to the lawyers in the case David Boies and Ted Olson. In fact we got to meet them in West Hollywood the day the decision came down. They are truly amazing lawyers. To read the entire decision simply Google the case. The decision is readily available for download.



Campaign Contributions

...Former Altadenan and Pasadenan Pierce O'Donnell found out this week that the long arm of those campaign finance laws is still trying to put the squeeze on him. Pierce, the former local congressional candidate and Pasadena Weekly publisher who now lives in Montecito, had thought he was in the clear after charges against him about donations to the presidential campaign of his longtime friend and fellow famous litigator John Edwards were thrown out by a judge. But the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals – who says it uniformly favors liberals? – reinstated criminal charges, which could disbar him. An appeal would have to be made to the Supreme Court. And it will – for Pierce, not practicing law is akin to not breathing.

The above is excerpted from Larry Wilson's June 16, 2010 StarNews column. Note to Non-Dinosaur ACT members: During the years he lived here, Pierce was a member of ACT and the ACT Steering Committee as well as our Democratic Congressional candidate in 1980.



Update your Email Address

Do we have your current Email address? To provide an updated address please email Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

Please Note: We Have a New Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

At our July Potluck meeting the Steering Committee voted to return to our old meeting scheduling system with Steering Committee/ADC meetings occurring on the **first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in rotation**. We know this schedule can be confusing and there will always be date conflicts, but with rotating dates everyone should be able to attend more meetings. (We happily welcome back the folks who could never attend on the first Thursday!)

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming meeting dates (coffee 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m.):

Tuesday, September 7
 Wednesday, October 6
 Thursday, November 4
 Tuesday, December 7

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Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Andrea Beal, Pasadena
 Yudie Fishman, Sierra Madre
 Connie Garrison, Pasadena
 Patricia Griffith, Los Angeles
 Mark Maier & Anne Schiller, Pasa.
 Janice Mangerino, Pasadena
 Gary Matus, Pasadena
 Fred Mazie, Altadena
 Greg & Joyce Millikan, Pasadena
 Dana Runge, La Canada
 Joyce Streator, Pasadena
 Mary Thomas, Pasadena
 Liz Trussell, Pasadena
 Harriet Whelan, Pasadena

From 44th District Assemblymember Anthony Portantino



Dear Friends,

It's August and there is still no budget that has bi-partisan support, which is an important distinction because, as ACT members know, it requires two thirds of the legislature to pass a budget. California is one of only three States that requires a "Super Majority" to accomplish the most basic government function: to shepherd the public's finances. I'm afraid that we are in for a long and frustrating several months. I will endeavor to keep fighting for public education as the discussions drag on.

In other budget related madness, the recent City of Bell nightmare is troubling to me for several reasons. First, the sheer greed of those involved and second, the role of CalPERS in this debacle. Many of you have read about my efforts to cap the salaries and bonuses of California's highest paid employees for the next 24 months. My thought was that by forgoing raises and bonuses for those making over \$150,000 per year, they would share the burden with state employees on the low wage scale who have been experiencing furloughs and layoffs. One of the obstacles that I've run into, which has contributed to stopping the bill several times, has come from CalPERS executives who want bonuses during this time of great fiscal unrest. The fact that CalPERS did nothing to stop the Bell abuses is yet another example of why these folks should forgo any raises and bonuses.

My effort to bring tax relief to residents who have suffered losses in the Station Fire and

resulting mudslides is moving forward. Assembly Bill 1662 has passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee and continues to receive bi-partisan support. It's next up in Senate Appropriations where I'm hopeful it can move on to the Senate floor. A small bill that has a big impact is also moving through the system - AB 1531 will legalize "same day voter registration" in California. In the eleven states using voter-day registration, turnout has been consistently higher. I also remember quite vividly losing my first election for the La Cañada Flintridge City Council by just two votes. Yes, every vote does count and our state should do more to ensure that eligible citizens have the ability to vote.

I am also pleased that I supported Senator Romero's effort to reform public education, resulting in California being placed in a competitive position to receive federal "race to the top" funding. California is a finalist to receive this much needed funding in the second round of grants. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we make the final cut. Without the legislation we would not have made it this far. I couldn't fathom seeing our schools continue to face budget struggles and not putting them into the best possible position to get federal funding.

In family news, it's been fun having Sofia home from UCSB. Our regular Sunday night movies together are back. Not that I don't enjoy watching the likes of *Hotel for Dogs* with The Bella, but Sofia and I have recently watched *MASH*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *SOB* and *True Believer*. As for Bella, she has learned to body surf and dive under and over waves. The couple of days I've had a chance to take her to the ocean, she has tired me out just watching her. We also managed a very quick trip to Philadelphia to visit the birthplace of American Democracy, Independence Hall. I have vivid memories of my first trip there in the 5th Grade. It was fun to ex-

perience some American history with my family, including the Liberty Bell and the location of Nick Cage's exploits in *National Treasure II*.

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia. He can be reached by Email at:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>

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**From
Congressman
Adam B. Schiff...**

***Proudly representing
California's 29th Con-
gressional District***



WASHINGTON UPDATE

● Legislation to Rein in Risky Wall Street Practices, Protect Consumers Signed Into Law

The President recently signed into law the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which I supported to hold Wall Street accountable, end taxpayer bailouts for banks, and create a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The legislation will ensure taxpayers never again pay the price for irresponsible behavior on Wall Street.

Specifically, the bill creates a process to shut down failing firms whose collapse would put the 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. The CFPB created under the bill will serve as a new consumer watchdog devoted to protecting Americans from unfair and abusive

financial practices, including predatory credit card and mortgage abuses. This independent bureau will provide clear and accurate information to families and small businesses to ensure that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards operate with sound practices. The CFPB will also set safety standards to prevent hidden credit card fees, deceptive “fine print,” and other financial abuses that have escaped oversight thus far.

● **House Passes the Most Far-Reaching Campaign Finance Reform since McCain-Feingold**

The House recently passed the DISCLOSE Act to close some of the biggest campaign finance loopholes created by the recent Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. That ruling allows all organizations, corporations, and unions to spend an unlimited amount of money on political expenditures.

The DISCLOSE Act will prevent special interests – including corporations that are controlled by foreign interests and Wall Street banks that have taken large amounts of taxpayer funds – from using an unlimited amount of money to influence our elections and drown out the voice of the American people. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I believe it will provide more information to voters so they can make informed decisions, protecting the integrity of our electoral process.

My co-sponsorship of the DISCLOSE Act is a continuation of my long support for campaign finance reform. The first bill I co-sponsored was the bipartisan McCain-Feingold legislation, which banned sham “issue ads” and other soft-money abuses of the political process. The DISCLOSE Act is the most far-reaching campaign finance reform law since McCain-Feingold, doing more to strengthen disclosure and transparency than any other measure.

● **House Passes Schiff Legislation to Protect Children from Predators**

I introduced this bill which creates a permanent system for mentoring organizations to receive the highest quality background checks on potential volunteers.

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I look forward to providing you with another Congressional update in ACT's next Phoenix Newsletter. Until then, please find more useful information on constituent services and recent news by visiting my Web site: www.schiff.house.gov. To sign up for my weekly Washington Update e-newsletter, please visit: <http://schiff.congressnewsletter.net/mail>. I would also love for you to add me as a friend on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CongressmanSchiff.

As always, please reach out to my office to tell us your thoughts or let us know if there is any way we can be helpful to you: (626) 304-2727 or (202) 225-4176.

Sincerely yours, Congressman Adam B. Schiff

Congressman Adam Schiff represents the 29th Congressional District of California, including Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City. He can be reached at (626) 304-2727 or by Email at: www.house.gov/schiff.

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Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Paul Hunt, Jr. &
Gina Frierman-Hunt, Pasadena
Susan Heck, Pasadena
Jacqueline Jacobs, Altadena
Judy Johnson, Pasadena
Joan & Jeff Palmer, Pasadena



Calendar

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Aug 20
Friday
8-9 a.m.</p> | <p>Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman for info at 626-795-2201.(FMPDG meets on 1st and 3rd Fridays.)</p> | <p>626-797-7021. We'll meet at 1291 east Howard St. in Pasa.</p> |
| <p>Aug 26
Thursday
5:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Congressman Schiff 50th Birthday Luau at Castaways Gardens, 1250 E. Harvard Rd., Burbank. Contact Patricia at pmehorton@aol.com or 626-583-8581 for info or to RSVP.</p> | <p>Sept 3 & 17
Friday</p> <p>Sept 6
Sunday
1-3 p.m.</p> <p>Sept 7
Tuesday
7 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Sept 1
Wednesday
7 p.m.</p> | <p>The Research Committee meets. Please RSVP to Committee Co-Chair Greg Harrison at gregandnikki@earthlink.net or</p> | <p>Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 8/20.)</p> <p>Labor Day United Democratic Headquarters Grand Opening, 260 S. Lake Ave., in Pasadena.</p> <p>ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at home of Bobbie & Henry Moon, 1961 Mar Vista Ave., Altadena.. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sept 9
Thursday</p> <p>Sept 19
Sunday
2 p.m.</p> |
| | | <p>25th Pasadena NAACP Ruby McKnight Williams Awards Dinner. Call 626-793-1293.</p> <p>Anthony Portantino Fundraiser at the home of John & Andrea Van deKamp, 801 S. San Rafael.</p> |



**P. O. Box 40074
Pasadena, California
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