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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT Steering Committee Supports the School District Parcel Tax Measure

The Steering Committee at the February meeting voted to support and recommend endorsement of the PUSD Parcel tax measure. An endorsement ballot is included in this *Phoenix* on page nine. The Research Committee report can be found on page six. Other Research Committee activities are outlined below.



June 2010 Statewide Ballot Measures

The next focus for the Research Committee will be the June 8th 2010 Primary Election. Secretary of State Debra Bowen has announced the ballot measures. Research Committee members interested in providing analysis and write-ups on one of these propositions are urged to contact Greg Harrison (gregandnikki@earthlink.net). Committee schedule to be announced.

Proposition 13 Property tax: new construction exclusion: seismic retrofitting.

Proposition 14 Elections: open primaries.

Proposition 15 Political Reform Act of 1974: California Fair Elections Act of 2008.

Proposition 16 New Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Proposition 17 Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's
History of Insurance Coverage. Initiative Statute.

See <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm> for details.

Research Committee members please contact Greg Harrison regarding your interest in these propositions.

Dear ACT Member: **It's Time to Renew Your Membership!**

A year ago we were basking in glory. We had elected Barack Obama and what we thought were nearly invincible Democratic majorities in Congress.

Since then we've learned our job is not done. The fight continues! We can't walk away! It's more important than ever to stay involved, to keep fighting for the reforms and the change that we sought.

That's why ACT needs you, and why you need to renew your membership in ACT!

As you know, ACT is the oldest progressive grass-roots political action group in the Foothills, and one of the most effective. We've been fighting for progressive ideals at the city, state and national levels for 37 years. Our special focus and competence is on elections and campaigning; individually and as a group, our members have helped elect numerous candidates to local and state office.

In 2008, we played critical roles in the United Democratic Headquarters. In '09, we endorsed City Council, School Board and PCC Board candidates; with our support, eight of those ten candidates were elected. Now we're looking toward a parcel tax election for the PUSD, State Legislative and Congressional races, a raft of ballot measures, and what may be tightly contested and critically important races for the Governorship and the U.S. Senate.

Joining ACT is always a great way to meet other politically engaged people – activists, officeholders, future candidates -- and to get better informed about key issues. In addition, our "sister" organization, the Arroyo Democratic Club, provides a way to get involved in the Democratic Party.

As an ACT / ADC member, you'll continue to receive our monthly newsletter, *The Phoenix*, with some of the liveliest and most fearless political commentary and analysis you'll find anywhere. At Steering Committee meetings (to which all members are invited), special programs have ranged from forums presenting local School Board and City Council candidates, to a report on the conditions women face in California prisons, to an insider's recounting of the Clinton and Obama advance teams' life on the road, to an overview of how new campaign techniques are taking advantage of the Web and other social networking tools. And, of course, you get to vote on which candidates the organization will endorse.

So please, renew your membership today. Send your check with the membership form on the back page of the Phoenix. Your continuing membership enables us to carry the flag for progressive politics in the Pasadena - Foothill area.

Emily Stork
ACT Co-Chair

Neal Wrightson
ACT Co-Chair

Wendy Gordon
ACT Co-Chair

P.S. If you can, please consider being a Sustaining Member or Patron.

Stan Taylor

We are very sorry to note that long-time ACT member Stan Taylor lost his battle with prostate cancer on January 16. Stan was a civic and social activist, a businessman, and a Rockefeller Republican. He used his time and talent on many important causes, especially including family planning and efforts to combat overpopulation. He also was a supporter of the arts and a citizen of the world.

We extend our condolences and sympathy to Stan's wife Jo Ann, sister Betsy, sons John & Nick, granddaughter Audrey, and his many friends. The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to Planned Parenthood, the Art Alliance, My Friend's Place, or a reputable provider of disaster relief for Haiti.



Welcome to Our New Co-Chairs

Our new Co-Chairs, Neal Wrightson and Wendy Gordon are both longtime Steering Committee members. Neal has been a Research Committee member for years and recently has been heading up Research with Greg Harrison. Wendy has been our able Communications person – also for many years. Their Co-Chair terms will be 2010 and 2011. Neal and Wendy join Co-Chair Emily Stork who will serve for another year. Our thanks go to outgoing Co-Chairs Adam Murray and Jackie Jones Corby for 2008 and 2009.



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members:

Bill & Claire Bogaard, Pasadena

John & Andrea Van de Kamp, Pasadena



Web Page News

Find the current issue of *the Phoenix* online at our web page, www.ACTPasadena.org. We plan to update each month so that the current *Phoenix* is available to ACT and ADC members online while earlier issues are available to everyone.



2010 ACT and ADC Membership – Time to Renew

ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership is by the calendar year – so membership dues are due now. Please use *the Phoenix* coupon on page fifteen to send in your 2010 dues or respond to the membership letter that will be in your mailbox in the next few weeks.

Also please note that we have voted to place \$10 from each membership into our Political Account so we will be better able to help fund future candidates and campaigns that ACT and ADC endorse.



And Really Special Thanks to Our Benefactors

Juan & Joanne Lara, Pasadena

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, February 7.

Is the sky really falling? Innumerable pundits are forecasting doom for the Democrats -- losing the House, perhaps even losing the Senate, the President has lost the faith of the people, his magic is gone. Are we in deep trouble, or is this closer to the typical trials any first-term President endures?

First, the electoral results. Yes, we lost Massachusetts, which is somewhat incomprehensible. However, let's go back to basics. One of the seemingly immutable laws of politics is that turnout goes down in non-Presidential years. November mid-term elections have lower turnouts than Presidential elections, which generally hurts Democrats. Special elections have even lower turnouts, which generally hurts Democrats even more.

The last three years have been a bit aberrational.

Democratic candidates beat the odds to win in five special Congressional elections, often in districts that had historically been fairly safe Republican seats. This happened despite lower turnouts, reflecting, especially in the 2007 - 2008 period, the deep discontent with the Bush Administration. Last November, again a Democrat won in the New York 23rd special Congressional election, this time due in large part to the split within the Republican party between more mainstream candidates and the far-right "Tea Party" faction. But the lower turnout typical to special elections clearly hurt the Democratic gubernatorial candidates in Virginia and New Jersey last November.

In Massachusetts, 2.2 million voters cast ballots in the special Senate race, compared to 3.1 million in the Presidential race. Had those 900,000 stay-at-home voters cast ballots, Martha Coakley would have won.

It is true, however, that Coakley still should have won, even with the 30% drop in turnout. President Obama won because he held traditional Democratic voters, picked up many independent and some Republican voters, and brought out huge numbers of new voters -- particularly younger and minority voters. Coakley failed on all three counts.

Part of the reason was clearly a relatively inept campaign and a candidate who really didn't much like campaigning or politics. That's not necessarily a bad thing for an Attorney-General; but it's lethal in a Senatorial or Gubernatorial campaign. She also happened to run against someone who was particularly good at, and apparently genuinely enjoyed, campaigning, and who had been repeatedly elected in a strongly Democratic district. Thus Scott Brown had gotten a good bit of training over the years in convincing Democrats that he was a reasonable representative.

However, another part of the reason Coakley

lost is that voters generally have become less supportive of Democrats. The President's job approval ratings are down. Voters seem to be losing confidence in Democrats generally on domestic and national security policies. State by state polling shows putative Republican candidates doing better against, or beating, Democratic opponents in upcoming Senate races.

At least in part, this is pretty normal for the course. Presidents Reagan and Clinton experienced the same sort of fall-off as their second year began. President Bush was headed in that direction until 9/11 happened, which generated an enormous unified wave of support.

Every President can, for a while, blame problems on his or her predecessor, but fairly soon the President must assume responsibility, as he or she should.

As President Obama entered office, it was clear the dire economic straits were President Bush's responsibility. Unfortunately, the straits kept getting worse. So a year later, as unemployment worsened, the deficit worsened, and the health care marathon created the impression that nothing was getting accomplished, President Obama -- and Democrats in general -- have taken a beating in public opinion.

However, it's worth remembering how volatile these opinion polls can be. The mid-term elections are ten months away. Consider how much can change over that time -- most critically, the jobs picture. In November 2008, we were just starting down the recession rollercoaster, with job losses rising to 600,000 a month. The stimulus package and deficit spending were designed to counteract those losses, and we are just now to the point where we're likely to see job growth, instead of

job losses. By July or August, we're likely to see 100,000 to 200,000 new jobs each month. With that comes less spending on unemployment insurance and extended health care benefits as well as increased payroll tax and income tax revenues, which start to trim down the deficit. We've lost an aggregate of 8 million jobs, so we've still got a huge hill climb back up. But as things start to get better, and voters' confidence in the economy returns, the opinion polls are likely to turn right around as well.

So my sense is that the gloom and doom scenarios are overstated. The real moral is that one needs good candidates who can run



good campaigns. With that, we may actually gain a few Senate seats rather than lose four to six seats as some pundits are predicting.

Here in California, we'll be facing another epic budget battle this summer. Also, in the June primary, the Republicans will be having epic battles within their own party for the Gubernatorial and Senatorial nominations. The leading contenders -- Meg Whit-

man for Governor, and Carly Fiorina for the Senate -- are not the Tea Party favorites, but they look like they'd be stronger candidates in the November general election.

Whitman, in particular, is moving aggressively with a simplistic, but rather catchy, theme -- we can fix California by focusing on creating more jobs, cutting taxes, and fixing the schools. In this very simple platform, she's identified goals that have pretty much universal appeal and appear remarkably straightforward. It's only when you get into the details that you find her plans are really pretty shallow.

The key to her financial plan is to cut the state budget by another \$15 billion, and that's from

a bare-bones budget that has already seen nearly \$20 billion in cuts. She proposes to reduce the state government workforce by 40,000, taking it back to the size it was in 2004. (I do have to admit, though, that I don't quite understand how or why the state workforce has grown that much in six years.) But even after those payroll cuts, the \$15 billion would mean dramatic reductions in the social safety net -- particularly in welfare to work programs.

The key to her educational platform is, basically, more charter schools. She would eliminate the current cap on charter schools (even though we have about 900 charter schools in the state now, with the cap set at 1250, so the cap is not restraining growth). She would automatically convert public schools that are "failing" into charter schools. It's not clear, of course, how exactly these new charter schools would magically raise the academic performance of their students.

And her jobs plank is, mostly, hand-waving. She would cut both taxes and regulations on businesses, as well as reducing the cost of energy and building a world-class infrastructure. The latter two are clearly long-term efforts, but it is taxes and regulations that appear to be her main targets.

Despite the inherent weakness of her platform, most media coverage to date has been about her length of residency in California, how often she bothered to vote, and in-fighting among Republican political consultants. The press has not addressed at all the real substance (or lack of substance) of her positions, yet her radio and TV ads are remarkably appealing (and she's got a great voice for radio). Further, her campaign has ignored the traditional social wedge issues critical to so many Republican voters; her website is entirely silent on choice, gay marriage and gun control.

Her main opponent is State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner. With endorsements from traditional party heavyweights like former Governor Deukmejian, he is the conservative's choice, and would normally be considered the likely nominee. But Whitman has been spending liberally from her personal fortune, so she's got the edge for the moment. Should she make it through the primary, she could be a formidable opponent.

-- Jon Fuhrman

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ACT Research Committee Report

2010 PUSD Parcel Tax Measure

Background

On January 26, 2010, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education adopted a resolution authorizing a school parcel tax special election via a mail-in ballot. The parcel tax measure will be the sole item on the May 4th 2010 special election.

Details of the Proposed Tax

- Amount: \$120 per parcel annually for a period of 5 years
- Projected Revenue: Approximately \$7,164,000 based on 59,700 parcels
- Includes Senior Citizen needs-based exemption
- Includes provision for "Independent Community Oversight Committee"

Election Details:

- May 4, 2010 – Vote by mail only
- Passage requires 2/3 of those who vote to support the measure.
- Ballots mailed to all registered voters in early April

Rationale for the Tax

The PUSD operating budget has absorbed

significant funding cuts, dropping from \$205 million just two and one half years ago to under \$175 million for the current school year. PUSD faces an Operating Budget shortfall of between \$20 million and \$23 million dollars starting July 1, 2010. The District plans to address this shortfall in part by the parcel tax and the rest by planned spending reductions including a furlough plan.

The parcel tax funds are specifically for academic purposes. Funds will be used to:

- Attract and retain qualified teachers
- Provide funding for advanced programs in math, science and technology
- Maintain manageable class sizes
- Keep school libraries open
- Provide funding for college prep programs
- Provide funding for art and music programs

Arguments in Favor

The PUSD faces severe cuts, which follow upon multi-year reductions that have already led to significant cuts in administration and teachers. From 2004 through 2009, the District has reduced Certificated Administration from 85 to 71 employees (16.5% reduction), Teachers 1114 to 1046 (6.1% reduction) and Classified Employees 1291 to 1128 (12.6% reduction). And the Maintenance and Operations budget has dropped 13.6%. The immediate shortfall that the district faces will require significant further cuts. This parcel tax measure, if it passes, can go far in minimizing the cuts in the classroom.

Arguments Against

During this economic downturn, many people are struggling to make ends meet. It is a difficult time to be proposing a tax increase. Also, some have raised concerns about the fairness of a flat rate per parcel tax. (Unfortunately, there is no way to structure this

measure as a progressive tax, since by law municipalities can only assess a flat dollar amount on parcel taxes. Thus no matter what the value of their property all property owners have to pay the same amount.)

There are also sentiments from the "Tea Party" movement, which seem to be against most/all tax increases. This includes real or manufactured confusion about Measure TT funds, which are only for facilities construction, renovation and repair, and cannot be used for academic purposes.

Research Committee

While we received many emails communicating interest and near-unanimous support (and regrets about not being able to attend) only the Research Committee co-chairs were present at the meeting with PUSD Board member Bob Harrison. The co-chairs agree that this is a very important community issue that ACT should support in every way possible, and so recommend endorsement. This parcel tax is critical in the face of these new State cutbacks. The measure is also important as the District continues to build on positive momentum in test scores. We must always invest in our local schools, but especially during these dire times. Good schools and strong education are essential to provide an educated workforce, support the local economy, and help young people as they become the future of our community.

Finally, the Research committee strongly encourages ACT members to participate in passing this tax. Nearly all of the committee members have expressed strong support of this measure, and so it is hopeful that we can turn support into action.

The Research Committee voted 2-0-0 to recommend endorsing the parcel tax.

The Steering Committee voted 21-0-0 to recommend endorsing the parcel tax.

ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT for the May 4th Vote-by-mail Election



Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the goodwill of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members, and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

Who can vote? Year 2009 & 2010 members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

How do I vote? Mark and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope with the label attached. Or, if you desire a secret ballot, you may enclose it in an additional unmarked envelope. Each completed ballot sent by mail shall be submitted in the ACT envelope. Each voting member must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope. If there is no enclosed envelope, please send the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address to: ACT, Attn: Endorsement Election Committee, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena CA 91114-7074.

Ballot rules No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorsement elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you voted.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received in the ACT Office by 5 p.m. Friday, February 26th. Further endorsement election information can be found in this *Phoenix*.

Why do we vote? ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

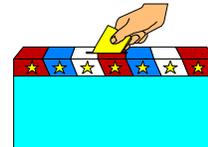
Endorsement Requirements

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate or either the "Yes" or "No" side of a proposition. Abstentions will not be counted, i.e. only ballots cast in each race will be counted as part of the percentage.

2. No quorum is required.

Example: (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Candidate X; Member #2 supports Candidate Y; Member #3 decides to vote "No endorsement":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Candidate X.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Y.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Arroyo Democratic Club ENDORSEMENT BALLOT for the May 4th Vote-by-mail Election

Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that only Democratic candidates are listed.

ACT Endorsement Ballot for the May 4th Election

Please see the Research Committee report on page six in this phoenix.

Pasadena Unified School District Parcel Tax

The Research Committee has unanimously recommended endorsement of the Yes position.

The Steering Committee voted 21-0-0 to recommend endorsing the parcel tax.

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Endorse the Parcel Tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADC Endorsement Ballot for the May 4th Election

Pasadena Unified School District Parcel Tax

ADC has recommended endorsement of the Yes position by 21-0-0.

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Endorse the Parcel Tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



End of ACT Endorsement Ballot

End of ADC Endorsement Ballot

**From
State Senator
Carol Liu...**



Sacramento Update

Parts of the 21st Senate District are again being pummeled by rain with disastrous results. In the aftermath of last year's fires, mud slides continue to threaten many communities. My heart goes out to those residents whose homes and property were damaged or destroyed by mud and debris slides the first week of February. Los Angeles County and cities will continue to work with the state and federal government to improve hillside stabilization and emergency response, but we must all plan ahead and heed the warnings

of public safety personnel who, first and foremost, are trying to save lives. You can find emergency preparedness information and links to resources on my website under District/Emergency Preparedness. Once again, I applaud our public safety and emergency workers and volunteers, government employees, and all the neighbors helping neighbors during these difficult times.

In Sacramento, work to review the Governor's budget and alternatives for meeting California's projected \$20 billion shortfall is proceeding non-stop. The Senate Budget Committee has been conducting hearings almost daily. The current focus is on what measures can be adopted to forestall the approximately \$6.9 million budget deficit in the current fiscal year, which will end in June 2010. The Senate and Assembly will be airing their own budget proposals as deliberations continue.

The deadline for introducing new legislation is February 19th. There is a 30-day wait period after a bill has been introduced before it can be heard. Watch for hearings on bills to begin in earnest toward the end of March. My own bill package includes measures to reform K-12 education governance; address the need for pre-K, early learning; stabilize public higher education tuition; and increase community college certificate and degree completion rates. I also introduced a bill (SB 907) to help California cities, counties, education institutions, and nonprofit organizations apply for and receive federal dollars.

I was pleased to recently receive a *Summa Cum Laude* rating, the highest ranking given state legislators, from The California Small Business Association (CSBA). California cannot have a strong economy without a strong and innovative small business sector. I am proud to represent the 21st District with its small business incubators and biotech, advanced engineering, and green enterprises. I will continue to promote policies to help small business grow.

One final note: The Voters First Act (Proposition 11), which passed in November 2008, made a citizens' redistricting commission responsible for drawing new state Board of Equalization, Assembly, and Senate district lines. You can find out who is appointed to the commission, follow the process, and find out how to participate at

<http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>.

Senator Carol Liu represents nearly 850,000 people of the 21st District, which includes Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.

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**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from Sacramento!

As an eternal optimist, I continue to be encouraged by California's spirit and ingenuity and am glad to be back at work in Sacramento. I remain Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education, working on my bill package and continuing my fight for greater accountability as well as a fiscally responsible and sound budget solution for the State's budget crisis. There is no question that this will be another tough year.

Warmest Regards,

● **Higher Education**

As we head back to Sacramento, I will continue to focus on Concurrent Enrollment and Higher Education Accountability. I was honored to continue the fine work of Senator Jack Scott in carrying his Higher Education Accountability Bill, AB 218. Like Jack, I think it's important to have specific goals for our higher education segments and to have strict accountability measures in place. I am also working to bring more financial aid to our most needy students.

● **Caltrans Property**

I remain committed to selling the Caltrans-owned homes throughout the 710 corridor. I was grateful to Caltrans Director Randell Iwasaki for attending a meeting with myself and representatives of the Caltrans Tenants Association which was held at my district office over the holidays. I was also pleased to

receive an opinion letter from Attorney General Jerry Brown that could help facilitate the sale of these properties. It makes no sense to many of us for Caltrans to hold on to over 300 million dollars in real estate and hundreds of thousands of dollars of liability and expense every year when the state faces such a drastic budget shortfall. I'm hopeful that we can find a sensible resolution to this issue.

● Station Fire Update

Like many residents of the foothill communities affected by the Station Fire, I applaud and congratulate the leadership of Congressman Adam Schiff who has asked for a Federal inquiry into the manner in which the Station Fire was handled. No one should or could find fault with the great work of the firefighters on the ground, but it is certainly appropriate for us to ask those in charge "what went right, what went wrong and how do we do better the next time?" I have been in personal contact with the Director of the California Emergency Management Agency who stands ready to cooperate. I've also arranged a meeting for city officials with representatives from the offices of Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Congressmembers Schiff and Dreier.

The planning and preparation for our current rain season has been impressive. I toured affected areas all last week and was amazed at the amount of mud and rain on our streets, yet was impressed by the fighting spirit of my neighbors and the work of the city, county and public safety personnel.

● Family News

The Portantino Family built a tree house over the holiday break. Never have two children gotten more covered in paint than did Sofia and Isabella.

Sofia returned to UCSB on January 3rd for her second quarter. So far, she's doing very

well. Although I told her that her first quarter GPA was not as good as mine, she didn't believe me. Smart girl. As for Bella, she attended a soccer camp over the break and spent a lot of time in the tree house. Yes, life is good and I'm a lucky man.

● Holiday Open House Book Drive

Bella I want to thank everyone who donated children's books at my Holiday Open House. We collected almost 400 books and donated them to several public school libraries throughout my district.

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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Altadenan's memoirs tell of escaping Hitler's reign

Excerpted from Sandra T. Molina, Star-News

ALTADENA - Nestled near the foothills of Altadena lives a woman who's been on the front lines of history.

Hannah Naiditch, who was born May 14, 1920, Vienna, Austria, has put her experiences as a Jewish refugee and beyond in a new book, "Memoirs of a Hitler Refugee: Activism and Issues Define My Life."



Sitting in her home, which she moved into in 1960 with her late husband, Sam Naiditch, is surrounded by photos, books, papers and paraphernalia from a long life of activism.

"My family thought it would be a good idea," she said on why she wrote the book, which is available through Amazon.com.

"It's an amazing story," said daughter-in-law Jackie Naiditch, 62, of Altadena, who edited the book.

"She's an inspiration, and her story shows the strength of the human spirit," she said.

Hannah Naiditch, 90, characterizes her first 17 years in Vienna as her "age of innocence."

"It was a tranquil and predictable life," she said. "School and girlfriends were all that mattered and all I knew."

But that tranquility was shattered by Hitler.

"It was a total shock," Naiditch said of huge Nazi flags draped on buildings, the takeover of the radio and elections canceled.

"It came from nowhere," she recalled. "I'll never forget the images of those flags."

Naiditch remembered the "brown shirts," members of an early Nazi paramilitary organization, kicking in doors.

Her family decided they needed to leave. "We heard that Hitler was making his way to Vienna, and it was obvious we couldn't stay," Naiditch said. She, her mother and brother made it out before the borders were closed.

Her mother, Regina, and her brother, Johann, went to Palestine, while Naiditch went to England.

It took 5 years for her to receive a visa to America.

"America was the dream," she said. "We heard its sidewalks were paved in gold."

Reaching Ellis Island, Naiditch thought the Statue of Liberty looked "pretty nice."

After marrying her husband, the two moved to California and had four children - 2 boys and 2 girls.

Her life in Altadena has included being a junior high school teacher in Los Angeles, being on the board of the ACLU and writing op-ed pieces for The Pasadena Star-News.

"I wrote so many letters to the editor, they finally offered me a column," she said.

Naiditch earned her master's degree in social psychology from Cal State L.A. She was in her 50s.

"It was my true calling," Naiditch said.

And writing the book, she said, is a way to share her experiences with a wider audience.

"At a minimum, readers will find a very interesting read," Naiditch said.

Roberta Martinez's Book

Roberta Martinez was our speaker at the February meeting. She writes:

I began writing the photo essay book, *Latinos in Pasadena*, two years ago. In my research for the book I found that the history of Latino community closely reflects the history of other segments of Pasadena. Housing, education, political representation, cross-cultural, and intra-cultural relations are issues still debated and discussed in every part of our greater community and in every part of the Latino community.

Research and interaction with Latino community members provided me with over 500 images; my publisher permitted a total of 180. How to edit to that number? First and foremost, share as much community history as possible. It was also important that unfamiliar stories were shared; little known or unknown experiences in Pasadena. Be they the Club Filipina of Pasadena Junior College, the schools segregated for Mexican children, or the name of the first Rose Queen of Latino heritage; each of these facts helped to present an aspect of experience that might not have been known by most folks. And it was important that the history being shared fit within the context of the history of Latinos in the regional Southwest.

Doña Eulalia Pérez de Guillen de Mariné is a great example of this little known history. When mission lands were secularized in the early 19th century she was gifted with 14,000 acres, which comprised Rancho San Pascual. Most of the city of Pasadena,



EULALIA PERZ, 100 YEARS OF AGE.

and some land of cities just beyond its boundaries were part of that gift. Although she was known by many of the most influential early Pasadenans, her story became less and less well known over time. Writing about her, and about others in the book, will, I hope allow for a fuller telling our shared history.

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Bush, Cheney & the Great Escape

Excerpted from: William Rivers Pitt. t r u t h o u t



With each passing day, it becomes more and more astonishing to encompass the fact that George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and their henchmen from the prior administration have managed thus far to escape any accounting whatsoever for the massive battery of criminal activity committed during their time in office. More than a year has passed since these men had their hands on the levers of power, and evidence of their myriad crimes and frauds is laying all over the countryside, yet nothing has come of it.

The British government has been running a wide-ranging inquiry into the manner in which the UK and United States were led to war in Iraq by then-President Bush and then-Prime Minister Tony Blair. An astonishing amount of damning evidence and information has been uncovered and publicly aired...

... A recent report from the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility slapped a big fat "Not Guilty" stamp on the jackets of John Yoo and Jay Bybee, the two central authors of the notorious "torture

memos" that argued the legal justifications for the use of torture by the Bush administration. Worse, it appears Obama's DOJ went out of the way to make sure Bybee and Yoo escaped free and clear from any censure for their despicable activities...

If any measure of justice is going to be achieved, it will fall upon Congress, President Obama and his Department of Justice to get it done. Subpoenas must be issued, evidence gathered and testimony heard for the truth to [come out] and for punishment to be meted out.

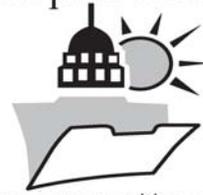
Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rove, Perle, Feith, Wolfowitz, Rice, and a dozen other members of the Bush administration, including Yoo and Bybee, are directly responsible for this carnage. They lied through their teeth and broke any number of laws to see it done. They are guilty of much more than the war crimes they committed in both Iraq and the United States. They are guilty of bankrupting this nation with two wars begun on false pretenses and perpetuated to enrich the few, while further cementing the stranglehold "defense spending" has on our growth as a civilized nation.

Thanks in no small part to the Iraq debacle, there is no political impetus to lay a finger on the wildly bloated "defense" budget, even as the fabric of our society shreds and shatters under the economic yoke placed upon our necks by the previous administration. Ours is a government staffed from stem to stern with political cowards who refuse to heal these wounds, and with those who are just as culpable as those members of the Bush administration (read: members of Congress who voted to support each and every criminal act that led us to this place).

Justice? When it comes to the Bush administration, the word has no meaning. They have escaped that justice, and we are all less free because of it.

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area presents:

Access to Impact



Using Open Government to Create Change

Our job as citizens is to be thoughtful, careful, and engaged in our communities and our nation. We do this by voting, by being well-informed, by volunteering, and by holding our politicians and ourselves accountable for our shared future.

To be an informed citizen requires access to information and open and transparent government. This community forum addresses access to information issues around local open government from the perspective of the media, libraries, city governments and civic organizations.



Emcee, Pete Peterson, Executive Director, Common Sense California
Opening speaker: Hedab Tarifi, Vice-Chair, Muslim Public Affairs Council

Open Government Panelists:

Larry Wilson, Public Editor, Pasadena Star-News

Jan Sanders, City of Pasadena Director of Libraries and Information Services

Michele Beal Bagneris, Pasadena City Attorney/City Prosecutor

Pete Peterson, Executive Director, Common Sense California



Date: **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

Time: **8:30 a.m. to Noon**

Place: **Neighborhood Church**

301 North Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena, 91103

Program

8:30 A.M.	CHECK-IN	10:15 A.M.	FACILITATED BREAKOUT SESSIONS
9:00 A.M.	WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	11:15 A.M.	REPORT BACK TO THE CITIZENS
9:15 A.M.	PANEL PRESENTATIONS	11:45 A.M.	WRAP-UP AND CALL TO ACTION
9:50 A.M.	GROUP DISCUSSION		

This forum is a free community service provided by League of Women Voters Pasadena Area and promoted by its community partners. Please RSVP by Noon on Friday, February 26 -- by phone: 626-798-0965 or by e-mail: lwvpsocialpolicy@gmail.com



2010 ACT and ADC Membership – Time to Renew

ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership is by the calendar year – so membership dues are due now. Please use *the Phoenix* coupon on this page to send in your 2010 dues or respond to the membership letter that will be in your mailbox in the next few weeks.



I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
- \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	ZIP
Email address	

Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074



Calendar

Feb 19
Friday
8-9 a.m.

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake and Walnut, Pasadena. Call Inman Moore for information at 626-795-2201. (FMPDG meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays.)

March 4
Thursday
7 p.m.

ACT & ADC General Membership meeting at The Moon's home, 1961 Mar Vista in Altadena. Program will be "Personal Perspectives on Pakistan from Visiting Students" -- several visiting university students from Pakistan will join us to discuss their personal perspectives on the current situation in Pakistan. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

March 5
Friday

Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 02/19.)

March 19
Friday

Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 02/19.)

Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the March *Phoenix* will be Sunday, March 7. Please send items to Chuck at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers can call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date & time.)



P. O. Box 40074
Pasadena, California
91114-7074

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Endorsement Ballot Included