



The Official Publication of ACT

P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Volume 39
Number 10
November, 2011

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and ACT & ADC Meeting

**Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.
at the home of Bobbie and Henry Moon
1961 Mar Vista Ave., Altadena**

Here's a chance to get together with your ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club friends for our traditional Holiday Potluck Dinner and the December meeting of ACT and ADC. The potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. The meeting follows at about 8 p.m.



Potluck assignments: **A-G** – Desserts, fruit
H-M – Main dish
N-Z – Salads, vegetables



Please bring enough for about 6 people and provide your own serving utensils. Beverages, plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils will be provided. Come and bring a friend.



Congratulations to ACT's Endorsed Candidates for PCC Board

All three of the PCC candidates that ACT members endorsed in our September balloting won handily on November 8. Congratulations to Jeanette Mann, Bill Thomson, and John Martin!

In District 2, Mann received 2,503 votes (67.9%) to Brian M. Fuller's 1,185 votes

(32.1%). In District 4, Thomson received 2,077 votes (84.7%) to 376 votes (15.3%) for Martin A. C. Enriquez-Marquez. In District 6, Martin received 1,483 votes (68.3%) to Chris Cofer's 787 votes (34.7%). (These are November 9 figures, with 100% of the precincts reporting.)

Nominating Committee Looks for Officers and Committee Chairs

The Nominating Committee includes outgoing Co-Chairs Wendy Gordon and Neal Wrightson (who have served their two-year terms) along with Fred Register, Jon Fuhrman, Ralph Hurtado, Bill Hacket and Sally Beer. They are developing a list of ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club officers and committee chairs for 2012. Their first meeting was on November 15.

ACT needs two new Co-Chairs, two new Recording Secretaries, a new Chair for the Election Procedures (endorsement ballot) Committee, and a Telephone Committee Chair (or Chairs) to mention a few. Other committees are Membership, Research, Program, Fundraising, Communications, *Phoenix*, Mailing, and Computer/Website.

While we expect that many current officers and committee chairs (and committee members) will be willing to continue, we hope to have lots of new folks as well. Please contact any Nominating Committee member if (1) you are interested in joining the ACT Steering Committee in any of the capacities mentioned or in being an ADC officer or (2) you can't continue in a current spot.

Remember that the work of most committees (and some of the offices) takes place only once or twice a year (or quarterly) so you won't be saddled with numerous meetings. Please call Jon at 626-795-5255 if you have questions about ACT committees.

The membership will vote on the nominees at a January meeting, date to be announced.

Do we have your current Email address?

Please send your new Email address to Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

Toby Osos award

Toby Osos recently received the Pasadena-Foothill Valley YWCA's 2011 Women's Racial Justice award in recognition of her contributions – over more than 60 years - to the fight for racial equality and social justice. The honor was bestowed at the Racial Justice Breakfast at the Pasadena Hilton on Oct. 17.

At the breakfast, Toby challenged attendees to “think about the organizations you belong to, think about your friends. Where is the diversity?” We congratulate Toby for her activism and for this award. She truly deserves it.

NOTE: Toby is the guest speaker at the San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting on December 9.



San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club

The San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meets on the second Friday of each month, September through June at 10 a.m., usually in the Community Room at the Altadena Library. An interesting program or speaker follows a brief business meeting.

The next meeting is on Friday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. at Sara Carnahan's home, 2525 Highland Avenue, Altadena. The guest speaker is Toby Osos who serves on the Southern California Regional Council of Organizations that support the United Nations. She will talk about the work she does with this organization.

This meeting is the Club's annual holiday potluck fundraiser. Call Sally Beer for information at 626-798-9013. Everyone (men, too) is welcome.

Update on Martin Medrano

Martin Medrano was one of the Judy Boggs' Interns in the Obama Democratic Headquarters in 2008. We have kept in close touch ever since. He has accomplished much in the last three years that should make us all proud on our influence on his young life. He graduated from the Honors Program at Mount San Antonio College in 2010. He was named to the California Community College All-State Academic Team. While in the honor society he organized research and programs related to awareness of human trafficking and organized food drives for food banks. He also interned for Assembly member Ed Hernandez and for Adam Murray's Inner City Law Center. At the Center he worked with homeless, veterans, and low-income families living in the skid row area. But best of all, as a Cal Alumni, he was accepted to UC Berkeley, he maintained a 3.85 GPA, and now has been accepted to the UC Berkeley Washington Program. This six-month internship, beginning in January, will allow him to work on a research project at a policy-making organization in DC. He wants to work on a Congressional Committee or at the Brookings Institute.

In addition to all this activity he held a job in Russ Warner's Congressional campaign as volunteer coordinator and fundraising assistant. I am sure we all wish him well in his future endeavors. Law School is one of his goals and maybe someday we can all work on one of his campaigns.

--Ralph Hurtado

Judy Boggs Internship Program Needs Your Support

When Judy Boggs, our long-time Executive Director, died in 2002, ACT established the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship fund in her honor. Judy loved Democratic politics and she loved mentoring young people in the political

process. An internship for young people to work in the United Democratic Headquarters seemed a fitting way to remember her.

The program has turned out to be one of the most successful and rewarding things ACT has ever done. Read the preceeding article about the ongoing achievements of Martin Medrano, one of our two interns in 2008. Martin isn't a isolated example. Over and over again the Boggs Interns have done just what we hoped they would do: they've gotten the "bug" for expressing their idealism through politics; and they're making tremendous contributions to society. Several have also become active members of ACT!

To help keep this remarkable program going, please consider making a contribution to the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship Fund. There's no better way to remember a great person like Judy – and no better way to encourage a new generation of talented young people to consider a life of public service. You can use the enclosed envelope to make a contribution to the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship fund.



A Dear Friend and Prominent Activist Dies

Pat Rostker died peacefully on Monday, October 31. Well known for her involvement in the desegregation court case that integrated the PUSD in the late sixties. She will be a historical figure because of her activism at that time. She came from a family of Democratic Party political leaders and activists. Her Dad had been Mayor of Little Rock and a relative had been Senator. Her Aunt Margaret, who was like a mother to her also, was a well known activist that reopened the Central High School after Gov. Faubus closed the school to prevent African Americans from

Continued on page twelve

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Thursday, November 10.

So, what was a nice Jewish boy from Pasadena doing in a mosque in Las Vegas registering voters for President Obama last Sunday?

You might have wondered, when reading of the massive fundraising by the Obama campaign (\$88 million taken in from April through September, with additional funds going to the Democratic National Committee), what the campaign was doing with those funds (some of which you yourself might have donated). Well, one example is their voter registration and organizing efforts in Nevada -- a critical swing state, which also gained one electoral vote from reapportionment, and has a hotly contested Senate seat and a new, open Congressional seat to boot.

The Obama campaign e-mailed supporters in California seeking volunteers to drive to Las

Vegas or Reno for the weekend to supplement local efforts. They're focusing on voter registration, particularly among Hispanic voters, as well as boosting interest in the caucuses scheduled for January 21 (even though the Republicans moved their caucus date to February 3, at the behest of New Hampshire, the Democrats left their caucuses on the originally scheduled date). In 2008, the Democratic caucuses attracted over 100,000 voters -- nearly 10% of the state's entire electorate. Obviously, with no primary contest this time, the number of participants will be far, far lower. But every person who attends a caucus -- and thereby registers their name, address, phone and e-mail with the party -- becomes a potential local precinct contact and organizer. In 2008, that infrastructure helped carry the state for Obama and capture a swing House district (which we subsequently lost back in 2010).

This year, the campaign is aiming to register 40,000 new Democrats. That may not seem like a lot by our standards, but remember that there are only a million voters in all of Nevada, so increasing the number of Democrats by 6 - 8% is, in fact, a huge deal and could be a critical margin for victory. The Obama campaign already has 14 paid staffers in the state, and to date they've registered close to 10,000 new voters.

So, in response to the campaign's e-mail appeal, I joined about 60 other SoCal volunteers and drove out to Vegas for the weekend. On Saturday, my team did two shifts in front of an El Super supermarket. Sunday was even more interesting. It happened to be one of the year's most important Muslim holidays -- Eid-Al-Adha, marking the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca. The President of the local mosque had contacted the Obama campaign asking that we provide voter registration services outside the mosque. There were easily 500 people attending the two services at the mosque. We

registered 25 new voters, and many others folks came up to thank us for being there or to say they too were supporting the President.

All in all, it was a fascinating experience at the mosque, and interesting to observe the organization of the campaign staff. Similar efforts are underway in other battleground states -- Ohio, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona. At El Super, most voters seemed still solidly in the President's camp, but there were a significant number of folks who had voted for the President in 2008 but were now either unsure or disillusioned. Nearly every one of them said something about jobs -- being unemployed, asking where the jobs are, or something to that effect. Without a doubt, the state of the economy will have an enormous impact on the President's fate.

Fortunately, the President may be getting some relief on that front. The weekly unemployment claims figures continue to improve; this week initial claims are down to 390,000. When that figure drops and stays below 375,000, economists generally expect robust job growth and a sharper reduction in the unemployment figures. If the trend continues, and Europe doesn't collapse and no other catastrophe appears on the horizon, the President may be looking much stronger by convention time. Already, his poll numbers are popping back up from the depths of this summer.

The President may also be helped as voters start to focus on the alternatives offered by the Republicans. Herman Cain, who had a short-lived run as the front-runner, is beset by accusations of misconduct; it's hard to imagine that he can resurrect a viable campaign. Governor Perry, who should have gained the

most advantage as Cain lost ground, continues relentlessly to shoot himself in the foot. Perhaps it's early enough that his repeated poor debate performances are not lethal; yet it must raise doubts in even the most earnest Tea Party adherent. Governor Romney continues to sail along, relatively undisturbed, yet still unloved by the vast majority of the Republican activists. They clearly don't yet have a consensus candidate, only a consensus that it ought not be Mitt Romney.

And we're only two months away from the Iowa caucuses. Interestingly, the Republican rules are rather different than ours; they don't have "threshold" limits, whereby a candidate

needs to get at least 15% of the caucus vote to be counted (which allows for some gamesmanship, as when Gov. Richardson's supporters, when they failed to hit the 15% threshold, switched en masse to Sen. Obama, pushing him ahead of Sen. Clinton and launching him on his path to the Presidency). Instead, the Republicans simply tally up the votes for every candidate, collate the votes from all the precincts, and then the winner takes all -- the

entire slate of delegates to the convention. There is no proportional representation, as on the Democratic side. This means even a small margin of victory in the caucuses has a greatly magnified effect, and raises the stakes considerably.

Most pundits assume a conservative candidate -- Cain, Perry, or someone yet to be named -- will win Iowa, with Romney winning New Hampshire a week later. South Carolina comes a week and a half thereafter; Cain still leads in the polls there, with Romney behind by a nose. For some reason, Gov. Perry has never gotten much traction in South Carolina. Florida comes next, on Jan. 28 -- it may be the



first major battleground between the Romney and anti-Romney forces.

Whatever happens in the early races, though, it looks like the Republican primary fight will resemble the Democrats in 2008 -- with candidates slogging through state after state, waiting till May or perhaps even June for a final resolution. There are disadvantages in that -- money and effort are drained, campaign staff exhausted. Yet the Obama campaign found that the primary election organizing efforts in states like North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Ohio really did lay the groundwork for their successful general election campaigns. So we shouldn't necessarily gloat as the Republicans lay waste to one another over the whole spring and into the summer.

Democrats, and particularly the President's campaign, have to buoyed, though, by last Tuesday's results. In Ohio, the classic battleground state that went heavily Republican in 2010, voters decisively repudiated the Republican's hallmark legislation to roll back public employee collective bargaining rights and, collaterally, cripple public employees' political power. The 61% - 39% defeat came from a virtually unanimous vote by Democrats and a heavy majority among independents -- precisely the recipe the President needs for a Democratic resurgence. Indeed, Republican Gov. Kasich's job approval numbers have sunk to dismal levels.

There were other promising signs. In Mississippi, the "personhood" Constitutional amendment, declaring life begins at conception, was soundly rejected -- and Mississippi has the most conservative electorate one could possibly imagine. In Maine, voters rejected Republican efforts to eliminate Election day registration.

These electoral results, particularly in a low turnout environment, match the improving polls, and likely are driven in part by the

slowly improving economy. Extrapolating the trend through the summer puts the President in a much stronger position than pundits are now talking about. Of course, it's a long nine months till the Conventions, and all sorts of unexpected things can muck up our plans. Nonetheless, I'm much more encouraged than most pundits -- looks to me like another 375 electoral vote victory for the President.

While the national economy seems to be perking up, albeit slowly, California still faces some serious budget woes. The October revenue figures were quite disappointing. Personal income tax collections were nearly half a billion under predicted levels, while they had been tracking at or above predictions for the first three months of this fiscal year. Additionally, the "extra" \$4 billion that the Governor had been counting on, based on excess revenues last May and June, has gone AWOL.

Compounding the problem, our expenses are now \$1.8 billion over budget, while up until last month they had been tracking under budget. Part of the excess expense is higher than predicted assistance to local K-12 school districts; that excess spending may, in part, just be due to timing issue. But nearly half the spending overrun reflects the absence of funds from redevelopment agencies, which the state's budget had anticipated "redirecting" (read swiping, or stealing, or unconstitutionally confiscating, depending upon your point of view). The State Supreme Court just heard oral arguments on the case; reports are that strong arguments were made both that the state, just as it had created redevelopment agencies under state statutes, can dissolve or reorganize those agencies as it deems appropriate, and conversely that the Prop. 22 Constitutional amendment was specifically intended to preclude seizing local funds through schemes like these. The Court's ruling, expected in January, could cause a \$1.7 billion swing in the state's budget.

The Dept. of Finance is due to present their new fiscal forecasts on Nov. 15th. These are critical because, if they predict revenues falling short of budgetary targets (as they have so far this year), then automatic cuts in the state budget may be triggered in January. The depth of the cuts depend upon how short the revenue is, and how over budget our expenditures are. Extrapolating from October's figures could lead to about \$4 billion in mid-year budget reductions. That would translate, for example, to \$6 million in cuts to PUSD. Further, school districts are specifically prohibited from laying off additional staff to cope with these mid-year budget cuts. This would truly be a nightmare scenario for most local districts.

The Finance folks, however, don't simply use the most recent month's cash figures for their forecast. And, in fact, many of the key economic variables they look toward are clearly improving. In his monthly reports (available on his www.sco.ca.gov website), Controller John Chiang tracks several key indicators: auto registrations are up, compared to last year (which are a major driver of sales tax revenues); home sales are up; foreclosures are down; employment is up by about 250,000 jobs within the state from this time last year; the number of newly permitted residential units is up. So the overall economic picture looks guardedly positive, which may influence their forecasting models. And the Legislature continues to have the option, by majority vote, of changing the budget deal to mitigate potential cuts.

While most attention is focused on budgets, state Republicans are still fighting the reapportionment wars. They claim to have collected around 700,000 signatures to force a referendum on the State Senate redistricting plan, hoping to stave off the Dems gaining a 2/3 majority in that house. That 2/3 majority would

eliminate the Reps ability to nix many Gubernatorial appointments, as well as shut upper house Reps out of any budget / revenue negotiations, since their votes would be unnecessary. Paid signature-gathering efforts typically have a 25 - 35% invalid signature rate. With 700,000 signatures, the Reps are right on the cusp of the 504,000 valid signatures they need. The State Secretary of State will order a random sample of signatures be checked; if the sample suggests the valid signatures are more than 110% of the required number, the referendum will be certified for the November, 2012 ballot. If they come in with less than 90% of the required signatures, the petitions will be rejected. But if the sample falls between 90% and 110%, then County Registrars will have to check every single signature, which could take months. While that process continues, the State Supreme Court would have to decide which districts to use for 2012 -- the old ones, the new ones, or a map that they draw themselves. Given their summary dismissal of legal challenges to the Redistricting Commission's maps, my guess is they would adopt the new districts for 2012, and just wait for the referendum, if validated, to hit the November ballot.

Talking about elections, ACT-endorsed candidates were re-elected in all three Community College districts with contested elections. ACT member and long-time Trustee Dr. Jeanette Mann had the most contested race, in a somewhat Republican district, yet she still won a decisive 68% of the vote. Interestingly, PUSD Board Member Ramon Miramontes reportedly approached several people seeking to find a candidate to run against Mann. After being turned down by several people, he convinced Brian Fuller, a Tea Party Republican, to run, and reportedly promised Fuller that he would raise \$5,000 toward Fuller's race. Word is that Miramontes, himself a Democrat, could deliver only \$1,000. Fuller

tried to raise voter fraud allegations in the last five days of the campaign; but his allegation that Mann's daughter Katie was voting illegally was simply out and out rubbish, as Katie has lived and voted in the district for nearly 15 years. Fuller also alleged that Mann was voting for her son, Steve, who lives in Canada, but the County Registrar confirms that Steve's ballots are sent directly to him at his Canadian address. So Fuller's last minutes smear attempts pretty much fell flat on their face.

The more interesting question is what motivated Miramontes, on the PUSD Board, to oppose Mann's PCC Board candidacy. There don't seem to be any particular philosophical, ideological or policy differences between them; both are Democrats, and Mann is totally supportive of working more closely with PUSD to increase the number of PUSD graduates who successfully attend PCC. So why spend time and effort to unseat Mann? Apparently, Miramontes is determined to create an alternative political power structure, with him at its head, to supplant what he sees as the "ACT" power structure. Would that we had such power!

On a happier note, Tuesday's election may also have signaled an increasing tolerance among local voters to support funding city and school governments. Eighteen of twenty-two city tax proposals, requiring majority votes, were approved by voters around the Southland; 11 of 14 school parcel taxes, requiring 2/3 majorities, were also approved. Overall, 40 of 53 tax proposals were approved by voters. This may provide a ray of hope to local leaders that taxpayers are a bit less spooked by the economy, and bit more willing to invest in our schools and cities.

-- Jon Fuhrman



Solar power at a crossroads

GOP attacks on solar energy are political maneuvers aimed at keeping us addicted to oil



By John Grula, reprinted with permission from the Pasadena Weekly 11/10/2011

Congressional Republicans are ramping-up their efforts to derail the further development of clean, renewable energy sources by exploiting a flap over the recent bankruptcy of Solyndra, a maker of solar electricity systems in Fremont. Republicans are seeking to discredit government subsidies to the fragile solar power industry because Solyndra was the recipient of a \$528-million federally guaranteed loan, and now it is defunct.

But closer examination of this issue reveals a more nuanced understanding of this phony "scandal." Despite the failure of Solyndra, a victim of the heavily subsidized Chinese solar panel industry, a much bigger federal bet on solar energy is quietly paying off in California. According to the Los Angeles Times, six large solar power plants are currently on track for near-term completion, and they will help the state meet its ambitious clean electricity goals. All of these plants are the beneficiaries of federal loan guarantees, which have also been important to attracting private investment.

The most advanced of these solar power plants is the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System being built by Brightsource Energy Inc. in the Mojave Desert near the California-Nevada border. This plant, which will use mirror-concentrated solar energy to generate steam for running turbines, is expected to provide 392 megawatts of electricity to 140,000 homes during hours of peak demand. The project, which received a \$1.6-billion federal loan guarantee, as well as private investment from Google Inc. and NRG Energy Inc., is expected to be online in 2013.

Two other commercial-sized solar electricity plants, Antelope near Lancaster and Desert Sunlight near Desert Center in Riverside County, also attracted private equity investments after receiving federal loans of \$646 million and \$1.5 billion, respectively. Combined, the two plants will generate 780 megawatts of clean electricity. Alan Bernheimer, a spokesman for First Solar Inc., was recently quoted in the LA Times as saying, "The Department of Energy's loan guarantee program provided an important source of liquidity to help provide debt financing during a difficult time in the financial markets."

To those who might object to government "picking and choosing winners in the energy marketplace," the fact of the matter is this has been going on for a long time. Government subsidies have played an important role in the development of the energy industry since the 19th century. Even now, according to the International Energy Agency, global fossil fuel subsidies totaled almost \$500 billion in 2010. The US nuclear power industry was essentially created by the federal government in the 1950s and to this day would not survive without taxpayer subsidies. The US coal industry was heavily subsidized during the 19th century, and the gas-and-oil industries have received tax breaks and allowances worth many billions of dollars a year for more than 50 years.

Just how bad a goof was the government's bet on Solyndra? In a recent issue of The New Yorker, Financial Page staff writer James Surowieki points out that many private venture capitalists expect that of the new companies they fund, at least one-third of them will fail. Such is the nature of capitalism, in which new businesses fail all the time. Even the savviest of venture capitalists will often back the wrong horse.

By the standards of private venture capital-

ists, Surowieki argues, the government is actually doing quite well. Under the Obama administration's stimulus program, the Department of Energy has granted almost \$20 billion in loan guarantees to new renewable energy companies, and so far only Solyndra has gone belly-up. The amount of money lost has been a small fraction of the total guaranteed.

It is also worth noting that Solyndra's product was a highly innovative successor to the standard solar panel and came in a convenient tube shape that does not require expensive silicon. New technologies are always risky business ventures. Even if the technology works well, economic factors may prevent it from becoming competitive in the marketplace. Government subsidies can make the difference between commercial success or failure for younger technologies, especially when private capital considers them too risky.

The Republican attacks on solar energy are nothing but a political maneuver designed to keep our nation addicted to dirty fossil fuels at a time when we desperately need to move toward clean energy technologies that will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Members of the GOP care more about their friends in the fossil fuel business than they do about the health of people and the planet.

John Grula, PhD, is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.



Thank You from John Martin

Dear ACT Members,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the ACT organization for both their endorsement and their generous contribution of \$250.00. I will continue to strive to do all I can to keep PCC the great place it is for our community.

Thanks again,

John Martin

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from Sacramento!

December 2nd is the court date for the transparency hearing in Sacramento Superior Court. The Los Angeles Times and the Sacramento Bee are suing the State Assembly because it refuses to release the office budgets of Assembly Members. Every time I read the arguments put forth by the Assembly Leaders I can't help but feel more motivated to bring reform to Sacramento. Although the leaders are Democrats they seem to have forgotten that accountability and transparency are basic to our values. Nixon was on the other team. We should be doing better and not be the party of secret budgets, and we certainly should not be spending our limited tax dollars on outside attorneys in an effort to fight for secrets. I intend to be in the courtroom for the proceedings and I'll keep you updated.

On November 15, the Legislative Analyst's Office comes out with budget and income projections. These projections are critical because imbedded in the June budget were automatic triggered cuts to education and other programs. These cuts will happen if the State fails to foresee certain income projections. I thought then and I continue to believe now the entire scheme was a dumb idea. How can you inflate income projections in June and build in automatic cuts to education without so much as a public vetting or discussion with those affected? One of the triggered cuts may result in shortening the school year by a week. At a time when we should be focusing on enhancing the public education for our children to meet

the needs of our ever-changing global high tech economy, our budget put a full week of school at potential risk. I hope the projections are better than anticipated and education is protected, but it was a terrible gamble to place our schools in from the beginning and I vigorously opposed it.

This past Sunday, I was able to attend the kickoff of City of Hope's "walk for hope." What an amazing morning. Over 10,000 dedicated walkers showed up in the pouring rain to raise money for City of Hope. It was a sea of pink and purple shirts, umbrellas and an amazing, positive spirit. I took Bella with me and she had a great time jumping from mud puddle to mud puddle. I had the opportunity to speak with several doctors before the walk about my fertility protection legislation. I remain committed to asking insurers to work with patients on fertility protection prior to cancer treatment. When the women's health community came to me with this important public health issue I was inspired and passionate about bringing a solution forward that will allow women to seek treatment with the confidence that their health care providers have done everything possible to protect their fertility.

As I write this I'm heading off to be principal for the day at the Pasadena Unified campus of Focus Point Academy. I hear great things about this school that does so much for children who need and deserve special care and focus. I'm really looking forward to meeting the students and seeing the campus. I recently participated in Monrovia Reads in a similar classroom and came away feeling renewed and inspired.

Bella is learning the Clarinet these days. The instrument is half her size and it's quite cute to watch her practice. Sofia will be home for Thanksgiving break. I'm looking forward to making meatballs and tomato sauce over the break. It's become a family tradition that my

daughters and I endeavor to recreate my mother's family recipe.

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
State Senator
Carol Liu...**

**End of Session Update
November 2011**



With the Legislature out of session, I have enjoyed spending more time in the District. October has been a particularly busy. I was pleased to host a networking reception with my GREEN21 Advisory Council earlier this month. This group of 60 leaders in the green movement from government, business, labor, academia, and the non-profit sectors are helping me implement a program to accelerate environmental and economic sustainability throughout our region. The possibilities are endless and it is amazing what kind of ideas and action just putting people in the same room together can generate. If you would like to know more about the GREEN21 (Greening the 21st District in the 21st Century) program, please contact Manuel Gouveia in my District

Office.

Also in October, I hosted the Pathways to Wellbeing & Economic Prosperity World Café. We had 60 representatives of government and non-profit service providers engage in a progressive discussion format to identify needs, barriers, and solutions to delivering wrap-around services for at-risk populations. These include the homeless, veterans, seniors, victims of domestic violence and low-income folks in our community. A consistent theme at the end of the day was: we need better communication, more collaboration and partnership, and a centralized source of information about resources, services, strategies, and opportunities to chart a course toward better health and economic security. We will be issuing a follow-up report and action plan in the next several weeks.

As you know, November 11th was Veterans Day and November is Military Family Month. This is a perfect time to revisit what support we are offering to our veterans, returning soldiers, and their families. According to the LA Times, "About 7,400 of the more than 48,000 people who are believed to be homeless on any given night in Los Angeles County are veterans." Even veterans with a roof over their head struggle with a variety of issues: PTSS, severe injury/disability, substance abuse, and unemployment. We can do better. Coordinating services and information are just the first step in providing our veterans with the support and appreciation they deserve. This is one group that my Pathways program is designed to serve. If you would like to know more about this program, please contact Andrea Lane in my District Office.

October through December is the time I put together my legislative agenda for the coming year. California is still facing a now projected \$8 billion budget deficit, so we must seek innovative and more efficient ways to deliver government services and programs. It is no

secret that existing law often poses a barrier to constructive change. If you have ideas for making programs more efficient and effective, streamlining processes and reporting requirements, and breaking down the silos of government bureaucracy, please share them with me or my staff in the District Office.

NOTES: You may have noticed some new faces around town. Joyce Roys-Aguilera, Adam Carter, and Nareene Karakashian look forward to serving you. SAVE THE DATE: Holiday Open House at my home on Sunday, December 18th, 2-4 p.m. Invitation to follow!

Best wishes to all and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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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Pat Rostker, *continued from page three*

going to the high school. In Pasadena she was also known for her involvement in the early days of creating senior programs. She headed the RSVP program and was instrumental in the creation of the Commission on Aging.

I met her my first day in town. I worked for a United Way agency in town and she was on the Board. After I was with her a short time a conservative decided I was a communist because of my graduating from Cal and my involvement in the founding of the Foothill Free Clinic. She helped me socialize with many Board members of the agency and that saved my job.

To really enjoy Pat you had to visit her at her family place at Bear Skin Lake outside of Little Rock. It is a large country place that is

practically falling down. It was the recreation place for her Dad's employees at their Bank. The house is filled with old lady antiques and southern charm. The house is surrounded by a sleeping porch where I loved to stay. I stayed in the bed where Shelley Winters was raped in some gangster movie. We always laughed about that. One of my most memorable and fun times with Pat was when we developed the Clinton Trail of Tears. It started at the Convention Center where he met Paula Jones, next the hotel where he had her over, followed by the Rose Law Firm, on to the Capital and Governor's Mansion. We ended the drive at the apartment building where all the politicians kept their mistresses when the legislature was in session. A possible meeting place for Clinton and Jennifer Flowers.

Pat also prided herself on being a lousy cook. Mama Rostker was probably the first to buy the "I Hate To Cook Book". She served me the only stew I have ever had that had rare stew meat. I had Thanksgiving with their family several times in the late sixties with my parents. The turkey was cooked by an old guy down the block that had a cook. Pat said it is safer that way. Pat was married to Skipper Rostker for 67 years. They met at Northwestern University. Skipper had a memorial water fountain built on the exact spot where they met. She will be greatly missed by those who loved her.

--Ralph Hurtado

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



WASHINGTON UPDATE

● **Constituents Find Jobs at Fair**

My office has already heard from a number of employers, including some of the movie studios, that they were able to successfully fill positions with individuals who attended the Small Business Assistance and Career Opportunity Fair that I hosted on Thursday, Oct. 20. I want to thank the many employers and vendors who participated, and offer congratulations to those who were able to find employment as a result of the career fair. I also hope that the small business owners in attendance found the information, networking and workshops useful, and that they will let my office know if we can assist in their work with the Small Business Administration or in any other way. If you attended the jobs and career fair, please share your feedback with us by calling 626-304-2727.

● **Occupy Wall Street**

Occupy Wall Street, which began with a small number of people at a park in New York City, has quickly spread across the nation. The ideas puts a human face on the shared frustration Americans across the nation have over these persistently challenging economic times, marked by a struggling middle class, increased poverty, rampant home foreclosures, rising student loan debt, and big banks that have become outsized and out of touch.

In order for us to continue to grow economical-

ly, we have to have a strong, effective and efficiently regulated financial sector that works for both Wall Street and Main Street. The people raise legitimate concerns, and policymakers need to respond by continuing to focus on ways to foster an economy that offers stability and economic security for the middle class, and the opportunity for all to succeed ... I will continue to fight for meaningful reforms that bring manufacturing back to America, invest in the vital infrastructure of America's future, and bring good paying jobs to our people.

● **Death of Anwar al-Awlaki**

I congratulate President Obama, his national security team, and the CIA and the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command that executed the operation to kill Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born leader of al Qaeda's branch in Yemen and the mastermind behind several attacks against the United States, including the so-called "underwear bomber," who tried to blow up a Northwest Airlines jetliner over Detroit on Christmas Day, 2009. As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have the privilege to work with the men and women of our Intelligence Community. Their dedication and professionalism are extraordinary, and, as today's mission demonstrates, they work to protect all of us – everyday and everywhere. This is certainly not the end of al Qaeda, and we must remain vigilant, but the death of al-Awlaki marks an important milestone in the struggle against al Qaeda and its affiliates.

● **Economic Study on the Contribution of the U.S. Copyright Industries**

On Nov. 2, I joined Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus Co-Chairs, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Congressmen Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) in hosting a press conference on the release of the Copyright Industries in the U.S.

Economy: The 2011 Report. The report, prepared by Economists Incorporated for the International Intellectual Property Alliance, demonstrates the continuing positive impact these industries have on the U.S. economy in terms of contribution to GDP, high-paying jobs and international trade.

As this study demonstrates yet again, America's competitive advantage lies in our endlessly creative people. The jobs and economic activity generated by copyright-dependent industries are threatened by the rampant piracy of intellectual property, and I hope this report spurs Congress to take additional action against those who profit from the theft of ideas.

● Pressing the FAA to Regulate Helicopter Traffic over Residential Neighborhoods

On Thursday, Oct. 27, I urged the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to set reasonable limits on helicopter flyovers of residential Los Angeles neighborhoods at a roundtable hosted by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee.

Los Angeles area residents living in Pasadena, the Hollywood Hills, West Hollywood and other areas are especially affected by intrusive, disruptive and often non-emergency related helicopter traffic above their neighborhoods. The terrain of canyons around the Rose Bowl concentrates low-flying helicopter noise to high levels, and Hollywood Hills and West Hollywood residents frequently suffer from noise generated by celebrity news media that follow stars like Lindsey Lohan any time she leaves for a court appearance, which is frequently.

I strongly support the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act and urge swift action by the FAA to set minimum altitude regulation through FAA rule so that Los Angeles area residents can finally enjoy peace and quiet in our communities. Under the legisla-

tion, which I have co-sponsored, the FAA would be required to exercise its legal authority to set guidelines on flight paths and minimum altitudes for helicopter operators in residential areas in Los Angeles County within 12 months of being signed into law. Exemptions would be provided for law enforcement, emergency responders and the U.S. military.

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Staying in close communication with my constituents is one of my primary goals as your Member of Congress. Connect with me on at <http://www.facebook.com/CongressmanSchiff>. "Like" the page to follow updates on what's happening in Washington, D.C. and across the 29th District of California. You can also follow me on twitter at <http://Twitter.com/RepAdamSchiff> and subscribe to my YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/AdamSchiff>.

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.



The Phoenix Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the Phoenix represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.

Thank You, from Jeanette Mann

Dear Fellow ACT Members,

Thank you for your overwhelming endorsement in my race for re-election to the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees and for the generous donation the Steering Committee made to my campaign on your behalf. I want to thank each of you for your personal contributions and for the innumerable hours you volunteered sending invitations to my fundraiser, getting out mailings, walking precincts, calling voters, and writing letters to and calling the editor of the *Star News* on my behalf. Most of all, thank you for voting for me. Without your support, I could not have won this election—let alone received 67% of the vote.

I hope that the size of the majority I received will send a very clear message that the kind of aggressive, negative campaign ran against me

by my tea party opponent has no place in local elections. All of our GOTV calling and canvassing confirmed that the malicious, false and scurrilous allegations made against me during public comment at a PCC Board meeting and the false and totally baseless charges filed against me and my family with the District Attorney turned the voters off.

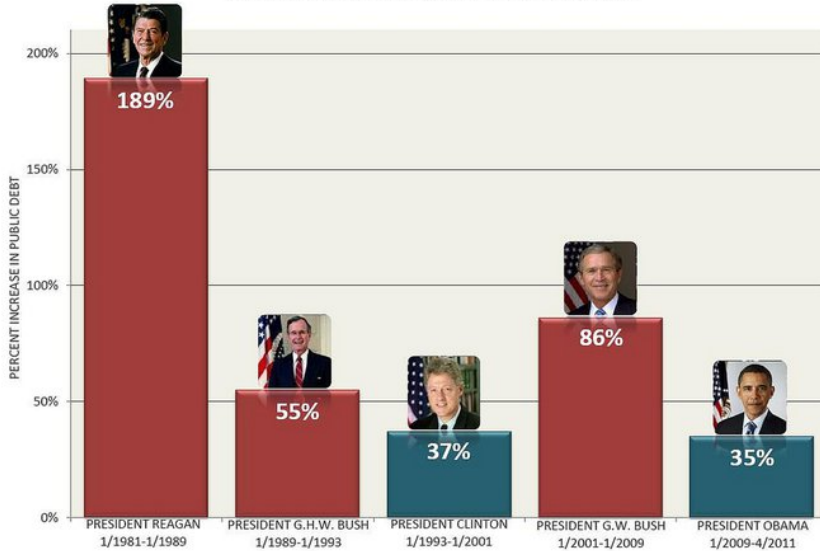
When I first ran for the PCC Board in 1983, ACT was one of the first organizations to endorse me and to give me financial and technical assistance. With your support, I received 67% of the vote and became the first woman elected to the Board. I truly appreciate the opportunity you gave me to serve our community and our young people and look forward to continuing to do so.

Thank you, again,

Cordially yours,

-- Jeanette Mann

WHO INCREASED THE DEBT?



Nov Dec

Calendar

- Nov 18
Friday
8-9 a.m. Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.
- Dec 2
Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 11/18.)
- Dec 6
Tuesday
6:30 p.m. ACT and ADC Holiday Potluck and meeting at the home of Bobbie and Henry Moon, 1961 Mar Vista Ave., Altadena. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at about 8 p.m. See front

page for potluck assignments. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

- Dec 9
Friday
10 a.m. San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club Holiday Potluck Fundraiser at Sara Carnahan's, 2525 Highland Ave., Altadena. Toby Osos to speak.
- Dec 16
Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 11/18.)

Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the December *Phoenix* will be Sunday, December 11. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana Dr., Altadena, and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date & time.)



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