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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

A Long-Awaited(!) Inauguration

Normally, presidential inaugurations are huge events that include many smaller, but still crowded, sub-events – like the various celebratory balls. This year, even before the violence at the Capitol, it was clear that “normal” would not work during a pandemic.

Good luck getting a ticket to the main event. There are only about one thousand of them, with each member of Congress getting one for themselves and one for a guest. People are not being encouraged to gather on the Mall, and to social distance if they do. However, there will be a memorial lighting ceremony around the reflecting pool the night before to honor the dead from Covid-19. Other events, like balls, have been converted to invitation-only zoom gatherings. Hard to imagine a zoom ball; maybe dancing in your living room?

For full details, go to:

<https://bideninaugural.org/>

For those who will not be heading to Washington, President-elect Biden has asked that people consider taking part in the MLK National Day of Service on Sunday, January 18 (Martin Luther King’s Birthday). If you would like to do so, here are some links:

The local United Democratic Headquarters is organizing an event. See details at:

www.pasadenademocrats.com, or at
www.mobilize.us/teamudh/event/369172/.

The Mobilize site also has a listing of other local events (sorted by zip code):

<https://www.mobilize.us>



LACDP.org/inaugural

Go to www.lacdp.org/inaugural to see what the L A County Democratic Party has planned to celebrate the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris:

**L A County Democratic Party
Virtual Inaugural Ball
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, 7 p.m.
Featuring Performances, Special
Guests, an Auction and more!**

Check the website in advance for more information and to sign up. It sounds like fun!



Poll: 57% of Americans want Trump to be immediately removed from office after he encouraged his supporters to riot inside the Capitol.

2021 ACT and ADC Officers Elected

As is our tradition, we elected ACT and ADC officers at our January General Membership meeting. We especially want to note the election of Marilee Marshall as a new Co-Chair. We are grateful to her for stepping up as she is both a working attorney and will continue as Co-Chair of the Research Committee. (Marilee replaces Barbara Paul who has just finished her two-year term. Thanks, Barbara.)

ACT always has three Co-Chairs. Teresa Lamb Simpson and Denise Robb are starting their second Co-Chair year and we are grateful to them too. They have braved the unique experience of conducting meetings via Zoom; something none of us had ever expected happening!

Of course, all our officers are unpaid volunteers who give of their time and bring impressive ability and dedication to their jobs. Many have agreed to continue in jobs they have been doing: Ed Washatka, Treasurer; Mona Field, Recording Secretary; backups Joanne Wendler and Barbara Paul; Beth Gertmenian, Corresponding Secretary; and backup Monica Hubbard. And for the Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC): Tim Wendler, President; and Bruce Wright, Vice President. Thanks all!



2021 ACT Steering Committee

Co-Chairs: Denise Robb, Teresa Lamb Simpson, Marilee Marshall

Recording Secretaries: Mona Field,
Barbara Paul & Joanne Wendler (backups)

Corresponding Secretaries: Beth Gertmenian,
Monica Hubbard (backup)

Treasurer: Ed Washatka

Committees:

Computer/Webpage – Bruce Wright,

Marcus Green, Jon Fuhrman, Fred Register,
Elliot Cuite

Fundraising – Fred Register, Bill Hacket, Anne Wolf, Felicia Rusnak, Teresa Lamb Simpson, Anthony Portantino, Barbara Paul, Veronica Raymond, Jeanne Register

Membership – Barbara Paul, Linda Centell,
Sally Beer, Karen Breau, Lynne Appel

Mailing – Sally Beer, Jon Fuhrman,
Barbara Paul, Jim Heringer, Tom Hubbard,
Monica Hubbard, Inman Moore,
Marguerite Cooper, Ray Fisher,
Ron Garber, Karen Breau, Ann Hunnewell,
Kris Ockershauser, Chuck Hains

The Phoenix – Chuck Hains, Sally Beer

Program – Ann Marie Hickambottom (Chair),
Linda Centell, Susan Kane, John Buchanan,
Dolores Hickambottom, Kris Ockershauser

Research – Marilee Marshall & Tim Wendler
(Co-Chairs), Susan Kane, George VanAlstine, Bruce Wright, Jeanette Mann, Jon Fuhrman, Dolores Hickambottom, Joanne Wendler, Monica Hubbard, Vickere Murphy, Beth Gertmenian, Ed Washatka, Felicia Williams, Marguerite Cooper, Betty Krachman, Barbara Paul, Karen Breau, Denise Robb

Note: All former ACT Co-Chairs are Steering Committee members. Some of them are not listed here.

2021 Arroyo Democratic Club Officers

President: Tim Wendler

Vice-President: Bruce Wright

Secretaries and Treasurer: Same as ACT

Please help by telling us about any mistakes you see in the above lists. Also please let us know if you would like to serve on an ACT committee (and thus become a Steering Committee member.) Contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

Wendy Gordon

We are saddened that our dear friend Wendy Gordon died on December 22 after a long illness. She and her husband, Dr. Michael Gottlieb have been ACT members for decades and Wendy has served as ACT's Publicity Chairman and as an ACT Co-Chair. She and Michael often hosted ACT meetings as well.



Wendy, originally from San Marino, graduated from UCLA with degrees in Film and Television. Her television career began in Peoria, IL. Later, in Portland, OR she was the first female anchor for KOIN TV where she also hosted a talk show. In 1980 she joined KHJ in Los Angeles (now KCAL Channel 9) as evening news anchor. There she won two Los Angeles Area Emmy awards for Information Services. After retiring from television in 1990, she went on to manage press relations for state Senators Jack Scott and Anthony Portantino and Assemblyman Chris Holden – and we got to know her. On Monday, January 11 at 1 p.m., the State Assembly adjourned in honor and memory of Wendy at the request of Assemblymember Chris Holden.

We remember her as a generous hostess, a super gardener (those orchids!) and a dynamic woman always engaged in local and Democratic causes. She was a person who made a difference in her world!

Our deepest sympathy goes to Michael, daughter Jillian, and to Wendy's twin brother, John and her sister, Susan.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members

Anthony Manousos & Jill Shook, Pasadena

Patricia Aloe Haight

In the early 90's, I was a paralegal at Thrifty Drugs, where I met Jim Haight, VP in charge of Worker's Comp Dept. Jim would often mention his admiration for ACT and the Phoenix!!! Years later, our paths crossed again. I met his wife Pat and subsequently learned of the passion they both shared: creating a smoke-free environment in Pasadena.



Pat was involved in several community projects, but chose the Health Department's Pasa. Tobacco Prevention Coalition to invest her energy in. For 25 years, she fought tirelessly from its inception assuring Pasadena residents that their air is now cleaner both inside buildings and outdoors.

They became a team, often appearing before City Council Meetings and privately with members to promote and plead for a smoke free environment in Pasadena. Pat was a force to be reckoned with, always acting as a staunch member of the coalition. Pat did what she loved, petitioning every entity in Pasadena. In 2021, we reap those benefits, forgetting the struggles endured to implement laws in an environment where everyone just smoked everywhere. They saw this before it became a nationwide issue. They traveled extensively, always bringing back information as to how others were accommodating or not regarding this issue.

They met in 1951 on the gangplank of Queen Mary II. Pat, Jim and their five daughters moved to Pasadena in 1966. An avid sports enthusiast, she enjoyed playing golf and supporting our local teams. They were world travelers -- visiting 68 countries.

Today we can remember Pat, who died on October 29, for her vigilance in working to make Pasadena smoke-free.

~ Barbara Paul

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, January 12.

It's hard to know what to write. We ought to be wildly, exuberantly celebrating – President Biden, Vice-President Harris, a Democratic Senate and House! The trifecta! Our dreams come true!

But instead, we obsess about our worst nightmares – the closest thing to an actual coup attempt in the United States since Shay's Rebellion 234 years ago. Ironically, it was marked by the same odd mixture of hubris, incompetence and fantastical and utterly fallacious beliefs that has characterized the entire Trump Presidency. With barely an ounce more of planning and equipment, the rioters might well have succeeded in taking full control of the Capitol, "arresting" Members of Congress, permanently damaging the building (or worse), preventing the counting of the

Electoral Votes, destabilizing the Legislative Branch of our government and handing the President the excuse he was looking for to hang on to the Office of President.

Perhaps some higher power really is looking out for our country. Whatever the reason, we managed to avoid the worst potential outcomes. Congress reconvened that very day, the Electoral Votes were counted, challenged and sustained, and the Inauguration is on track, with even the President grudgingly acceding to the obvious and inevitable. Now, a second Impeachment Resolution is front and center, with the only question whether a trial will commence before or after President-elect Biden takes office.

After the last few months, the Biden Presidency is going to seem ineffably boring. No backbiting; no coups; no incendiary tweets; no revolving doors in the Cabinet; no outrageous personal enrichment or family nepotism. And that's exactly what the President is, I think, looking for – a break from the chaos and fevered excesses during which we can sit back, breathe, and perhaps start a long process of reunifying the country.

Some question if we even want to be reunified. Fair question. Who were those 74 million people who voted for the Donald? Do we really want, and are we really willing, to forgive and forget outright rebellion, rank prejudice of all sorts, crass disregard for civil liberties and civil rights and simple human compassion, intentional vote suppression and general, all-around yuckiness? It's asking a lot from us. But the alternative is sinking into two societies, two warring cults, and surely that is not what we want for our future. Clearly, President-elect Biden is betting his Presidency that he can, somehow, at least start to bridge those gaps – first with Congressional Republicans, and then in the country at large. That doesn't mean abandoning our principles or our goals, but it might mean going slower than some would like, and taking repeated nibbles at the loaf

instead of trying to grab the whole loaf all at once. Will that be enough to satisfy our more impatient supporters? It will be a tough tightrope to walk, but who said following Donald Trump as President would be easy (or even enjoyable).

Talking about satisfying impatient supporters, the results from Georgia starkly highlight the extent to which the President-elect is indebted to the African-American community. Black voters in South Carolina salvaged his primary campaign and essentially gave him the nomination. African-American voters in the big cities of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin turned out enough to resurrect the Blue Wall, and African-American voters in Georgia had a spectacular turnout in November to help Biden ice the cake with an extra 16 electoral votes. And then, to top it off, came the Georgia Senate elections.

Georgia doesn't track voter registration by party, but one can draw some clear inferences from precinct level data. First off, the turnout in the run-off was record shattering, nearly 90% of that for the November general election –

levels entirely unprecedented in Georgia or, for that matter, in any other state. And that was obviously true for both Dems and Reps. But there were subtle, modest differences in turnout in different precincts, enough to provide the 1% margin by which both Democrats won election.

Among those precincts where President Biden had a margin in November of 80% or more – which were overwhelmingly African-American – the average turnout in the run-off was 92% of the November turn-out, a little bit higher than the statewide average. By contrast, in precincts where President Trump had an 80% margin in November, the turnout in January averaged only 88% of November's turnout, certainly robust, but

just a little less than the statewide average.

Among precincts that were over 80% African-American, the average turnout was 93% of the November numbers. Among precincts where 80% or more of the voters were white without college degrees, the average turnout was only 87% of their November turnout.

Now, it's not like a turnout near 90% of the general election numbers is bad; quite the contrary, it really is quite strong. But it does appear that the African-American community outperformed their GOP rivals by 2-4%, more than enough to give both Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff



the margin needed to send them to Washington and to give President Biden a Democratic Senate. The standard expectation, particularly so in special or run-off elections, is that the African-American community underperforms statewide averages for turnout. To have them consistently outperform statewide averages is extraordinary, a remarkable achievement by the community, and a testament to the strong grass-roots campaigning by the candidates, by Democratic Party

operatives, and by independent expenditure groups (like Stacey Abrams' Fair Fight and the New Georgia Project) who raised and spent additional millions to support absentee ballot operations, early voting turnout operations, and election day ground efforts.

Have no doubt that the President-elect is acutely aware of his debt to the African-American community, and we should expect to see significant efforts by the incoming Administration to address the concerns and desires of that community. That may range from small gestures – having Stacey Abrams and Congressional Black leadership into the White House with some frequency – to larger efforts to tackle criminal justice reform, police

reform, cash bail reform. Without a doubt, voting rights reforms, from the administrative side of the Justice Department to the legislative side of expending significant political capital for statutory reforms, will also be high on the agenda for the new Administration. That's not to say such legislation is likely to pass. But it may be one of the areas where the Administration is willing to go down fighting rather than finesse the issue and postpone any real attempts at change. There are only so many issues on which one wants to lose gloriously; generally speaking, that's not a strategy for long-term success. But voting rights may be one area where the Administration will want to be seen as holding firm even if everyone knows there is no way they can win.

This Phoenix should arrive just in time for the (virtual) Inauguration, so get ready to raise a glass and toast the new Biden-Harris Administration, a new chapter of calm rationality, of patience, of seriously addressing the national pandemic and, hopefully, of strong economic recovery by next fall, which in itself may help address the toxicity flowing beneath the surface of our body politic.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Now is ADEM Election Time

In January of odd years, the Democratic party elects approximately 1/3rd of its Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) / state convention delegates (the other 2/3rds are through elected official appointments and elections by County Parties). An Executive Board member is also elected. (The Eboard acts as the State Party's governing body when the state convention is not in session.)

In past years, this was done at a caucus in each Assembly District. Any registered Democrat could attend and vote for up to 14 candidates. This time, with the need for social distancing

during the COVID-19 pandemic, voting is being done by mail. If you have already secured your ballot (January 11 was the deadline), **remember that these ballots must be returned and received by the CDP by January 27.**

At our Steering Committee meeting, ADC endorsed Tina Fredericks, Robert Nelson, Marguerite Renner, Char Bland, Tim Wendler, and Jacques Robinson, for the ADEM Election.

I am happy to answer your questions at tim-wendler89@gmail.com. I have joined a group of Democrats running together to be delegates, Democrats for Justice (<https://www.facebook.com/DemocratsForJustice>), and would be happy to share more information about that if you are interested.

~ Tim Wendler, ADC President



Online or Paper Phoenix?

That's the question we will soon be putting to ACT and ADC members. Do you want to receive your monthly *Phoenix* online or would you like to continue receiving the mailed paper version?

If you have never looked at the online version, you should. Go to our website www.ACTpasadena.org. The online *Phoenix* is in color, so it has a livelier look, and it often contains items we couldn't fit in the paper version.

Both versions have their good points. Paper is handy and what we are used to, but it does take time to prep for mailing and at least two days in the mail.

The online version looks better and will be there for you to reference whenever you wish. (For the curious, an archive of previous *Phoenixes* is available on the website too.)

Please think about this question and please check out the website. While you are there, you can see what else it has to offer.

Membership Renewal Letter

January, 2021

Dear ACT/ADC Member:

President Joseph Biden. Vice-President Kamala Harris. A Democratic Senate, and a Democratic House! A year ago, it seemed improbable, even impossible.

But as we celebrate, we must not get complacent. Remember how President Obama was hamstrung as we lost the House, and then the Senate. We cannot let that happen again. Stay informed, stay active, stay committed. And the best way to do that is by **renewing your membership in ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club today.**

As an ACT/ADC member, you are in the thick of every development. We were key partners in our United Democratic Headquarters, working not just locally, but nationally as well, leading phone banks and training sessions for the Biden national campaign and then for both Georgia Senate campaigns. Our research and endorsement process helps members understand the issues, know the players, meet and question state and local candidates (particularly important for city and school elections), and take part in their campaigns. We've sponsored forums for local candidates, panels on low income housing, discussions on Pasadena's new electoral procedures, and updates on ballot measures.

Monthly meetings (by Zoom), open to all members, feature speakers and forums on a variety of issues -- as well as election analysis, Q&A with key local decision-makers, and more. Our "sister" organization, the Arroyo Democratic Club, offers a pathway into the Democratic Party -- from running the local headquarters to serving as a delegate to the state Democratic Convention. Plus, you'll continue to receive our monthly newsletter, *The Phoenix*, with some of the liveliest political commentary and analysis you'll find anywhere.

Our goal is to be the most effective voice for advancing a progressive agenda today, when the stakes have never been higher. **ACT** wants to be your political base, your safe haven, the place where you connect with like-minded activists who will support President Biden and the basic principles of fairness and equality and tolerance which make our nation great.

The key to reaching that goal is you: Your membership, your participation, your support.

So please, send a check in the enclosed envelope, or use www.actpasadena.org to renew the Pasadena-Foothill area.

P.S. If you can, please consider being a Sustaining Member or Patron; your special generosity is critical to our ability to be an effective voice in the political arena.

Judy Chu
Congressmember*

Teresa Lamb Simpson
ACT Co-Chair

Anthony Portantino
State Senator*

Chris Holden
Assemblymember*

Adam Schiff
Congressmember*

Denise Robb
ACT Co-Chair

Marilee Marshall
ACT Co-Chair

Tim Wendler, President
Arroyo Democratic Club

* Titles for identification purposes only

From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden



Dear ACT Friends,

It is with heavy heart that I write to you today with the loss of Wendy Gordon. Wendy was part of my staff from my first days as an Assemblymember and will be greatly missed. She was a talented journalist and press secretary. She was also a beloved wife, mother and member of the community including ACT.

I had the opportunity to honor her on the Assembly Floor with an Adjournment in Memory to celebrate the many aspects of her life. As many of you know, she was a well-respected journalist at a time when there were few female news anchors. Her professionalism, intelligence and dynamic personality made her stand out and led to various awards including two Emmys. Outside of work, she was an avid gardener, horseback rider and birder. The city of Pasadena, her friends, and family will miss her dearly.

I believe most of us were hoping 2021 would come off to a great start after everything we experienced in 2020, but once again we saw how an unhinged and unfit President Trump could bring out the worst aspects of our country, this time, inciting a violent mob at our country's Capitol. At the same time, I couldn't be more thrilled for the historic victory of Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff for the Senate seats in Georgia, not only because it hands Democrats control of the Senate, but also that Georgia is sending its first Black Senator and the first Millennial elected to the Senate.

In Sacramento, Governor Newsom announced his 2021-2022 budget. I am encouraged to see the Governor has taken my request to ensure the

supplemental wage increase for developmental services are not suspended at the end of the year. We sent a letter to the Governor highlighting the Rate Study that shows the Intellectual and Developmental Disability community was underfunded by \$1.4 billion, and stressed the need to extend the supplemental wage increase until the rate methodology can be permanently fixed. The budget now reflects an extension of the sunset date to the end of 2022. Without this extension, thousands of service providers would be at risk shutting their doors. Families losing care for their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities community, especially during a pandemic, would be catastrophic.

I also introduced the Upward Mobility Act of 2021, Assembly Bill 105 that addresses barriers to upward mobility and inclusion for people of color working in California's civil services system. Upward mobility is integral to achieving racial justice, and we should be setting the example. Existing systems in place at our own state agencies fail to create inclusive workplace environments, and hinder qualified individuals to move on up within their department simply based on the color of their skin. AB 105 would reform processes that hinder upward mobility for people of color in the civil service system, giving attention to compliance, the appeals process, and annual parity goals for upward mobility.

Thank you, and I look forward to keeping you up to date in the next Phoenix.

Sincerely, ~ Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT,

Like you, I was saddened and angered by the madness of the attack on the Capitol last week. I completely support the actions of Speaker Pelosi to hold Trump accountable for his actions and the prosecution of everyone responsible. There needs to be a robust investigation into the organizers, enablers and law enforcement's failings.

Although the attack took place 3000 miles away, I've encountered many locals who were deeply and emotionally rocked by the action. Frankly, I've been struggling with what to say to comfort them other than to highlight that America will be making a dramatic turn on January 20th when President Elect Biden and Vice President Elect Harris are sworn in. If you have some suggestions on how to comfort folks during these dark last two weeks, please send them to me through Facebook messenger.

Due to the COVID-19 spike the legislature delayed reconvening for a week. Today, I drove up to Sacramento for our delayed session which begins tomorrow. I don't know how truncated our session will be this year as we conduct the people's business during the pandemic. There are several very urgent matters that we need to address, and the Governor wants the legislature to wade in on many of them. In particular, we need to stabilize rents, deal with evictions and housing while we help schools reopen safely.

The Governor's budget reflects larger than anticipated revenue which will be helpful as we address the continued impact of the pandemic. The

Governor proposed \$90 billion in funding for schools, the highest investment ever. Included, is a necessary K-14 investment of \$4.6 billion in extending learning times through summer and after school programs, a 3.8% COLA, \$250 million in teacher training and recruitment, \$2 billion directed to safely and responsibly open schools, and \$250 million in incentives for districts to expand early education and childcare programs.

The pandemic has created a mental health crisis for our students, who are cut off from their friends and family. To address this, the Governor proposed \$400 million for school-based mental health.

For higher education, the governor proposed a \$786 million increase in funding for the University of California and the California State University.

I am also encouraged by the governor's proposals to provide Covid-19 care and economic relief. The Governor's initial budget included \$4.4 billion dollars in emergency relief, \$2 billion in testing, \$473 million for contact tracing, and \$372 million to get needed vaccines. There is \$1.1 billion in immediate relief for small businesses. The 25th Senate District is home to a wonderful array of diverse and vibrant small businesses, and I am hopeful that this support will help them survive the pandemic. Last week we held two town hall workshops for small businesses to apply for grants up to \$25,000. They were successful as we partnered with 17 chambers of commerce in my district including Pasadena. I hope the businesses and non-profits in my district followed up their interest with applying for the grants.

Additionally, the Governor proposed a \$600 stimulus check for struggling low-income Californians. As so often happens, low-income folks have borne the brunt of the impact from the pandemic and hopefully these checks along with

federal efforts will help them make ends meet. As mentioned above, the Governor wants to extend the eviction moratorium so that Californians impacted by the pandemic will not lose their homes to being unable to work. This is a necessary step that I hope the legislature will be able to enact swiftly upon our return from recess.

The governor has also proposed a variety of housing goals to build the housing that California needs. Housing has become unaffordable for too many people in this state, so it is encouraging that the Governor is allocating \$500 million dollars in low-income housing tax credits. One of my primary concerns over the years when it comes to housing policy in California is that we are building mostly luxury units that don't help those in the most need of affordable housing. Building more and more unaffordable condos is not the solution. This investment into building the affordable housing that Californians need makes me more confident that our state has a real plan to tackle our housing crisis. Additionally, the governor is proposing increasing funding for construction apprenticeships. Construction jobs are great careers that elevate people out of poverty. Construction businesses have had a hard time finding qualified employees.

Although there is significant work ahead, I am encouraged by the Governor's 2021-2022 budget and am looking forward to continued collaboration between the Legislature and Governor Newsom in creating the best budget that we can make. Having served in the Assembly during the Great Recession, I know that California cannot afford another elongated recession.

And, yes, Happy New Year everyone!

~ Anthony

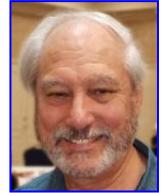


Special Thanks to Sustaining Member

Rick McKnight

My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



The gratifying victories of Joe Biden, and Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in Georgia bring to mind some recent history. In 2013 the two *Republican* senators from Arizona, reading the writing on the wall, helped form the bi-partisan 'immigration' 'Gang of 8' to craft legislation that among other things would grant residency and eventually a path to citizenship for immigrants who were here for a very long period of time without authorization and had not committed any serious crimes not immigration law related. John McCain realized that the demographics of this country are changing and a party that only represents white non-Latino citizens would eventually devolve into a regional party that could not compete on a national basis. He believed that if they worked towards assisting these immigrants, the Latino community - who culturally due to the Catholic Faith - were as likely to become Republicans as Democrats. The Senate passed the legislation with many more votes than the 60 required to bypass cloture and sent it on to the House where it would only require a simple majority. There were enough Republicans to join the Democrats to have it pass.

Here's where the story gets interesting. The House, then controlled by John Boehner, could easily pass this legislation with a near unanimous Democratic vote and only a handful of Republicans. There were many more than just that handful who were prepared to join the Democrats but nowhere near a majority of all Republicans. In 2010 the Tea Party successfully made inroads into the House Republican caucus and made life miserable for Speaker Boehner by forcing him to invoke the Republican Party 'Hastert rule' which

said that you don't pass legislation that doesn't have a majority of the majority. To do so would be giving a gift to your opponents and the Speaker doesn't have to bring up any legislation that he or she doesn't want to offer. While he didn't have to do it, Boehner made an excuse for not bringing comprehensive immigration reform to a vote. He said that the Senate's bill was not forceful enough on border security. President Obama told Boehner to rewrite the legislation in a way that would satisfy him and let him see it. Boehner presented the President with a bill that had draconian security measures knowing that the President couldn't support it but surprise, surprise President Obama said O.K. and Boehner promptly without comment stuck the bill in his back pocket and reform was dead.

Why do I bring all this history up in light of the Georgia Democratic successes? Since 2015 there have been more births in the U.S. to women of color than there are to white mothers while at the same time the majority of Americans passing on are white. Demographers have estimated that the states of Arizona, Georgia and Texas will become minority/majority states sometime between 2024 and 2032. In 2013 there were 4 Republican Senators representing Arizona and Georgia. Next week there will be 4 Democrats representing those two states and every election cycle Texas is getting closer to turning Blue.

There are enough White Progressives to join voters of color to turn a lot of states from red to blue. To date the problem has been voter suppression and a lack of political will to get minorities to vote. I and many political operatives credit Stacy Abrams with turning Georgia around. I believe a similar program can do the same in Florida, Texas and both the Carolinas. There's a saying: "Nothing succeeds like success."

I'm writing this the day after the insurrection at the capitol and there are two ways to turn this to

our advantage. First, a President can be impeached after he leaves office and it's clear that Trump incited rioting. I wasn't surprised this morning when the L.A. Times came out and said as much in a full banner headline on the front page; but I was floored when the Pasadena Star-News, one of the most conservative papers in the country, headlined its front page:

Impeaching Trump would be a slam dunk as it only requires a majority vote in the House. I'm not naive and I don't believe 17 Republicans in the Senate would join the 50 Democrats and vote to convict but that's not the point. Each Republican - and many are up for reelection in 2 years - will be forced to come down on the side of Trump, which means they are endorsing insurrection, or against Trump. Either way this issue divides the Republican electorate and would entice primary opponents which would weaken whichever candidates survives to the General Election. The second action that needs to be taken is to have whichever appropriate committees in the new Congress, both Houses, initiate hearings on the insurrection. That would have the same effect as mentioned for the impeachment and trial process.

So, I went back to look at my New Year's resolutions for last year and I fell short. I was going to write 5 or 10 thousand postcards/letters but I only managed about 2200. I'm not going to beat myself up about that as a quarter of them went to Georgia. As this is not an election year, I don't expect to write any cards/letters.

My other resolution was to lose 52 pounds - one per week - and I again did not succeed. I only lost 45, so this year's resolution will be to reach my goal which means losing another 60 pounds. That's right! On January 1, 2020 I was 105 pounds above my ideal weight. How am I going to do this? No sugar and starches, but more importantly, because I've been sheltered in place

now for over 10 months, I've instituted a walking program. Currently I walk 32 laps around the compound my town house is in which is 8.8 miles a day. By the beginning of February that will increase to 40 laps which is exactly 11 miles. If I limit my calorie intake to 1760 a day, which would be the maintenance figure for my goal weight, the walking should lose me anywhere from 1 3/4 pounds to 2 3/4 pounds per week with more being lost now and less as I get closer to my goal. Based on those figures it should actually only take about 1/2 year, but as evidenced by last year's failure, I've built in an extra heavy burden so if I fall short, I still may succeed. I'll keep you posted.

~ Ron out



UDH Update – After Georgia!



After the victory in November, the UDH turned its attention to the Senate elections in Georgia. Caitlin Gallogly, our dedicated volunteer coordinator in the general election, stayed on to coordinate our efforts in Georgia, working with Hannah Borison and super-volunteer Cheryl Brickey. The UDH team supported the campaigns of Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, as well as Daniel Blackman, the Democratic candidate for Public Service Commissioner.

UDH spearheaded the efforts for outreach in Georgia, especially in the Latino community, through phone banking, training and translation services. In addition, our campaign manager for the general election, Jose Barrera, traveled to Georgia to aid in the effort. Warnock and Ossoff ran a coordinated campaign, and out-of-state organizers like those from the UDH greatly increased the resources that likely proved the margin of victory in those tight races.

The election cycle of 2020 has been a whirlwind for the UDH. With the outbreak of COVID-19

in March, we were faced with a drastic change in strategy from previous elections. We decided that, rather than securing a brick-and-mortar headquarters that might expose our staff and volunteers to the virus, we would run primarily a virtual campaign. This meant an entire overhaul of our campaign structure and strategy, with very limited door-to-door canvassing and a heavy emphasis on remote phone banking, training and volunteer recruitment.

Fortunately, our campaign staff made the transition with great success on a local, state and national level. In addition to campaigning for local elected officials, many of whom had fairly safe seats, we also worked in swing Congressional districts in California. Although we were disappointed with the loss of several House seats, we believe that our efforts helped to build a grassroots Democratic movement in many districts previously held by Republicans.

We were also able to work closely with the Biden campaign and the national Democratic party on training, phone banking and get-out-the-vote efforts not only in California, but around the nation. By connecting with the national campaign, the UDH was able to have an outsized impact. Thanks to our talented campaign staff and volunteers, the UDH was able to “punch above our weight” and use our resources to enormous advantage.

While we hope that future campaigns will be able to return to more traditional person-to-person contact, we realize that the era of virtual campaigning has arrived. Because of our success in the 2020 general election and Georgia runoffs, the UDH is uniquely positioned to participate not only in our traditional role of supporting our local candidates, but also to assist state and national campaigns in swing areas. We should all be proud of what UDH has accomplished for our community, our state and our nation. Out thanks to everyone who made this possible – our staff,

our volunteers and our donors. Let us hope that with the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, as well as with a Democratic House and Senate, that we can look forward to brighter future for our country!

~ Hoyt Hillsman
Chair, UDH Steering Committee



The most important race of our lifetime!

In this particular election cycle, these words have never rang more true. With a record turnout of voters, our democratic blue wave became reality. Battle after battle, every court case challenged led to the same results. The 46th president of the United States will be Joseph R. Biden who will be accompanied by the first woman, and woman of color, Kamala Harris as his Vice-President. And we have secured control of the Senate.

Covid forced every organization, including the UDH, to adapt to a fully virtual space. UDH created a specialized niche and became recognized for its extraordinary ability to engage volunteers in a variety of campaign activities including phone calls and post cards.

- Our team developed effective phone bank training and volunteer engagement programs ultimately receiving state and national recognition. This included playing an important role in the national Biden / Harris campaign
- UDH was able to promote our online / Zoom portals as our “Virtual Headquarters” providing volunteers with a sense of community and support. These strengths increased the visibility of the UDH attracting volunteers from all over the country thereby expanding the reach of the UDH universe
- UDH lead robust phone bank events for many of our local House campaigns including Christy Smith, Gil Cisneros, and Harley Rouda

- UDH was able to also forge valuable partnerships with Westside Dems and Civic Sundays for phone banks. The strengths of each of our organizations turned out to be complimentary, and we foresee expanding this coordination go forward.

We did find our volunteers were motivated by the Presidential election vs other local races. It is difficult to assess whether this was unique and driven by anti-Trump sentiments or represents a future trend. Our local “distanced” events – Arlington Gardens post carding, lawn sign events, targeted door hanging – were great successes attracting many of our local volunteers.

As we moved to support the GA Senate Runoff Races we continued to have learnings – and successes!

- There is a growing need for the Democratic Party to engage Spanish speaking voters. Using our national / expanded volunteer base UDH was able to make significant contributions to the Spanish language efforts for the GA Senate and Blackman races.
 - More and more elections depend on national groups for support (on the ground and virtually) UDH was able to build on our learnings and recognition from the GE to take on important roles in the Blackman and GA Senate races.
 - Volunteers from outside of the UDH’s geographic reach continued to want to volunteer with our team reinforcing the power of our volunteer engagement and training core skills
- Now we all turn our focus on what is next. Here are a few key take aways and suggestions offered by our UDH team:
- We are recommending the UDH leverage our recent learnings and successes and continue to conduct outreach to volunteers / voters on local as well as state and national level .
 - Campaigns will continue to utilize the digital tools shown to be effective during this election

cycle. It is recommended the UDH plan for a hybrid virtual /brick & mortar model going forward.

- It is recommended the UDH implement a targeted outreach effort aimed at diversifying our membership
- Retain paid staff, including interns, between election cycles with a focus on expanding our social media and website presence, furthering our volunteer outreach efforts including involvement in targeted initiatives / projects, and further development of our volunteer data base.
- Identify local groups and individuals positioned to aid the UDH in increasing our presence and participation in our local communities of color.

~ Cheryl Brickey, Caitlin Gallogly, J B Barrera

United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) Gets National Attention:

From a Florida Blog:

‘A coalition of grassroots progressive Democrats in California is at work in Georgia in support of Daniel Blackman in his run for the state’s Public Service Commission. Through its English-language and Spanish-language calls, United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) has already generated upwards of 37,000 (early) votes from Georgians who did not vote in the general election. UDH is small but mighty, with the most comprehensive volunteer training and support of all I’ve worked with this year. Its focus on engaging with people is all heart. I’d bank on this group to keep at this essential work between elections.’

~ blogger Jane Kelly Amerson Lopez



Current Polling

Poll/ **74% of voters say democracy in the United States is under threat.** 56% say they hold Trump responsible for the mob that stormed the Capitol. ([Quinnipiac](#) / [New York Times](#))

Program Ideas Wanted

Our Program Chair, Ann Hickambottom asks members for ideas for programs for upcoming meetings. Do you have a topic that would interest ACT and ADC members? Know a speaker we really should hear? Have expertise to share? Please contact Ann with your thoughts at am-hickambottom@gmail.com.



See Congressman Schiff’s Statement on Our Website

Bruce Wright, our website manager, has added **Rep. Adam Schiff’s powerful statement on the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol** to the site at www.ACTpasadena.org. If you haven’t yet seen it; be sure to read it!!

You will also find the current *Phoenix* newsletter and a newsletter archive there, plus political news and links to other relevant items. The webpage is continually updated.



Special Thanks to Patrons

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes

Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Ed Washatka & Linda Centell

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT’s Operating Account

Rick McKnight

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT’s Political Account

Carrie Alston

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes



Calendar

- January 20 Inauguration!
Wednesday
- January 27 ADEM ballot deadline.
Wednesday
- February 4 Next ACT and ADC meeting via
Thursday Zoom. Program to be decided.
7 p.m. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting,
7:30 p.m.



Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



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

February *Phoenix* Deadline

We expect that the deadline for the February *Phoenix* will be Monday evening, February 7. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



Next ACT and ADC Meeting Via Zoom

Thursday, February 4, 7 p.m.

Join ACT and ADC at our February Zoom meeting. Program to be decided.

Socializing begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Late breaking news: Trump Impeached a second time.

2021 ACT and ADC Membership Renewal

Renew your ACT and ADC membership now! Use the form below, renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org, or reply to the renewal letter you receive in the mail.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 864-5255 or at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com.



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"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | <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

Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.