



The Official Publication of ACT

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and ACT / ADC Meetings



Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

At the home of Fred and Jeanne Register
2345 Midlothian Dr., Altadena



For good conversation and great food, please join your ACT and ADC friends for our traditional Holiday Potluck dinner and the December Meeting of ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club. Socializing and the Potluck begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be an analysis of local election results, and the meeting will follow at about 8 p.m. (Note it is not the first Wednesday of the month)

Potluck assignments:

A-G – Main dish **H-M** - Salad or vegetable **N-Z** - Fruit or dessert

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



2011 Steering Committee Nominating

Outgoing Co-Chair Emily Stork is heading up the Nominating Committee's search for 2011 officers for ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club. Please think about what you'd like to do in 2011 and let Exec. Director Jon Fuhrman know at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626-795-5255 or tell any Nominating Committee member (Emily, Jon, Fred Register, Sally Beer, or ADC President Bill Hackett.)

We hope current officers and committee members will want to stay on, but it's not a life sentence. Please let us know if you can't continue or want to do something different.



ACT Research Committee

The ACT Research Committee is planning to meet all day on Saturday, December 11th and again on the evening of Wednesday December 15th to conduct interviews for the candidates for Pasadena City Council and for Pasadena (PUSD) School Board. (Or if you prefer "Board of Education").

Our schedule is still in "draft" mode. It would be helpful to RSVP to Greg Harrison at Email gregandnikki@earthlink.net, so we can keep interested ACT members informed of the schedule.

The Research Committee invites members to provide questions that committee members should ask the candidates for PUSD Board and/or Pasadena Council at the upcoming Research Committee interviews. Please share your ideas with Research Committee Co-Chair, Greg Harrison at:

gregandnikki@earthlink.net.

Thanks!

-- Greg

Web Page News

Thanks to all who have visited our web page at www.ACTPasadena.org. You will always find the current issue of *the Phoenix in color* there. (We update each month so that the current *Phoenix* is available to ACT and ADC members online and earlier issues are available to everyone.)

Other things you'll find: upcoming meeting information, links to news items and videos. You can pay your 2011 ACT and ADC dues there too. The site will continue to expand as we get feedback from our members, so please keep sending your ideas to

elliott@actpasadena.org.

P.S. Friend us on Facebook.



Phoenix Deadline

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



Update your Email Address

Does ACT/ADC have your current Email address? To provide an updated address please Email Jon Fuhrman at

jon_fuhrman@charter.net



UDH Helps Local Democratic Sweep

The areas worked by our United Democratic Headquarters showed clear evidence of the impact of volunteer efforts. Not only did Congressman Adam Schiff and Assemblyman Anthony Portantino shrug off aggressive Tea-Party-backed challengers, they did so with extraordinary victory margins.

Voters were not showing much inclination to split their tickets this year. At the top of the ticket, Brown and Boxer generally ran with a percentage point or two of one another. Schiff and Portantino ran very close to one another, too – and both ran several points higher than the statewide candidates.

We can't yet tell much about turnout, since the current figures do not include many thousands of late mail ballots, as well as provisional ballots cast on Election Day. Generally, though, turnout looks quite similar to four

years ago – perhaps a few points higher in the UDH areas.

Drop-off rates were very low in the UDH area – much lower than usual – which means that the effort to get Democrats to vote all the way down the ticket paid off.

Proposition 19 might have passed if only local voters were consulted. Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena and NE Los Angeles all voted YES – and Sierra Madre was just barely NO.

Calif. Senator Candidate	Votes	Percent
* Barbara Boxer (Dem)	4,147,202	51.8%
Carly Fiorina (Rep)	3,429,351	42.8%
Edward C. Noonan (AI)	100,214	1.2%
Duane Roberts (Grn)	98,661	1.2%
Gail K. Lightfoot (Lib)	136,858	1.8%
Marsha Feinland (P&F)	103,719	1.2%

See more election results on pages 6 & 9.

Area	Turn-out	Brown%	Boxer%	Schiff%* 29th CD	Warner%* 26th CD	Portantino% 44th AD	YES on 19
Altadena	56.2%	72.7%	72.4%	77.4%	51.6%	74.0%	54.4%
Arcadia	44.2%	40.8%	40.2%		31.2%	44.4%	30.5%
Bradbury	50.5%	30.1%	32.0%		22.5%		34.4%
Duarte	41.3%	59.4%	58.4%			62.3%	41.6%
East Arcadia	45.9%	56.2%	54.3%		41.0%	53.5%	37.6%
East Pasadena	45.4%	52.1%	51.9%	67.9%	41.2%	54.6%	41.4%
East San Gabriel	40.4%	49.6%	48.5%	62.4%	39.1%	49.6%	34.6%
Kinneloa Mesa	52.4%	46.2%	45.4%	70.0%	35.4%	46.5%	46.2%
La Canada	54.5%	39.1%	39.5%		32.9%	53.2%	37.4%
La Crescenta	51.5%	47.5%	46.2%		39.9%		42.1%
L.A. (Eagle Rock)	41.9%	77.2%	76.7%			73.6%	51.1%
Monrovia	47.8%	51.3%	50.3%		45.5%	60.3%	45.3%
Pasadena	48.5%	65.2%	64.9%	68.2%		66.8%	50.5%
San Marino	47.0%	35.0%	34.4%		27.1%		31.2%
Sierra Madre	59.9%	50.5%	48.6%		42.6%		48.2%
South Pasadena	53.3%	64.9%	63.6%	69.0%		66.2%	51.2%
Temple City	42.8%	49.0%	49.0%	54.7%		52.4%	33.9%
44th AD (Portantino)						64.3%	47.2%
26th CD (Dreier)**					36.9%		38.6%
29th CD (Schiff)				65.2%			45.7%

* Where Schiff and Warner share the same city, their precincts do not overlap so cannot be directly compared

** The figures for the 26th CD are only for the portion of the district in Los Angeles County

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Joe Mosca, Sierra Madre
Yuny Parada, Pasadena
Garrett Schneider, S Pas

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members:

John & Brooke McLean,
Pasadena



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, Nov. 9

Well, the people have spoken -- or at least some of them have. Those that did speak weren't too enthused about how we Democrats have performed. But few of the post-election commentators have talked about how many voters just didn't vote, and who those people are.

As an example, in Ohio, Democrats lost close Gubernatorial and Senate races. Out of 3.6 million votes cast, the margin in the Senate race was less than 100,000 votes. But in '08, in the Presidential race, over 5.6 million voters cast ballots -- which means 2 million voters stayed home. The turnout was dramatically lower than even 2006, when 4.2 million voters cast ballots.

The story is the same across the mid-west. In Pennsylvania, 4 million ballots were cast this

year, compared to nearly 6 million in 2008. In Illinois, 3.5 million people voted this year, versus 5.5 million in 2008.

Why does this happen, and who are those lazy non-voters? Unfortunately, turnout in mid-term elections has always been noticeably lower than in Presidential races. The drop-off is particularly pronounced among young voters (under 35); only about half of the young voters who vote in Presidential years vote in off-years. It's also particularly high among voters who have moved in the last year. On the other hand, drop-off among senior citizens is quite low -- nearly 90% of those who vote in Presidential years also vote in off-years.

Thus, the drop-off hits Democrats particularly hard, which helps explain why Democrats lost so many House seats. It's also worth remembering that many of those seats were in relatively conservative areas. In fact, of the seats still held by Democrats, only 12 are in Congressional Districts that President Obama lost in 2008. Conversely, 55 seats that were won by Republicans are in Districts that the President carried in 2008. So Democrats will have a broad array of ready-made targets for the 2012 election.

None of this, however, tells us why those voters chose to stay home, and why so many other voters -- independents and some Democrats -- clearly voted against the Democrats this year. For that, we rely on pollsters to try to tease out whether voters are asking for less taxes, lower deficits, or simply more jobs and less economic fear.

Unfortunately, there aren't really any clear answers. Pollsters from each side try to design polls to explore their own hypotheses. It does seem clear that people who were more worried about the economy tended to vote for Republicans, while those less worried about the economy tended to vote more Democratic. Further, Republican voters seemed more

focused on cutting taxes and reducing the deficit, while Democratic voters seemed more willing to spend money to create jobs. That assumes that the federal government really can create jobs by spending money, or that cutting taxes and reducing the deficit will not lead us into a deeper recession by putting folks out of work.

One of the interesting outcomes of the election, though, is that we can now test all the different pollsters to see who is better at that arcane art, and who allows inherent biases to slip into their results. The web site Electoral-Vote.com looked at 9 different major polling companies, and compared their final poll in each Senate contest with the outcomes. Then the web site averaged the results, looking to see how accurate the polling was overall, and if there was a consistent bias in each company's results. The Rasmussen organization, which was one of the most prolific and highly quoted polling groups, had the worst record: they were the least accurate, with an average error of 6%, and the most consistently biased -- that is, their results gave, on average, a 4% edge to the Republican candidate. The Quinnipiac organization was one of the most accurate, with an average error of just 0.7% and a 2% bias toward Democratic candidates.

One can also look at individual states and ask, overall, how closely did all the pollsters come? In many cases, the final polls were well within the stated margin of error (typically 3 - 4%). A few states, however, stand out, where all the polls were consistently off in the same direction by large amounts. Nevada stands out in that group, where every polling group was 7 to 9% off, all predicting lower Democratic percentages. This may be an excellent

cautionary tale of the difficulty of predicting, and polling, Latino turnout. The exit polls showed Latino voters in Nevada not only turned out in record numbers, but voted nearly 90% for Sen. Harry Reid. In retrospect, that's hardly surprising, with Sharon Angle advocating an exceptionally hard line toward undocumented workers, and with the Arizona law prominently discussed in the media. But pollsters clearly underestimated the impact of Latino voting and were unable accurately to poll Latino voters, perhaps because pollsters typically are not fluent in Spanish, and Latino voters who are more comfortable speaking Spanish may be those most likely to vote

Democratic. Whatever the reason, this simply reminds us that, over the long term, Republicans place themselves in peril as they continue to alienate Hispanic voters.

Here in Pasadena, we are now ramping up for our local elections. Mayor Bill Bogaard, so far at least, has not drawn an identified opponent for another four-year term as Mayor. Not so for Councilmembers Jacque Robin-

son and Steve Madison. Madison, from District 6, will be opposed by Carolyn Nabor, a well-known local anti-growth activist, who is also a very conservative Republican and is said to be the anointed Tea Party candidate in that District. It appears that her campaign is being run by Martin Truitt, a local Republican consultant who has run a number of other campaigns in past years. Word is that the Tea Party folks are committed to running candidates in each race, and Truitt may run several of their campaigns. The only Councilmember who has not drawn an opponent, so far, is Margaret McAusten.

Filing for both City Council and School Board candidates opens Monday, Nov. 15 and closes



Friday, December 10, with an extension to Wednesday, Dec. 15 for those races where the incumbent is not running for re-election.

One of those not running for re-election is School Board President Bob Harrison. That will leave his seat open, while colleagues Tom Selinske and Renatta Cooper are seeking another term. With the potential closure of at least two elementary schools, and recent teacher layoffs, those Board members might be facing a tough election. However, the latest state budget treated schools better than expected -- a feared reduction of \$250 per pupil in basic per pupil funding, and a further freeze in the Cost of Living Allowance, were not imposed, so PUSD is looking at an additional \$5 million in baseline funding for this year, and all future years. That's not to say, however, that the state won't be looking at further mid-year cuts, because most observers believe the current budget is based on unrealistic income assumptions. So we're not out of woods yet, but at least there's a minor ray of hope on the horizon.

-- Jon Fuhrman



The Pasadena General Plan Update - Help Us Map The New Plan!

The November Charrette

Over the past year, we heard your thoughts and concerns regarding growth, traffic, design and other topics. Now it is time to map out draft land use and mobility alternatives in response to what we've heard. To do that, we are holding a multi-day intensive workshop, also known as a charrette. You are invited to participate in the charrette and share your thoughts on the evolving plan alternatives.

The charrette will kick off at the November 8 Council meeting and will continue later that week over a three day period:

City Council Kick-Off Workshop – Setting the Stage

Monday, November 8: 6:30 p.m.
 City Hall, Council Chambers,
 100 N. Garfield Avenue
 Drafting, Refining and Finalizing the Alternatives

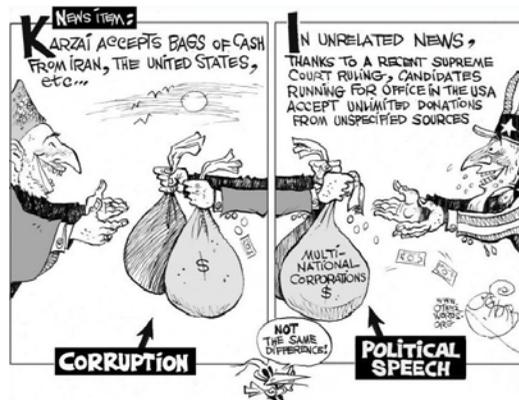
Thursday-Saturday, November 11-13
 Open House: 5:30 p.m.
 Presentations: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Pasadena City College, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Building CC

For more information: go to www.cityofpasadena.net/generalplan and click "November Charrette." Help us tell everybody about the General Plan Update.



29th Congressional	Votes	Percent
* Adam B. Schiff (Dem)	89,863	65.1%
John P. Colbert (Rep)	44,001	31.8%
William P. Cushing (Lib)	4,313	3.1%

44th Assembly Candidate	Votes	Percent
* Anthony Portantino (Dem)	69,960	64.2%
Alvaro G. Day (Rep)	35,214	32.3%
Eytan Kollin (Lib)	3,885	3.5%



**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It has been a special experience to live, to raise my family and to work in our great District. Ellen and I have been tremendously happy watching Bella and Sofia grow up here and I have been honored to have served the 44th Assembly District these past four years. Thank you for the warmth you have shown to my family and the support you have given my campaign effort. I am grateful for your continued trust and support and I look forward to my continued representation of this amazing District. As I make plans to return to Sacramento, my office staff remains ready to continue serving constituents in the 44th Assembly District. My District Office number is (626) 577-9944. If you feel you need my personal assistance and want to speak to me directly, my home number is always available. Ellen, Bella, Sofia and I appreciate the opportunity to be part of this community and I am extremely appreciative of the opportunity you have entrusted to me.

I've begun to work on my Legislative agenda for next year. Although some progressives are not convinced that "Pay as You Go" form of budgeting is the right choice for California, I remain confident that it will force the type of prioritization that California needs. For me, nothing has replaced my desire to help public education in California. "Pay Go" will force us to make education our state's top priority and I will begin fighting for it as soon as we are reconstituted.

I am also excited that Jerry Brown will be our next Governor. I believe he has the energy and passion to help reform California. I saw him in the airport last week and offered my help. It's going to take a coalition of folks working together to solve some of our long-standing issues. I heard from a Republican colleague of mine that Gov. Brown has already been reaching out to Republicans, dropping in on a small Republican dinner party on Thursday night. I've also been assured that Governor Brown will be reaching out to every member of the Legislature. These two things already set him apart from Governor Schwarzenegger who rarely met with members of his own party and very rarely reached out to individual Assembly Members. I will keep you posted on how things are going.

In January, I begin my third and last term in the Assembly. It has been such an honor for this kid from New Jersey to represent such an amazing district. Think of it - the folks who work and attend Cal Tech, JPL, the Rose Bowl, City of Hope, PCC, Occidental College and Santa Anita trust me to be their representative in Sacramento. I continue to be eternally grateful to ACT for its support and friendship.

Warmly, Anthony Portantino

Please join Assemblymember Anthony Portantino to celebrate the Holiday Season:

Tuesday, December 7 from 6 to 8 pm
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond,
Pasadena

In the spirit of the holiday season, please bring an unwrapped book for a grade K-6 child.

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/>

From State Senator Carol Liu...



November Update

Congratulations to UDH and all the Democratic candidates who successfully ran for election in 2010. Besides our local representatives, we now have a Democratic Governor and hopefully, a complete and more compassionate change of direction for our state. Voters also approved Prop. 25 enabling the legislature to pass a state budget by a majority vote. Hopefully this will result in a more humane budget without the devastating delay in payments to vendors and workers caused by prior budget stalemates.

In the wake of the election there are other changes afoot. On December 10, the Census Bureau will deliver its final apportionment counts based on the 2010 Census to President Obama. The data will be released to the public in March 2011. The national Census completion rate was 74% of households and California's was 73%.

The Constitution mandates the Census for purposes of Congressional apportionment, but Census data are also relied upon for federal funding formulas; federal, state, and local government planning; academic research; and even private-sector marketing. In California, these data will be used by the voter-approved Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw State Senate and Assembly district lines. Now, with the passage of Prop. 20, the Redistricting Commission also will be drawing Congressional district boundaries.

The State Auditor is continuing to select re-

districting commissioners. On November 15, the Senate President pro Tempore, the Assembly Speaker, and the minority party leaders of both houses submit their whittled-down lists of commission applicants. Each leader is allowed to strike two applicants from each of the three applicant pools – Republicans, Democrats and “Other” (DTS, Greens, Libertarians, etc). This will reduce the applicant pool for the initial lottery from 60 to 36.

Next, on November 18, the State Auditor will randomly draw eight candidates from the remaining applicant list. These eight applicants will make-up the first commissioners of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, and they must work together to hire staff and fill the remaining six seats on the Commission. To follow the progress of the Redistricting Commission go to: www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

On another front, thousands of California families were given a reprieve from losing their child care when a state judge temporarily blocked Governor Schwarzenegger's line-item veto of CalWORKs Stage 3 child care funding. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvill ruled that before the funding is cut, affected parents need to be notified of child care alternatives for which they may be eligible.

Schwarzenegger blue-penciled the \$256 million in Stage 3 funding when he signed the 2010-11 state budget in early October, thus terminating subsidized childcare for about 60,000 low-income parents who have been off welfare for two years and are currently undergoing job training or working. Some 81,000 California children are affected, 17,000 in LA County alone. Parents represented by Parent Voices Oakland sued the state, claiming the cuts jeopardized their ability to work and that the state should have automatically enrolled eligible parents into other subsidized child care programs.

Prior to the judge's order, Democratic legislators encouraged local First5 Commissions throughout the state to provide bridge loans so childcare could continue until a bill to reinstate the funds can be enacted. Thirty-five First5 Commissions, including LA County, stepped up to the plate, but not all the funding needed is in place. A bill to restore the funds will be introduced on the first day of the new legislative session, December 6th with plans to pass it and send it to Governor Jerry Brown for signature in January. Fortunately, the judge's stay means the loans are not needed right away which allows them to stretch a bit further. The stay by Judge Carvill remains in effect at least until November 23, when another hearing on the lawsuit is scheduled.

A final note: please save the date for my
Holiday Open House,

Thursday, December 9th from 5 to 7 p.m.
at the Alex Theater in Glendale.

More information to come. Meanwhile, Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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.

Election Results continued from page 3

Attorney General Candidate	Votes	Percent
Kamala D. Harris (Dem)	3,539,544	45.7%
Steve Cooley (Rep)	3,563,820	46.0%
Diane Beall Templin (AI)	134,909	1.7%
Peter Allen (Grn)	198,393	2.5%
Timothy J. Hannan (Lib)	194,560	2.5%
Robert J. Evans (P&F)	124,474	1.6%

From Congressman Adam B. Schiff...



WASHINGTON UPDATE
November 2010

Dear Friends,

Now that the midterm elections are behind us, I want to thank you for the continued opportunity to serve.

I first ran for office because I wanted to ensure that the country we pass on to our children is even better and stronger than the one we inherited. As the father of two young children, it is still what motivates me. But that intergenerational compact is at risk.

I understand how deeply people are hurting in this poor economy, as well as how many others are worried about our country's future. We will have to work hard to prepare our nation to compete and win in an increasingly global workplace.

We must confront the need to balance our budget and pay down our debt, issues that I have been focused on as a Blue Dog Coalition member since my first days in Congress. And, now that we are entering an era of divided government, it will be more important than ever to find bipartisan answers to the challenges we face.

I am optimistic that all of this can be done, and that our best days are yet ahead of us. It will require us to change our political discourse, to stop demonizing those who hold a contrary view, and to put the best interests of the nation ahead of all else.

The road ahead will be long and hard at times, but they say that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. So let us begin; and thank you again for your confidence.

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

www.facebook.com/CongressmanSchiff

Your Congressman,

Adam Schiff

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

New Data: 3,370 Seniors in the 29th Congressional District Have Already Received Medicare Rx “Donut Hole” Checks

This year, all seniors who have drug expenses of \$2,830 or more – and thereby enter the Medicare Part D “donut hole” – will receive a \$250 rebate to help with their high drug costs. Beginning in January 2011, all seniors will receive a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole, saving the average senior entering the donut hole over \$500 annually. By 2019, the Part D drug donut hole will be completely closed.

In the 29th Congressional District of California, thousands of Medicare enrollees are already benefiting from the new law. As of Oct. 1, 3,370 seniors in the district received \$250 rebate checks, totaling \$842,500 to help pay their high drug costs.

An additional 4,930 seniors are expected to enter the Part D donut hole before the end of this year; each of these seniors will also receive a \$250 rebate. By the end of the year, 8,300 seniors in the district will have received assistance to help cover the cost of their drugs, providing a total of \$2.1 million in assistance to seniors in the district. Donut hole benefits will increase beginning in January '11, when all seniors who hit the donut hole receive a 50% discount on brand-name drugs, saving seniors in the district \$4.4 million next year.

Schiff Applauds Efforts to Keep College Affordable

On average, college graduates earn \$1.3 million more over their lifetimes than those without a degree. With the unemployment rate almost twice as high for high school graduates as it is for college graduates, it is critically important to keep college accessible.

The College Board's recent “Trends in College Pricing” and “Trends in Student Aid” reports show that efforts to keep college affordable are more critical now than ever. While tuition and room & board expenses have risen for all categories of colleges and universities, student aid is up sharply. Pell Grants alone rose by \$10 billion to \$28 billion in 2009-2010. I supported the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which has helped even more students. The Treasury Department says 12.5 million students and their families were provided with higher education tax benefits in 2009.



Thank You Nancy

Of all the politicians (Dianne Feinstein, Phil and John Burton, Barbara Boxer, Willie Brown, and Harvey Milk) I got to know in San Francisco the most gracious, genuine and humble was Nancy Pelosi. The picture to the right is the day we both met Carlos Santana. I had just presented him with the plague designating Carlos Santana Day in San Francisco on behalf of Mayor Dianne Feinstein. We are in front of a mural that was dedicated that day. The mural is at 22nd and South Van Ness near his home in the Mission District. I was particularly excited about this presentation because we went to the same high school (Mission). Our school does not have many illustrious graduates, before Carlos there was Bobby Freeman (Swim) and Guy Mitchell (if anyone remembers him). I dug out this picture because when I saw Nancy at a fundraiser for the Mission Neighborhood Centers at San Francisco City Hall this summer she mentioned this day.

I am writing this article to say thank you to an outstanding leader and Speaker. She has been demonized by the Republicans, Tea Party and made fun of by various comedians on the left and the right. The truth is she was a Mom that worked in political campaigns just like many of you do; she became a great fundraiser and rose in the Democratic Party. She was influential in bringing the National Democratic Convention to San Francisco in 1984 and she did a smashing job organizing it. When Sala Burton died, her family was extremely close to the Burton's, in fact Nancy Jr., one of her daughters, was with Sala when she died. Nancy Jr. told me that Sala wanted her mother to run for the unfinished term. She did and her coalition building skills help-



Ralph Hurtado and Nancy Pelosi in 1986

ed her get elected Speaker. As Speaker her accomplishments are well known, but by far the pinnacle of her success was the passage of the Obama Health Care package.

It is rumored that she will retire. I hope she does not. But we all owe her our respect and thanks, for a job well done.

-- Ralph Hurtado



Special Prosecutor Declines to File Criminal Charges Over Destruction of CIA Torture Tapes

Excerpted from: Jason Leopold, t r u t h o u t

Nearly three years after he was appointed to investigate the destruction of at least 92 interrogation videotapes, a dozen of which showed two high-value detainees being subjected to various torture techniques by CIA interrogators, Special Prosecutor John Durham has determined that he does not have enough evidence to secure an indictment against anyone responsible for the purge. The statute of limitations for bringing criminal charges ran out Monday.



Calendar

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Nov. 19
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. | 6:30 p.m. | 2345 Midlothian Dr., Altadena. Potluck 6:30 p.m.; meeting at approximately 8 p.m. All members welcome and urged to attend. See front page for potluck assignments. |
| December 3
Friday | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 11/19.) | December 9
Thursday
5 to 7 p.m | Carol Liu Holiday Open House, at the Alex Theater in Glendale. |
| December 7
Tuesday
6-8 p.m. | Anthony Portantino Holiday Party at Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Av, Pasa. | Dec 11
Saturday | Research Committee meets to interview PUSD and Pasadena City Council candidates at Greg Harrison's, 1291 E. Howard St., Pasadena. Contact Greg at gregandnikki@earthlink.net or Ralph rhurtado799@charter.net . |
| December 8
Wednesday | Holiday Potluck and ACT/ADC meeting at the Register's home, | Dec 15
Wednesday | Research Committee interviews continue. See Dec 11 for info. |
| | | Dec. 17
Friday | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 11/19.) |



**P. O. Box 40074
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