



The Official Publication of ACT

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On-Line

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and **ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club Meetings**

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

Huntington Medical Research Institute
Conference Center

686 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena

(Enter the parking lot from S. Raymond Avenue)



You are invited to our traditional (in-person!) Holiday Potluck Dinner and the December meetings of ACT and ADC. Join us for good cheer, delicious dishes, and socializing with your ACT and ADC friends and guests – beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at about 8 p.m.

The guest speaker is to be announced later..

Potluck assignments:

A-G ... Desert or fruit

H-Q ... Main dish

R-Z ... Vegetable, salad or side dish

Please bring enough for five or six people and provide your own serving utensils. Beverages, plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils will be provided.

Looking for New Steering Committee Members

Outgoing CoChair Marilee Marshall is heading up the **Nominating Committee** to find a third CoChair to replace herself for starters. The Nominating Committee is also looking for new mem-

bers on the various committees that make up the ACT Steering Committee: Computer/ Webpage, Fundraising, Mailing, Program, Research. In addition to the new CoChair, we would like to find two new Recording Secretaries (who serve both ACT and ADC) to make that job a little easier.

Continued next page

Nominating, *continued from page one*

If you are interested in working as an officer or committee member or finding out more about any committees, please, please, please let us know. Contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com or 626 864-5255.

**Pat & Paul Trivers**

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the recent deaths of Pat and Paul Trivers. They died at home naturally and peacefully in the company of their daughters; Paul on November 5 and Pat on the morning of November 6. The Trivers had been married just weeks short of 62 years. They have been ACT members and supporters for decades, since the late 1970s.



Paul, 92, taught Spanish for over 30 years at Franklin HS in Highland Park. Pat, 81, taught elementary school also for more than 30 years and also in Highland Park at Aldama Elementary and Elysian Heights Elementary. They first met at Cal State LA where Paul was working on his teaching credential and Pat was in her first quarter of college.

They leave daughters Karen Aguirre and Janet Hart and their families, including grandchildren Michael, Matthew and Katy, step-grands Joey, Mark, Trent and Jenny; and great granddaughter Mateah. We extend deepest sympathy to them all.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions may go to the John Muir Alumni Association in memory of Paul and to The Altadena Guild of Huntington Memorial Hospital in memory of Pat.

A Very Successful UDH Midterm Campaign – Bravo!



Under the leadership of our Campaign Coordinator Bill Hackett, and with the tireless efforts of Vice-Chair Cheryl Brickey, Outreach Coordinator Caitlin Gallogly, postcard leaders Karen Rowinsky and Katie Dempster, Fundraiser John Gallogly and a team of fantastic interns – Angela Gonzales, Maylene Hughes and Nathan Castillo – the UDH waged a vigorous campaign and we are justifiably proud of the role we played in Democratic successes not only in Calif., but also in Nevada, Arizona and races around the country.

Our activities included:

Beginning in August, we made calls for Congressional candidates in Southern California, including Will Rollins, Christy Smith, Jay Chen, Asif Mahmood, as well calls for Steven Horsford and Catherine Cortez Masto in Nevada. We joined in and we're off to the races. We made tens of thousands of calls for these candidates.

Then, a grand opening at the Alkebulan Cultural Center with 110 in attendance on a 110-degree day. It was a good will, rocking event.

Karen and Katie, our great postcard team, sent over 30,000 postcards over the course of the campaign bringing the grand total to over 60,000 postcards for the year.

We set up our own UDH branded phone banks with the California Democratic Party. The party provided us with the dialer. We did weekly phone banks for Christy Smith, Will Rollins and Asif Mahmood and special call sessions for Jay Chen.

We placed ads online with Pasadena Now. These ads were embedded in almost all Community News and Government stories. We got out ahead of most campaigns so that we would be the focal

point for the first month or so of the ads.

We worked to revamp the website, streamlining it and making it easy for folks to go to the website and volunteer. We also did social media posts touting our phone banks. And we sent out eblasts that brought us volunteers, hopefully sold some tickets to Oktoberfest and got folks engaged in our in-person and virtual events.

UDH participated in a big day of action for Jay Chen, and working the Westside Dems and our local team we sent around 30 folks to Nevada to canvass for Cortez Masto and Congressional candidates there. Thank you, Susan Kane and Jon Fuhrman for going door to door in Summerlin. We also sent canvassers to canvass for Christy Smith and Jay Chen.

We held a postcard palooza party with Karen and Katie in Sierra Madre that had 55 volunteers show up on a Saturday morning. We ate bagels, drank coffee, and did 1750 postcards in one morning.

We were on the ground for Will Rollins for gay pride in Palm Springs. You should have seen the crowd for his rally at Gay Pride! Amazing.

UDH hung 2000 door hangers in Pasadena on Saturday, Nov. 5th. And we participated in a great event at Carol Liu's house back in September.

In addition, thanks to the leadership of John Gallogly and a dedicated team of volunteers, the Oktoberfest was a rousing success, not only in terms of funds raised, but also as a coming together of enthusiastic grassroots Democrats and elected officials after literally years of isolation.

We are justifiably proud of everything that we accomplished in this campaign, and on behalf of the UDH Steering Committee, we want to thank everyone who contributed to this great victory!

~ Hoyt Hilsman, UDH Chair

~ Bill Hackett, UDH Campaign Coordinator

Thanks to Our Great Interns

Our interns, Maylene Hughes and Nathan Castillo (Judy Boggs) and Angela Gonzalez (UDH), have basically run (with a little bit of help) all of our Christy Smith and Asif Mahmood phone banks. They are great interns. They also helped us do tens of thousands of texts for candidates.

Our interns received training on how to use the mobilize tool from Cheryl Brickey; strategy from Fred Register; and GOTV from Bill. Angela engaged students from PCC and provided a lot of insight into what motivates students.

Many thanks to all three!

~ Bill Hackett



Does ACT Have Your Current Email Address?



Please help ACT keep in regular contact by giving us your current email address, if you have one. We promise not to bombard you with email messages. We will only contact you when we need to share very important information like last-minute plan changes or events or certain deadlines.

Please share your email address with ACT Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com (that's jon underscore fuhrman) or leave a message on ACT's answerphone, 626 795-2798.



Calling Facebook Users

Please visit the ACT Pasadena [@actpasadena](https://www.facebook.com/actpasadena) Facebook page and click the 'thumbs up' button to 'like' our page. ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club post meeting announcements and candidate endorsements on our Facebook page as well as on our main website. Thanks!

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, Nov. 15.

It's a full week after the election, and things are still up in the air. California, in particular, has 3 million uncounted votes, with at least 3, and maybe 5, Congressional seats in play.

But we do know some things for sure. No Red Tsunami, as so many had predicted, but no Blue Tsunami either, as I had predicted. We held the Senate, but only barely. I was reasonably confident we'd win at least a couple of the other Senate races, but we were disappointed in Wisconsin and North Carolina once again. (It wasn't all bleak news, though – we re-elected Gov. Evers in Wisconsin, kept the GOP under the 2/3 majority they would need to override his veto, and in North Carolina won the GOP-leaning Congressional district that Ted Budd had represented before running for the Senate.)

Further, we scored big in other gubernatorial

elections – Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona, Oregon, Maryland and Massachusetts. Further we flipped both legislative houses in Michigan and the Senate in Minnesota and still might carry the Arizona State House. In Pennsylvania's 151st State House district, the GOP candidate leads by 16 votes out of 33,000 votes cast. Now, normally, no one would much care about one random State House district, no matter how small the margin. But it turns out that Dems hold 101 seats in the Pennsylvania House, and so far the Reps also hold 101 seats, so that one seat, separated by sixteen votes, will determine which party controls that House – a big impact for those sixteen votes.

But despite our successes, the House looks like it's drifting out of reach. My guess is that we'll end up at 215 seats, maybe 216, although California Districts 3, 22, 27 and 45 are still to be called as I write this column. District 22, in particular, where David Valadao is defending his seat after losing in 2018 and winning it back in 2020, is a real possibility to tilt our way.

Overall, the pundits' predictions pretty much held up. Only one seat, in the state of Washington, that was assessed as "Leans Republican" went our way. Of the 10 GOP-held "Toss-Up" seats, we have won 5 so far, with the GOP winning 3 and two of the California seats still to be called. Of the 25 Democratic "Toss-Up" seats, we lost one in Virginia, and held all the others – EXCEPT for the New York seats.

As someone born in New York, I get to say it – New York, you really screwed the pooch! We failed to win even a single GOP-held seat, and lost four of our own. That's it right there – had we held those Democratic seats, we would have been at 219 and controlled the House. What happened in New York?

Well, it started with reapportionment. The New York Legislature, totally controlled by Dems, went to town and drew up, to put it charitably, an

excessively gerrymandered map. Naturally, the GOP went to court, and the map was so bad that even the liberally-oriented State Court of Appeals (their equivalent of our Supreme Court) tossed it out and appointed a special master. That special master drew up a new map designed to create as many truly competitive districts as possible. As it turns out, he indeed succeeded. The New York delegation (which lost one seat due to population changes from the 2020 Census) went from 19 Dems and 8 GOP seats down to 15 Dems and 11 GOP seats.

Of course, we can't blame the maps entirely. The entire Democratic machine in New York kind of came apart. The Governor was re-elected, but by an anemic 6%, instead of the normal 20 – 30% margins past Governors have run up. Sen. Schumer managed to win by a more respectable 13%, but even that doesn't come close to his 40% margin in 2016. Clearly, Democrats have managed to alienate voters on a massive level, either due to perceived incompetence, or fears of crime stoked by GOP scare-mongering, or discontent about the economy, or voter disinterest. The turnout, especially on the Democratic side, plummeted in comparison to 2016. The GOP Senate candidate received 2.4 million votes this time, compared to the 2016 GOP candidate getting 2.0 million, so that's a modest gain. However, Sen. Schumer got 5.2 million votes in 2016, yet only 3.2 million votes this time around. That's two million Democrats who either sat it out or chose not to vote for Schumer. That's an enormous fall-off, suggesting a really anemic campaign or a huge level of voter discontent – though not enough to motivate them to vote for the GOP side.

We didn't see that magnitude of drop-off in any other state – not Pennsylvania, not Michigan, not

North Carolina. Turnout overall may have decreased somewhat from Presidential levels, in either 2016 or 2020, but that decline was modest and roughly equal on both sides, except in New York. So the New York State Democratic Party has some serious soul-searching to do over the next two years.

As I write this, former President Trump has announced his candidacy for 2024, and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy has won an overwhelming majority within his caucus to be the next

Speaker. Unfortunately for McCarthy, several GOP right-wingers have already pretty much announced they will not vote for McCarthy on the House floor, irrespective of the caucus vote. If just five of the crazies abstain (and 31 members voted against McCarthy in that secret ballot vote), that is enough to deadlock the House. According to House rules, the very first order of business, even before members are sworn in, is the election

of a Speaker. No other business can be conducted until someone wins the Speakership with a majority of the votes cast on a roll-call ballot (which is done manually, and not by electronic voting, according to House tradition). That means the budget, the debt ceiling, the continuing resolution to keep the Government running, all must wait until a Speaker is chosen.

Back sometime in the late 1800's, it took one House until late February to choose a Speaker. So Kevin McCarthy is not home free yet, not by a long shot.

By comparison, Sen. Schumer is merely concerned with whether he can pad his majority to 51 instead of just 50 seats. That extra seat is actually a very big deal. It would mean Dems could have a majority on every committee, rather than having equal numbers of Dems and Reps on every



committee and giving the Reps endless opportunities to gum up the works. Without the possibility of regaining control of the Senate, the case for Herschel Walker probably gets a whole lot weaker, but it will be a huge challenge for both parties to gin up their voters to turn out, just a week and a half after Thanksgiving, for yet another run-off election.

On the other hand, Georgia voters may be used to this already. They determined control of the US Senate after the 2020 election, and maybe they want to weigh in yet again. The GOP controlled state government changed their state laws to move the run-off up from January to early December. Among other things, that eliminates the opportunity for any additional voter registration, since it is within their 30-day window. And GOP pols cynically calculated that it would be easier to get the GOP base voters out again than for the Democrats to rouse our base. This year, though, there is at least a good chance it will work the other way around, and Rev. Warnock's margin will increase, as he did in 2020.

There is, though, one conclusion that has emerged crystal clear from the election – voters support reproductive choice. From big wins in Michigan to smaller, but decisive, wins in red states like Kentucky and Montana, voters across the country clearly have told political leaders to back off and let women control their own lives. Democrats, buoyed by the success in Michigan, in particular, where pro-choice voters powered Democratic wins up and down the ballot, will be trying to put similar amendments of many state ballots in 2024. More than saving democracy, more than repudiating former President Trump, more than tribal loyalty, choice seems to be the most effective issue in motivating and energizing both Democratic and independent voters. As well it should be.

~ Jon Fuhrman

Act Endorsements Prevail in Local and State Races!



While Democrats across the nation rejoice in flattening the “red wave” on November 8th, ACT also had a very good election locally on almost every front. Although returns are not final, it is clear that nearly all candidates and measures we endorsed were victorious. Here's a summary.

Local ballot measures: ACT endorsed Pasadena Measure L (Libraries) and Measure PCC (PCC Bond) both of which won. We also endorsed Measure H (Rent Control), which is leading with 52% of the vote.

PUSD School Board: All four endorsed candidates won (Kenne, Richardson-Bailey, McKenzie and Velazquez).

Our candidate for LA County Sheriff (Robert Luna) defeated the incumbent (Alex Villanueva) and five of six endorsed candidates for Superior Court Judge are winning: Baron, Hancock, Lyons, Hammond and Hare. Only Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes is trailing.

Our local legislators were all re-elected (Chris Holden, Judy Chu, Adam Schiff). And, statewide, where our endorsement is not always decisive ☺, the entire Democratic ticket was victorious, and the Justices we supported for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals were all confirmed.

Finally, our position prevailed on 6 of 6 statewide ballot measures*: Yes on 1 (freedom of choice), No on 27 (statewide sports gambling), Yes on 28 (arts and music in schools), No on 29 (regulating dialysis clinics) and 30 (taxing high incomes to pay for conversion to electric vehicles), and Yes on 31 (forbidding sale of flavored vapes).

*We made no recommendation on the 7th measure, Prop. 26, which was soundly defeated. All in all, a great night!

~ Fred Register

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



Dear ACT Friends,

Like many of you, I'm ecstatic about holding on to the Senate and our overperformance in the House. It looks like whatever happens there, Kevin McCarty's leadership prospects are certainly weakened and perhaps even done. There is even a chance of Democrats keeping control in congress as well. Wouldn't that be amazing?

In California, Democrats did well, as expected. In addition to our statewide success and the overwhelming support for abortion rights, SD 38 in North San Diego County flipped red to blue. Last weekend, I walked a precinct and was feeling very positive about our Senate ground campaign.

The State Senate and Assembly reconvene on December 5 for the swearing-in of new members, the adoption of house rules, and the selection of leadership. The assembly chose a new speaker effective July 1. In the Senate, ProTem Toni Atkins has done an exceptional job guiding us for the past four years and will continue leading our caucus during this next session.

I am preparing to introduce an important gun control measure on our first day and working closely with the Attorney General and Governor to push it through. The bill will



align California's concealed carry permitting process with the recent Supreme Court decision. It's imperative that we pass this necessary regulation to protect Californians from a non-uniform and completely discretionary process in the hands of county sheriffs throughout the state.

I will also be reintroducing mental and behavioral health measures to help our school children and once will again advocate for universal dyslexia screening in elementary schools. California is one of only twelve states that does not screen every child for dyslexia.

As I'm heading into my final two years in the Senate, I am grateful for the support I received from ACT, first during my Assembly run and then helping me win the Senate seat. Ever since Judy Boggs recruited me to be an ACT member in 1998, before my first city council campaign, I have been welcomed and supported. ACT has been a big part of my political life, and I deeply appreciate the friendships developed over the two decades of involvement.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone over the holidays. Please mark your calendars for my Annual Holiday Party. It's back on the schedule for December 11 from 1 pm -4 pm on Artsakh Street in Glendale. As is the tradition, bring your favorite children's book, and I'll bring the cheer, food, and entertainment.

Warmest and Best,

~ Anthony

Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which stretches along the 210 Freeway from Sunland/Tujunga to Upland. He proudly represents the Rose Bowl, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park, Warner Brothers, Disney, Caltech and the Claremont Colleges.

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

As we set our clocks back for daylight savings, we have had a fruitful October with budget victories throughout the district, community events, and legislative updates to city councils within Assembly District 41.

I am pleased to announce the Annual Young Legislators Program applications are open now until December 7, 2022. This an exclusive front row seat to the political and public policy arena and helps students learn to become an effective community advocates and leaders. The program kicks off January 2023 and requires no cost to participate and a free trip to the State Capitol.

When we look at connecting our foothill communities, we are at a critical point in time when LA Metro can connect vital funding made available to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) in this year's state budget with the Metro Foothill Gold Line project, which is shovel-ready, already environmentally approved and designed, and is poised to connect the Metropolitan Los Angeles Region to the Inland Empire. In 1998, then State Senator Adam Schiff authored SB 1847 that established the Pasadena Metro Blue Line Construction Authority. At the time, I was then the Mayor of Pasadena, and had served on the Pasadena Light Rail Alignment Task Force in 1985 championing the effort to bring this essential regional transportation solution to Pasadena, the San Gabriel Valley, and beyond. The Gold Line is a vital light rail project that is already completed to Azusa, funded to Pomona, and authorized by state statute to receive funds to be completed to the City of Montclair. I

am optimistic that the billions that will come to California can indirectly help secure funding to extend the Gold Line to Claremont and Montclair. Extending the Gold Line remains a top priority for me and many of my colleagues in the San Gabriel Valley. The sooner we can complete the Gold Line extension, the sooner we can clean our air, curb climate pollution, and relieve traffic congestion in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Country.

As you may know, the Governor signed AB 257, a bill that was brought to me by the many voices of the fast food workers. Once this legislation goes into effect, it will have an immediate impact on elevating the voice of the fast food worker, by giving them a seat at the table when determining workplace standards that directly impact them. AB 257 has become the first worker protection bill in the nation because doing nothing was, and is, not an option. I remain hopeful the opposition to this bill will give it a chance to work.

Next, in the district, I am looking forward to hosting two turkey giveaways this year, one on the west end of my district in partnership with Pasadena Jaycees and Friends In Deed and the other on the east end of my district with in partnership with the City of Claremont, Inland Hope Valley Partners and UFCW Local 1428.

While we celebrate what we have been able to accomplish together this year, I look forward to serving you and Assembly District 41 in this new legislative session. I would like to express my gratitude for your support and re-electing me as your State Assemblymember for 2022-2024.

As the seasons change and holidays rapidly approaching, please remember to be kind to one another and to our unhoused community members.

I look forward to keeping you up to date and welcome you reaching out to my office.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

Pasadena Rent Stabilization

Pasadena's Measure H, an initiative that looks to institute rent control in the city, has been one of the tighter races occurring in the county this election, but the gap in favor of Measure H continued to grow in recent days.

More than 1,500 votes separated "yes" and "no" on Measure H as the race stood 19,057 yes to 17,515 no as of 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 12. (In percentage terms, the "yes" vote stood at 52.11% to 47.89 "no.")



Write Postcards to Keep the US Senate BLUE!



You, and other local volunteers, wrote over 60,000 postcards to elect Democrats on November 8. We sincerely thank you for your important effort but... Rev. Raphael Warnock MUST win the December 6 Georgia Runoff! Contact us to order as many Vote postcards as you, or your group, can complete and mail by November 26.

Georgia's December 6 Runoff Election determines how we keep the Senate, and we need all hands on postcards!

~ Karen Rowinsky,
karen@karenrowinsky.com - 626-483-1135

~ Katie Dempster,
kdejic@earthlink.net - 323-363-2602



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.

My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



As I begin this column it's anticipated that control of the Senate next year will come down to a runoff election in Georgia on December 6, which happens to be my birthday and I'm hoping for a happy one. The irony of the situation is palpable. Republicans bill themselves as the party of family values as they, in their intolerant way, are anti anything supportive of those who are gay, lesbian or trans-sexual and they want to take away the right of a woman to have control of her own body. The reasoning for these positions is Christianity as it's extolled by the Evangelical and Catholic Churches. It's important to note most of Judaism and many, many Protestant sects don't share those intolerant views. On top of all this is the concept that we separate Church and State.

And here's the irony, the two candidates are a man of God and his opponent who has impregnated many Georgians and assisted them in procuring abortions which he ostensibly opposes. I know that you're aware of which is which in regard to the party each represents, but then again, the Evangelical Church has embraced Trump as the 2nd coming of Christ and we're aware of how Trump treats women.

An additional observation on the runoff, I understand that over a 3-week period there's an expectation that 200 million dollars will be spent on Georgia television advertising. And if you were to add the 100 million dollars being spent by a man wanting to become the mayor of Los Angeles, one has to wonder how many homeless shelters could be built for almost a third of a billion dollars.



As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS has been awarded additional funding over the next 10 years. The funding will be used to beef up staffing. Early in my 32-year career with the IRS I was a tax auditor and we learned that for every additional dollar of funding received by the IRS, 7 dollars are returned to the treasury. Only a small portion of that \$7 comes from audits and collection. Most of it comes from taxpayers who are worried about being audited. Samuel Johnson said, "Nothing concentrates the mind like a hanging at dawn."

In 1972 the IRS workforce had a little over 100 thousand employees and the U.S. population was just over 200 million. Today there are only 87 thousand employees with a U.S. population that exceeds 330 million. Back then the chances of being audited were about 1 in 50, whereas today it's about 1 in 200. Back in the 70's it seemed like everyone knew someone who had been audited, whereas today it seems like you could and should take a chance on cheating because the odds are you won't be audited.

It's estimated that this year due to 'non-compliance', which is the terminology the IRS uses instead of cheating, the treasury will be shorted about 200 billion dollars. The national debt stands at about 31 trillion dollars but if every 1040 return ever, had been honestly filed there would be absolutely no debt. Remember a large portion of the debt is interest on the debt and like interest earned, which is compounded, that which has to be paid also is compounded.

Republicans are spreading falsehoods about how the extra funding will be used. First of all, they're saying that it will be used to weaponize the workforce which is absurd and 2nd they're telling voters that they will be audited, and this is mostly untrue. The money will be used for audits but not for the typical taxpayer who receives a W2 and increasingly takes the standard deduction rather

than itemizing, as the standard deduction has been raised to a point where it more and more exceeds what most taxpayers have in itemized deductions.

Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber, when asked why he robbed banks supposedly responded, "because that's where the money is". The IRS will be auditing businesses, schedule Cs on the 1040's, 1065 partnership returns and 1120 corporate returns. Why? because that's where the money is. Republicans represent business interests and see this not as rectifying tax returns, but as raising taxes. And while padding expenses and under reporting income is always examined there are other more subtle means of manipulating the bottom line, like accounts receivable and various means of reporting inventory. These audits won't be handled by Tax Auditors but rather by Revenue Agents who have accounting degrees. So if your children are going to college soon or are already there but haven't declared a major, you might suggest the field of accounting. I can vouch that the IRS is an excellent employer, and many young people get their CPA accreditations there and leave for highly lucrative accounting careers.



For the handful of you who are still reading this, you may be aware that my column did not appear last month for the first time since I've been writing it. One year ago, I had type 2 diabetes which had been diagnosed about 30 years prior and was controlled by oral medication and a semi careful monitoring of my diet which meant reducing my sugar intake. The condition was exacerbated by and possibly caused by the fact that I was obese. Also, one year ago I had prostate cancer, but it had not been diagnosed at that time and was diagnosed just 2 months ago. There are two types of prostate cancer, a slow growth wait-and-see type and a more aggressive type. I had the more aggressive type and was offered two treat-

ment options: radiation and surgery. I opted for surgery and last month had my prostate and two lymph nodes, one from each side of the prostate removed hence no column. The pathology report came back showing that the now excised prostate had both types of cancer, but the lymph nodes were cancer free which ostensibly means that the cancer had not spread. I've now lost 80 pounds by walking and modifying my diet. I walk 100 miles a week and have cut out 100% of my sugar intake. As of today, I am both diabetes and cancer free but will have to take blood tests for the rest of my life as I am susceptible to a recurrence of either.

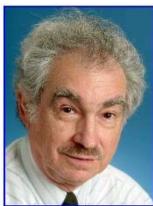
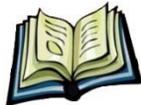
I've been overwhelmed by the good wishes, prayers and offers of help I've received from friends and acquaintances who I now treasure as friends. As prostate cancer runs in families, I've reached out to my brother who I had been estranged from for several years and we now have repaired our relationship. Thanksgiving is next week, and I have a lot to be grateful for. Wishing all of you a happy Thanksgiving!

~ Ron out



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“Mr. Putin Operative in the Kremlin” by Fiona Hill and Clifford Gaddy

Yegor Gaidar, who was a top aide and Prime Minister under President Yeltsin, opens his memoir, *Collapse of an Empire: Lessons for Modern Russia*, with this observation: “We are not the first to suffer post-empire nostalgia, which permeates the Russian consciousness today. It has occurred in history more than once. The Soviet Union was not the first empire to collapse in the

twentieth century, but it was the last. Not a single state formation that called itself an empire at the start of the twentieth century remains. ... Today’s proponents of the restoration of the empire appeal to the legacy of tsarist Russia through the period of Soviet History to the present time.”

Though Gaidar wrote this in 2007, this observation captures the deep motivation for President Vladimir Putin in his invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014 and invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022. Indeed, this nostalgia for empire has periodically emerged throughout Russian History. Fiona Hill and Clifford Gaddy chronicle this nostalgia, its historic manifestations, and its emergence (and manipulation) in the regime of Putin, as well as Mr. Putin’s background, his youth, career in the KGB, as Vice Mayor of Leningrad, and emergence in the regime of President Yeltsin as Prime Minister, then as President of the Russian Federation.

This nostalgia for empire refers back to the time of Count Sergei Uvarov who, as minister of education under Tsar Nicholas I, in 1833 developed what later became known as the Uvarov doctrine, to rally teachers throughout the Russian Empire to the imperial cause – in response to the Decembrist revolt of 1825 and an uprising in Poland (then controlled by Russia) in 1830. Uvarov’s approach was to rally teachers in the Empire around the three principles that he asserted defined the Russian Idea – Russian Orthodox religion, the tsarist regime, and nationalism. This “trinity of the Russian Idea” was periodically appealed to in times of troubles: in the early 1900s to rally support for the Romanoff dynasty and Tsar Nicholas II; and by the nationalists in the 1990s after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This nostalgia for the Russian Empire was heightened by Putin to enhance his vision of restoring Russia as a world power and to restore the Russian empire. Toward this end, Putin formed the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, partly to counter the European Union, but also to reintegrate the economies that had once been part of the USSR, and to reduce the vulnerability of the Russian economy that was recovering from the economic chaos of the breakup of the USSR and Yeltsin's (and Gaidar's) shock market reforms.

Putin saw Ukraine as an indivisible part of Russia, as it was under the tsars and the Soviet Union; and Ukraine was seen as essential for the functioning of the EAEU. When Ukraine's president Yanukovich prepared to sign an affiliation agreement with the EU, Putin found this unacceptable and urged Ukraine to join the Eurasian Economic Union. Yanukovich's acquisition to Putin, and pulling back from the EU affiliation, led to the Maidan demonstrations, resulting in Yanukovich fleeing the country (watch for next month's review). Within a week, Russia invaded Crimea, held a snap referendum there, and annexed Crimea. The manifestation of nostalgia for restoring the Russian empire was Putin's motivation.

Ukraine was not even a country, Putin had said. Quoting from Hill/Gaddy, "In his speeches, Putin spoke of Crimea as a territory that is filled with places that are holy for Russia. Putin and the Russian Orthodox patriarch repeatedly underscored the idea of *svyataya Rus'* (Святая Русь), or 'Holy Russia', in speeches about the annexation of Crimea." As a piece of political theater, Putin convened the Russian Duma for a session in Yalta. Beyond the symbolism of conveying that Yalta is now part of Russia, there was the comparison to the Yalta Conference in February, 1945 between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt, in which the lines between East and West were drawn (a great victory for Stalin). As Hill/Gaddy put it: "The 1945 Yalta Conference had outlined respective spheres of influence for the wartime allies [for post-war Europe]. Now Putin was

proposing a similar settlement with the West. ... As he laid out in his speech in Yalta, Putin seeks a 'New Yalta' with the West. As he defines Russia's sphere of influence in this new arrangement, that sphere extends to all the space in Europe and Eurasia that once fell within the boundaries of the [tsarist] Russian Empire and the USSR."

~ Robert V. Frampton

Next Month: "Ukraine's Maidan, Russia's War: A Chronicle and Analysis of the Revolution of Dignity", by Mychailo Wynnyckyj. This is Volume 1 of "Ukrainian Voices". The author is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy of the National University. He provides a first-hand account of the events unfolding in 2013-14 in Ukraine and especially at Maidan (Independence) Square, which saw the abdication and fleeing of President Yanukovich, the formation of a provisional government, and then, the next week, the Russian invasion of Crimea. This book has the same on-the-scene urgency as did John Reed's "Ten Days that Shook the World."



December Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for copy for the December Phoenix will be Monday, December 12. Send items for publication to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net and Sally Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



ACTpasadena.org

Have you checked our website recently? You can always find the current *Phoenix* there, plus a *Phoenix* archive. Please share items of interest and online calendar items with website manager Bruce Wright.



Reach him at: brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



Calendar

December 6 Georgia Run-off election:
Win big, Sen. Raphael Warnock!

December 8 Thursday Traditional Holiday Potluck and
ACT & ADC meetings at HMRI,

6:30 p.m. 686 S. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena.
Enter parking lot from S. Raymond Ave. The Speaker will be announced later. Program 8 pm.

Dec. 12 Monday **Phoenix** deadline.

January 23 Monday UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom
(TBD). 5:30 p.m.

Please Pay Up for 2022!

Pay Your 2022 Dues Now and You Will Be Paid Up for 2023, Too!

A **RED ✓** on your address label on this *Phoenix* tells you we are still looking for your 2022 membership dues for ACT and/or ADC. **If you pay up now, you will be paying your 2023 dues at the same time! What a deal!!** Send your check with the form below or renew online at our website.

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

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

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| <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)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$85 | Double Sustaining |
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- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
- \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

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