



**The Official Publication of ACT**

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



## Join us for a Garden Party

### Celebrating ACT's 50th Anniversary

Saturday, September 23rd  
2:00-5:00 PM

At the historic Blacker House  
1177 Hillcrest Avenue, Pasadena

#### Special Guest:

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA**

Food | Drink | Music | Politics | Good times

#### Distinguished Service Honorees:

Sally Beer

Jonathan Fuhrman

Chuck Hains

Ralph Hurtado

There's still time to help sponsor this event. Go to [actpasadena/50th.html](http://actpasadena/50th.html)

We can still use help staffing the event. To volunteer, email: [fred.register@charter.net](mailto:fred.register@charter.net)

Attorney General Bonta will be speaking earlier than usual (before 3:00).

See more info on page twelve



The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) **BIG Oktoberfest Fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 22, 2-4 p.m. SAVE-THE-DATE!!** It will be at the Armenian Cultural Center, 740 E. Washington Boulevard, Pasadena.



## Our October Meeting



The next meeting of the ACT Steering Committee and the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club will be on Thursday, October 5 via Zoom. The program will include a debriefing on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

As is our practice with our in-person meetings, Zoom socializing will also begin at 7 p.m., with the program and meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

Ann Hickambottom is the scheduled presiding chair for ACT and Tim Wendler will chair for the Arroyo Democratic Club. All members are welcome and urged to join in.

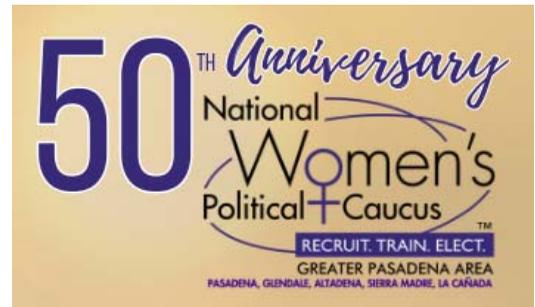
## Research Committee Calendar

Research Committee Co-Chairs Marilee Marshall and Tim Wendler have announced that the Research Committee will meet via Zoom to do endorsement interviews for upcoming races. Dates are as follows:

October 28, Saturday: Congress – 30<sup>th</sup> CD

November 4, Saturday: State Senate – 25<sup>th</sup> SD; Assembly – 41<sup>st</sup> AD

Other races including Supervisor and District Attorney schedules to be determined.



A fundraiser to benefit the National Women's Political Caucus Greater Pasadena Area Political Action Committee

Friday September 29th, 5:30-7:30pm

Private residence in Pasadena, CA

Featuring local elected leaders and awards presentation.

Meet local elected officials and support women running for local office while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and soft drinks in a relaxed outdoor setting. It's a gorgeous fall Friday with the National Women's Political Caucus!

Location information will be provided to ticket holders.

See: <https://www.nwpcgpa.org/2023-fundraiser>

## From an ACT Founding Member:

Dear ACT Friends,

ACT member Laura Treister shared with me the recent ACT newsletter. Thank you for including a tribute to my wife of 66 years, Virginia Salley. Although we left Altadena three decades ago, our hearts remained with our many friends in Pasadena/Altadena, but especially those in ACT.

50 years! Congratulations for the work you have done over those years. One of my most proud claims is to have been among the founders. I would so like to be with you, but my 89-year-old body prohibits it. My memory of those initial days and such founders as Fred, Pat (Bond) and Judy (Boggs) is sharp. I am pleased to see Jon, Chuck and Sally are still making their substantial contributions. I think Jon is one of the finest political commentators around. Chuck and Sally put together the best newsletter.

My thoughts will be with you at your well-deserved celebration. May you continue to do your good work for years to come.

Fondly,

~ Bob Salley



## Pasadena Central Library Earthquake Retrofit Meeting

A public meeting about the earthquake retrofit and building repairs to Pasadena's Central Library is scheduled for Thursday, September 21 at 6 p.m. at the Jackie Robinson Park Recreation Center. Members are urged to attend this meeting and to keep informed about the process. (On August 21 the City Council approved the staff's recommendation to approve the concrete shear wall earthquake retrofit approach.)

## Critical Postcarding Job!

As you may know, **this November, Ohio voters will be voting on an amendment to enshrine abortion protections in their state constitution.** Experts believe a majority of Ohioans support protecting abortion rights with this amendment. We can help them get the info they need to make their voices heard!

We have postcards ready to write to encourage likely Democrats to register to vote. We also have postcards to already registered Ohio Democrats who wish to vote by mail. In Ohio, voters must request an absentee ballot for each election.

We'll supply you with the postcards and addresses that you can get done before the **October 1 mailing deadline.**

Call or email us: ~ Karen Rowinsky  
[karen@karenrowinsky.com](mailto:karen@karenrowinsky.com) - 626-483-1135

~ Katie Dempster  
[kdcjic@earthlink.net](mailto:kdcjic@earthlink.net) - 323-363-2602



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Donald Payne, Pasadena  
Irv Tons, Duarte

## Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Dick Smoak & Ferol Mennen

## Special Thanks to Patrons

Helen & Bob Smith



## Coming Soon



A big redesign of our webpage is underway. A new platform! A new look! A new just about everything! (Don't worry, we are keeping the good stuff.) We will keep you informed.



## *Political Notes*

by Jon Fuhrman

Monday, September 12.

Over the last month, the news on the indictment front has been almost uniformly bad for our former President. Motions to sever their trials by several co-defendants have been denied. Motions to move the trials of several co-defendants to the Federal court system, where they might draw a better jury pool, have been denied. A co-defendant in the Mar-a-Lago case is apparently turning state's evidence and cutting a deal. Slowly but surely, the noose is tightening, no matter how much the former President rants and raves on Truth Social. The wheels of justice may be grinding slowly, but they are grinding and pressing hard on the former President.

Meanwhile, as developments in the various court cases slowly unfold, the November 2023 election is just seven weeks away. There are relatively few things on the ballot nationwide, but three things in particular deserve attention and could be bellwethers for 2024.

In Kentucky, the Democratic incumbent Governor, Andy Beshear, is up for re-election to a second four-year term. It goes without saying that Kentucky is pretty red territory, and the Republican candidate, State Attorney-General David Cameron (who is, by the way, African-American and a close protégé of Mitch McConnell) should normally have a huge advantage. But surprisingly, it seems that Beshear has over a 60% approval rating. He's got a very moderate, centrist

record, and has pretty much stayed out of the national limelight and away from a strong party identification, though he doesn't shy away from being a Democrat. Cameron is doing his best to "nationalize" the election and make it a proxy for the Presidential race, but Kentucky voters don't seem to be buying that. My guess is that Beshear will win re-election. Should he lose, the GOP will clearly tout this as evidence of voters' rejection of the Biden Administration and the Democratic brand. And should he win, as I think he will, we'll undoubtedly do the opposite. But the reality is that if Beshear defies political gravity and wins a second term, it will be more about him and his success in presenting a moderate image and a locally focused campaign, and a long family history in Kentucky politics (his Dad was Governor for 8 years, from 2007 – 2015). It won't really say much about the chances of Democrats in 2024.

In contrast to that election, two neighboring states, Ohio and Virginia, have elections that may well tell us a lot about Democratic chances in 2024, and I'm really optimistic about both.

In Ohio, there is a state-wide ballot measure to enshrine reproductive choice as a Constitutional right in the Ohio State Constitution. Advocates gathered over 700,000 signatures to get the measure on the ballot. Republicans were so concerned that this might pass that they put a measure up in an August special election to require 60%, instead of 50%, majorities to enact future Constitutional amendments. It was a desperate attempt to block this reproductive choice amendment, but that Hail Mary pass was rejected by voters by 55%. So, in November, Ohio voters can, with a simple majority vote, amend their State Constitution to protect reproductive rights on a broad scale and thereby nullify existing Ohio laws that put very strict limits on the availability of abortions within the state.

The GOP leadership in the state is at the forefront

of the fight against this measure. And Ohio has gone for GOP Presidential candidates in the last two elections, fairly decisively, and elected GOP Senator JD Vance in 2022. So, a win for the pro-choice side in this state will be pretty significant, particularly combined with the win in the August special election. It will go a long way to supporting the thesis that the Dobbs decision has fundamentally changed the electoral landscape, and, arguably, even put Ohio in play as a battleground state in the 2024 Presidential race.

In Virginia, the entire State Legislature (which they call their General Assembly) is up for election. The legislature is narrowly split in both houses, with Democrats controlling the 50-seat State Senate by 2 votes, and Republicans controlling the 100-seat House of Delegates by four votes. With Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin pushing a disguised, but fairly hard-core, right-wing agenda, the Democrat's control of the State Senate has been the only thing keeping abortion legal in Virginia and keeping rational gun control legislation on the books. The elections for both Houses could go either way, but I'm guessing Dems will retain, and possibly expand, their majority in the Senate and take back control of the House of Delegates, based primarily upon voters' concerns about Dobbs. Youngkin has been pushing a "consensus" 15-week ban on abortion, with exceptions for rape, incest and the health of the mother. But my guess is that most voters will see through that, in part thanks to the innumerable GOP leaders in one state or another who are pushing for 6-week bans with no exceptions, or even a simple outright ban with no exceptions whatsoever.

Meanwhile, in the U.S. House, Speaker McCarthy will be facing a pretty difficult three-week

session. With funding for the federal government set to expire on October 1<sup>st</sup>, he recognizes that the clock has run out on passing the twelve individual funding bills for various parts of the government, and the only remaining option is to pass a continuing resolution – or shut down all non-essential governmental services. The cuckoo-crazy wing of the Freedom Caucus has made impossible demands, including that the House vote to authorize an impeachment inquiry on President Biden. Yet the votes are likely not there – even a Freedom Caucus member like GOP Representative Ken Buck calls the move "absurd", noting the total lack of any evidence. Of course, minor details like that seem not to slow down the crazy caucus.



Complicating McCarthy's dilemma is the Senate's strongly bipartisan approval of all twelve appropriations measures at the committee level, setting them up for approval by the full Senate in the next few weeks. Minority Leader McConnell seems entirely uninterested in helping McCarthy thread the needle, and the Senate will undoubtedly push for the approval of funding bills keeping spending at 2023 levels – per the agreement the

speaker himself negotiated. The House crazy caucus wants to cut that funding further as well as add a plethora of riders advancing their various social causes. None of that is acceptable to the President or the Senate or House Democrats, and there seem to be quite a few House GOP members who are off the reservation as well.

In these games of chicken, the crazier side always has an advantage. The extremist House members would be perfectly happy to shut down the government; their nihilist philosophy is that the government is essentially evil, and shutting it down is perhaps the optimal outcome. But even Speaker McCarthy realizes the political blow-

back would be deeply negative for the GOP. So he will try either to win over the crazy caucus with some new promises of future power, or he'll sacrifice them and turn to the Democrats to find a bipartisan way out of this morass. The crazy caucus are clearly threatening a "motion to vacate" – forcing a vote to oust the Speaker – if McCarthy does that, but that strategy presumes that nearly every Democrat would vote to oust the Speaker. This month may finally be the time that the Speaker finds his long-lost spine and calls their bluff.

~ Jon Fuhrman



### How I Sued Henry Kissinger for Sex Discrimination and Won!

*In this article, Marguerite Cooper tells about her successful work enlarging the role and status of women diplomats fifty some years ago.*



"How I Sued Henry Kissinger for Sex Discrimination and Won!" was the title that I gave to a speech before a local Democratic club a decade or so ago. Actually, the class action suit was filed jointly with co-plaintiff Alison Palmer and with seven other women Foreign Service officers in 1977 against the secretary of state. At that time, women were discriminated against in hiring, were restricted in their assignments, slow in their promotions, **were required to resign on marriage** and couldn't have dependents.

Fifty years ago was just the beginning of equal rights for women who had not been included in U.S. government equal employment opportunity programs. Kennedy started the role with his Commission on the Status of Women, then it was voted into law as part of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which was extended to the federal workforce in 1967.

When I joined the Foreign Service in 1956,

women made up only 4.6% of the officer corps, 1% of its senior ranks, with only one career woman ambassador. On my first day at State, I was informed that I couldn't be assigned to Moscow—single officers could be compromised. Later, couldn't study Arabic for Middle East assignments or apply for a political position in Japan because women were "not accepted."

By the 1970s, the ferment of the "women's liberation movement" was in full swing. Women and men employees in the State Department, AID and USIA began meeting over lunch, organized themselves as the Women's Action Organization (WAO) growing to a force of over 1000. I was among WAO's nine founders to receive the President's Management Improvement award. For removing the ban on marriage!

Women's empowerment was gradually extended through a combination of employee pressure, government programs, and the class action suit built on statistical data of disparate impact. This last took 34 years to finally outlaw a host of discriminatory practices. Ironically, by that time, the secretary was Hillary Clinton. Today, women are 40% of the foreign service officers, and 35% of the senior ranks. I'm proud to see that our ambassadors to Moscow and Kyiv are women. But, there is still some way to go for the equality we strive for. For more information, see my article "Through the Rear View Mirror" in the July-August Foreign Service Journal. ([fsj@afsa.org](mailto:fsj@afsa.org)).

~ Marguerite Cooper



**From  
25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senator  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear ACT members,

Last week, the legislature passed AB 28, a historic gun safety bill that enacts an 11% excise tax on firearms and ammunition sold in California. The proceeds generated from the tax will be used on very successful violence prevention programs and school-based behavioral health efforts. I am proud to be a principal co-author of the bill and to have been the Senate floor jockey. That means it was my responsibility to present the bill to my colleagues and to have helped garner the necessary 27 votes needed for passage. Since the bill enacted an excise tax, it required a 2/3rds majority. What made things interesting this year was the fact that the bill had failed several times to garner the necessary votes in the past.

Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel was the lead author of AB 28 and did an excellent job of shepherding it through both houses of the legislature. While we were able to fund several important gun violence prevention efforts during the budget surplus, it seemed prudent to lock in a long-term and stable funding source created by the bill. And, at a time when gun manufacturers and the gun industry are having record profits, it is appropriate for the legislature to require that industry to step up and pay for the impacts of the proliferation of guns on our society.

This week, SB 2 will be up for a vote on the Assembly floor. I've been working closely with Governor Newsom and Attorney General Bonta for the past year to enact California's court-compliant rules for concealed carry permits and

expand the list of prohibited places one can carry a firearm. It is California's response to the Supreme Court ruling striking down New York's concealed carry permitting system. I am optimistic that we will have the necessary 41 votes needed to pass the Assembly.

It's our last week of session, and we have about 1,000 bills to vote on. It will be a wild, eventful, and substantive last four days. I have about 20 bills ready for votes on the Assembly floor dealing with mental health training, help for the Rose Bowl, and protections from harassment for school employees who follow state law.

I am also the lead author of SB 799, which seeks to make striking workers eligible for unemployment benefits. Like AB 28, efforts to pass this law in California have failed in the past. I'm optimistic that during the "hot labor summer," we will have a more favorable outcome, and I'll be sending the bill to the governor's desk for a signature.

Stay tuned,

~ 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  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
Assemblymember  
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We are back in session and bills are moving! We kicked off the month of September with a heavy push for my bill, AB 280: The Mandela Act. I was pleased to have the support of my colleagues as we launched a press conference at the Capitol that included a solitary cell installation on the grounds. It was truly a moment for deep reflection, compassion, and motivation to keep fighting. AB 280 would allow California to join other states including New York and Colorado in ending solitary confinement for specific populations, and join the international community in recognizing that prolonged solitary confinement constitutes torture.

August was a busy month and we ended it by exploring new possibilities and innovations in transportation and connectivity. I held the Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions along with Assemblymembers Juan Carrillo and Pilar Schiavo in the Antelope Valley. Together we engaged in discussions with some of the region's most impactful transportation agencies and organizations to form solutions for the future that are clean energy conscious, safe, and economically stimulating. This was an open meeting that generated further discussion and insightful questions from the public. As a longstanding champion of transportation expansion, I can say I feel good about where we are headed.

Supporting our workers is supporting our state, our economy, and most importantly our future. I recently filled the Capitol with over 300 fast food workers to rally behind worker's rights along

with my colleague Assemblymember Miguel Santiago. Every worker deserves an environment that is safe and sustaining and it is my intention that we ensure that there is legislation that supports this standard.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to join ACT for your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the end of this month. Thank you for 50 years of progressive activism and dedication to the Pasadena area. For updates on my administration follow my accounts at [@asmchrisholden](#) on Instagram and [@chrisholdennews](#) on twitter.

I look forward to keeping you up to date in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

*Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at:*

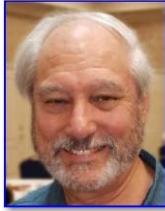
[www.asm.ca.gov/Holden](http://www.asm.ca.gov/Holden)



**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



I'm writing this column on the date which is the deadline for articles. I had planned to take a break and had already sent an email to Sally and Chuck begging off any submission this month when, this morning a breaking news report got me excited to write my column.

Governor Newsom had been on record as saying if Senator Feinstein was not able to fulfill her term, he would be appointing an African American female to cover the vacancy. As everyone knows, the Democrats hold the slimmest of majorities in the Senate and that appointment would have to be made instantaneously so as to maintain party control.

We're currently enmeshed in a hotly contested Senate race with three of the finest House Representatives with which any state could be endowed: Barbara Lee, Katie Porter and Adam Schiff. While I have a definite preference and order of how I would rate them, until now I have refused to divulge any indication of that preference because I would be thrilled to have any of the three represent me. The only thing that I had believed would have budged me from that protocol would be to eliminate any of the three who would have come out negative against one or both of their Democratic rivals, and to date none has, and I believe none will. I am breaking with my pledge for different reason.

Yesterday on Meet the Press, Governor Newsom reiterated his pledge to appoint an African American female to the Senate should the need arise. However, he stated that this would be an interim appointment as he didn't think it wise to involve

himself in the ongoing primary contest between the three Democratic candidates who have already worked their tails off. This is the exact same position I've taken and had hoped he would do. I understand there is a poll that shows the vast majority of California Democrats would rather he get behind one of the candidates and since only one of the three is an African American female, that would immensely favor Congresswoman Lee as it would make her the incumbent.

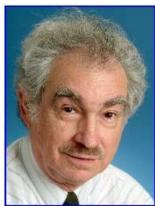
In response to the Governor's statement Congresswoman Lee said that she found that the Governor would only appoint an African American Woman on a temporary basis to be insulting. It was like he was only checking off a box of things to do, but not giving that person a chance to develop representation for an underserved constituency. I wish that rather than calling the statement "insulting" she had used the word "disappointing".

While I don't believe my endorsement should carry any more weight than any other member of ACT/ADC I'm prepared to narrow my choice in the Senate race. I believe that if in the wisdom of the California electorate Barbara Lee would be our next U.S. Senator, she would provide outstanding representation. That being said, she was my third choice having nothing to do with either race or gender, but rather age. If elected, her six-year Senate term would take her to age 84, and while that may or may not mean she would be effective it has two disadvantages. First, Senators accrue more influence based on seniority and the odds of her seeking reelection after a first term are much lower than for either of her opponents. Second, for a similar reason, I believe the other two candidates could possibly have an opportunity for even higher office and I think that they are both great. As to which of those two candidates I prefer, that will have to wait for another day.

~ Ron Garber

## Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



**“Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920s”**, by Fredrick Lewis Allen.

**“The Teapot Dome Scandal: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Steal the Country”**, by Laton McCartney.

**“Dark Side of Fortune: Triumph and Scandal in the Life of Oil Tycoon Edward L. Doheny”**, by Margaret Leslie Davis.

It has been remarked repeatedly in commentaries how the corruption and fraud of the Trump Administration is unprecedented in our nation’s history. This is, sadly, untrue. The precedent is the administration of William G. Harding of Ohio. The fraud and corruption of the Harding Administration began even at his nominating convention.

*Only Yesterday*, by Fredrick Lewis Allen, was the first book assigned to my Freshman English Class to read at the University of Texas. I reread it for this review because of its succinct summary, told with dry wit, of the scandals of the Warren G. Harding administration, including the Naval Oil Preserves: the Teapot Dome reserve in Wyoming, and the Buena Vista Reserve and the Elk Hills Reserve in Kern County, California. It places this in the larger milieu of the post-war era of bootlegging, *laissez-faire* relaxation of the anti-Trust laws, sharp cuts in corporate taxes advocated by Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon, and rampant stock speculation over several years, producing a speculative bubble that led to the crash of October, 1929.

The book, *The Teapot Dome Scandal*, tells how

Big Oil handpicked Warren G. Harding to serve as our twenty-third president. Harding and his “oil cabinet” and “Ohio Gang” made it possible for cronies to secure vast fuel reserves that had been set aside for use by the U.S. Navy, in its conversion from coal to diesel powered ships, and in anticipation of a coming conflict with Japan. *The Teapot Dome Scandal* reveals a shocking, revelatory picture of just how far-reaching the affair was, how high the stakes, and how powerful the conspirators. The scheme began in the campaign leading up to the 1920 Republican convention in Chicago. Oklahoma oil baron Jake Hamon put up one million dollars to influence Republican delegates to support Harding, then an obscure Ohio senator, for the nomination; and Harry Sinclair put up a similar amount. They worked with Harding’s campaign manager, Harry Daugherty, who was also the mob boss of the “Ohio Gang”. Hamon had an agreement from Harding to be appointed as Sec. of Interior, where he planned to transfer the oil reserves from the Navy to Interior, and to then assign drilling leases in the Naval Oil Reserves to these oil barons. However, Hamon was shot and killed by his girlfriend, and Senator Albert Fall of New Mexico was appointed as Interior Secretary; and Ohio Gang boss Harry Dougherty was appointed Attorney General. Billy Burns, owner of the Burns Detective Agency of Columbus, enforcer for the Ohio Gang, was appointed to head the Bureau of Investigation (which later became the FBI). The story of bribery of Albert Fall and the ensuing investigations by Senator Thomas Walsh of Montana is the story of *The Teapot Dome Scandal*.

One of the major players in this corruption was Los Angeles oil baron Edward L. Doheny, subject of the biography, *Dark Side of Fortune: Triumph and Scandal in the Life of Oil Tycoon Edward L. Doheny*, by Margaret Leslie Davis. This book serves as a prequel to Rachael Maddow’s *Blowout*. While overlapping with *The Teapot Dome Scandal*, this book also gives an account

of the earliest history of the oil boom, starting with Doheny's initial drillings in the Los Angeles area in 1893, and of his partner Don Canfield's drilling operations in Coalinga (Fresno County), and their later venture in Tampico, Mexico. It discusses the development of the oil fields in Mexico in relationship to the Mexican Civil War. Doheny began an interaction with Senator Albert Fall, then Chair of the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on Mexico, to try to influence President Wilson's policy toward Mexico, and seeking to provide protection by US Marines to US Oil interests there. It also gives a more detailed day-to-day account of the trials of Ed Doheny and of Harry Sinclair, and the legal strategies of both the defense and the prosecution. These books are page turners, on a par with the best crime novels – involving several murders, suicides, trials, jury tampering, and accompanying shakedowns, threats and intimidations.

Senator Thomas Walsh of Montana, who conducted the investigations in the Senate, summed up its impact in a radio broadcast: "Corruption in public life is a vice that eats into the very structure of our system." Harvard law professor Felix Frankfurter, in a May 2024 article in the New Republic, wrote: "For nearly two years the efforts to uncover wrong doings in the disposal of our public domain were hampered by every conceivable obstacle on the part of those in office and those influential out of office. Governmental machinery, prestige, wealth and agencies of publicity all were for covering things up. No one who has not had some experience of the power that the government can exert is able to realize the tremendous pressure against which both Senators Walsh and Wheeler were contending. Both the hostile resources and the inertia which they had to overcome were incredible." Yet, as Fredric Lewis Allen writes, "The harshest condemnation on the part of the press and the public was reserved, not for those who had defrauded the government, but for those who insisted on bringing the facts to

light. Senator Walsh, who led the investigation, and Senator Burton Wheeler, who investigated the Department of Justice (both from Montana), were called by the New York Tribune 'the Montana scandal-mongers'. The New York Times called them 'assassins of character'. In these and other newspapers one reads of the 'Democratic lynching-bee' and 'poison-tongued partisanship, pure malice, and twittering hysteria'. And the inquiries were called 'in plain words, contemptible and disgusting'." Sound familiar?

~ Robert V. Frampton

Next Month: *Blowback: A Warning to Save Democracy from the Next Trump*, by Miles Taylor. Taylor was first recruited into the DHS department by former DHS Secretary and White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, to serve as Kelly's senior advisor in DHS. In 2018, Taylor wrote an op-ed piece in *The New York Times* under the pen-name "Anonymous" that was entitled, "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration", which drew widespread attention for its criticism of Trump. Accompanying this review, we will take a look at *Project2025*, the Heritage Foundation's 1000-page plan for the next Trump Administration. According to the AP, "The idea of *Project2025* is to have the civic infrastructure in place on Day One [January 20, 2025] to commandeer, reshape and do away with what Republicans deride as the "deep state" bureaucracy, in part by firing as many as 50,000 federal workers".



## Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place – either near or far - with ***Phoenix*** readers. Send it to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



- **In politics, absurdity is not a handicap**  
- *Napoleon Bonaparte*

## Four extraordinary ACT members to be honored at 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Ralph Hurtado, Founding Co-Chair

As the organizing spirit behind ACT's creation in 1973, Ralph became our first Co-Chair – along with the late Lorraine Stinson. Lorraine, the grande dame of Pasadena Democrats for many years, brought experience and wisdom to the job. Ralph brought youth(!) plus the enthusiasm and skill he'd shown in leading a truly remarkable local campaign for George McGovern in 1972.

Though his youth eventually waned, Ralph's skill and enthusiasm never did. A professional social worker, he has spent a lifetime building effective organizations, helping those in need and mentoring young people from San Francisco to Long Beach to Pasadena – along with political stints as a Congressional staffer in Washington DC and an advisor to San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Always a passionate and outspoken advocate for candidates and causes, one of Ralph's strongest commitments is to improve representation for the Latino community.



### Jon Fuhrman, Executive Director

Cal Tech drew Jon Fuhrman to Pasadena as a graduate student in the early 70's, but it was his love for politics that kept him here – and sent him down paths that professors (and parents!) never envisioned. Jon's natural gifts pulled him out of the lab and into the public arena. Once he found ACT, there was no looking back. Biology's loss was our gain.

Jon has done a remarkable job as ACT's 4th Executive Director (following Wendy Soltes' retirement). He also had a successful business career and has a continuing sideline as a much-sought-after campaign treasurer. Nevertheless, Jon is probably best-known as the author of *Political Notes* in ACT's newsletter. Ever since taking over the column more than 40 years ago, his insightful and upbeat commentary on local, state and national politics has made it appointment-reading for the whole community.



### Chuck Hains, Phoenix Editor

Hard as it is to believe, Chuck Hains didn't actually start the ACT newsletter. Pat Pendleton was founding editor of *The Phoenix*; but Chuck quickly took over the reins and created the distinctive style and voice that haven't wavered in nearly 50 years. It is a remarkable chronicle, not only of this organization but of the political life of the greater Pasadena area. Chuck had some serious help, of course. His late wife, Ann, much loved and missed by all, was also one of the true pillars of ACT's early years.

Chuck is Pasadena-to-the-core. He attended St. Francis High and PCC, vrooming down Colorado Blvd. in his sporty MGA to court Ann – a true “greaser” by his own account. He served aboard a Minesweeper in the US Navy during the early years of the Vietnam war and later (after Cal State LA) settled into a long and distinguished career at Xerox Corp Research (where he acquired forty-three patents, and was a big plus in the early days of *Phoenix* publication!). Since retiring, Chuck has had more time for passions besides politics, especially his four wonderful grandchildren and his choral music.



### Sally Beer, Phoenix Editor

For decades now, Sally Beer has organized the publishing and mailing of the Phoenix. In more recent years, after the passing of Ann Hains, she's also taken on the responsibility of editing and proofreading as well as

wrangling the content and contributors. Her main goal, she says, is to see that we don't look stupid. Her children, Arden and Matt, grew up watching (and sometimes being dragooned into assisting) this essential monthly production. They are bemused to see Sally – and the rest of us! – still folding, labeling, and dotting away. Sally came early to ACT and was a key volunteer from the start. She was a mainstay in our office with our second Executive Director, Judy Boggs. Though she worked indoors as a Pasadena City employee, Sally has always been happiest out in the natural world – with a special place in her heart for Yellowstone National Park. She came by her love for the environment early, growing up in the Pacific Northwest and even spending three summers atop forest fire lookouts - Chandler Mountain and Big Rock (in Oregon). She will have you know that Big Rock still exists (amazing) and is now on the National Register of Historic Lookouts. (Yes, there is such a thing.)



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\*Title for identification purposes only.

## Are We Becoming a Feudal Society?

By Marcielle Brandler

Noam Chomsky predicted many of the events that are tearing our nation apart. He explained in his book, *What Uncle Sam Really Wants*, that there is a plan to shrink the middle class and that the rich would use money and resources to which the middle class will no longer have access. He said, "In one high-level document after another, US planners stated their view that the primary threat was ... 'popular demand for immediate improvement in the low living standards of the masses.'" They want to "... install governments that favor private investment [around the world]."

Chomsky's predictions are apparent today. Banks which have not been wise in their money management are being bailed out by the citizenry. Jobs are being outsourced or completely dissolved. Americans are working harder for less money and benefits. The mass evictions in the country are scandalous. Ted Rall, author of *The Anti-American Manifesto*, discusses the foreclosures.

"When the scandal broke on Oct 8th, the banks declared a temporary moratorium on foreclosures. Two weeks later, they declared the whole fuss a simple matter of paperwork and resumed their happy work of reducing millions of jobless Americans to homelessness."

This is an example of presenting one face to the public while going about their business behind the scenes.

"Unemployment in America jumped to the highest level in more than a quarter of a century last month, bringing to almost 7 million the number of jobs lost since the recession began." says the [Telegraph.co.uk](http://Telegraph.co.uk).

In order to control 'angry hordes of the unemployed and disenfranchised,' writes Chomsky, the government will turn to the police and then the military. We have seen the increase of military control over the public and surveillance inside our borders. Now, we take for granted cameras at stop lights. Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube are being connected to each other, so that forces beyond our control know everyone's comings and goings. Data bases of our information are already being created by the government, through the DMV and medical records.

Schools are forced to allow the military to enter school yards in the form of ROTC programs, to begin the

grooming process of students for combat. Powerful pharmaceutical companies now cajole school principals to turn in parents who do not take noisy children to their doctor for Ritalin with the threat that those "neglected" children will be taken away from the parents. Parents have few rights in these processes and are often paid to turn over their kids.

Many authors, including George Orwell, have predicted the subordination of the public to corporations and to the government. Orwell's novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, depicts the strict control over information, the burning of books, and the de-education of the masses. All people can have what Andy Warhol called their "fifteen minutes of fame," but they do not know the name of their congress persons. This gradual breakdown of our society has been happening for decades. Teachers are being fired and vilified. George Bush Jr. called them the "intellectual elite," avoiding the fact that he is the moneyed elite, and that he, along with Dick Cheney and Carl Rove, sucked up the resources of Iraq for their Haliburton interests.

The teachers' unions are vilified, while charter schools teach for profit and are not forced to endure the rigors of meeting education standards that public schools must meet. Charter schools boast about how well their students are doing, but, *Christian Science Monitor* writer, Amanda Paulson wrote an article entitled, "Study: On average, charter schools do no better than public schools." She says they work best for underserved populations.

"The push to create more charters has been questioned in light of research showing no advantage — or even a negative effect — for students attending charter schools." -Paulson.

People of color (mostly Democrats) are being intimidated on their way to the polls. At my training as a poll watcher, during Al Gore's campaign, one man reported that people of color, who were driving to their polling places, were being stopped by police and asked for three forms of ID.

U.S. corporations, with the help of the military, have taken over Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, and many other countries in their quest for global domination. Many of the murdered civilians of these countries are considered "collateral damage." Almost all reporters are now embedded (in bed) with the military and have little incentive to report as independent entities.

Walter Lippmann calls the non-political portion of the US public (80 percent of the population), “spectators of action” and “the bewildered herd,” that it is not their business to demand rights, but to prop up the corporations and the government’s agendas. Chomsky says, “They are supposed to follow orders and keep out of the way of important people.”

jabber all we want, as long as we do not reach too many people.

Our taxes bail the corporations out, while public assistance is pilfered by those same rich elites. We are paying the corporations for the privilege of living here, just as if they were feudal lords and we, their serfs.

*Reprinted from Medium.com, May 2020  
by Marcielle Brandler*



## ACT and ADC Membership Dues for 2023

Have you renewed your membership for 2023?? Dues categories are listed below. Note that you can join both ACT and ADC for bargain rates. If you have yet to renew, please send your check with the form below or renew online at our website. (Many thanks to those generous members who have paid up. We love you!)

If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net) or 626-864-5255.

### 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

- |                          |          |  |                                |
|--------------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ _____ | Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues) |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ _____ | Operating Account (for organizational costs)           | \$ _____ <b>Total enclosed</b> |

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 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.



## Calendar

- Sept. 18      UDH Steering Meeting  
Monday      via Zoom. 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21      Pasadena Central Library Public  
Thursday    Meeting re: Earthquake Retro-  
6 p.m.      fitting. Robinson Park Recrea-  
                 tion Center.
- Sept. 23      ACT's 50th Anniversary Cele-  
Saturday    bration and Fundraiser at the  
2:00-5:00    historic Blacker House, 1177  
                 Hillcrest Ave., Pasadena.
- October 5    ACT Steering/ADC Meeting via  
Thursday    Zoom. 7 p.m. for socializing;  
7 p.m.      meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.



- October 22      *SAVE-THE-DATE*  
Sunday      UDH Oktoberfest Fundraiser at  
2-4 p.m.      the Armenian Cultural Center.
- October 28      Research Committee interviews  
Saturday      30th CD candidates via Zoom.
- November 4    Research Committee interviews  
Saturday      25th SD and 41st AD candidates  
                 via Zoom.



## October *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for copy for the October *Phoenix* will be Monday, October 9. Send items for publication to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) and Sally Beer at [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com).

(Chuck will continue to contact regular contribu-  
tors with a deadline reminder.)



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