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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



1973 — 2013

You are invited to join

**ACT**

And our Honorary Chairman Dr. Jack Scott

To Celebrate 40 Years of Political Activism

Sunday, September 29, 2013, 2-4 PM

At the home of Bill & Claire Bogaard  
311 Congress Place, Pasadena, CA 91105

Sponsorships available: \$4000 \$2500 \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$125  
Tickets \$40 each

For information contact: Wendy Soltes at 626.359.7703 or [wcuite@aol.com](mailto:wcuite@aol.com)

### How to Help with ACT's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Be an event sponsor. Contact Wendy Soltes.

Help Fred Register round up political memorabilia for display. Contact him at 626 791-5345 or [fred.register@charter.net](mailto:fred.register@charter.net).

Help the day of the event (Sunday 9/29) or the day before (Saturday 9/28) with set up. Contact Anne Wolf at [annie2away@yahoo.com](mailto:annie2away@yahoo.com).

Jobs at the event include working the registration table, bartending, and clean up. Most jobs will be done in one-hour shifts.

## Susan Heck

Susan Heck (October 23, 1941-- August 17, 2013), a long-time member of ACT, was born in New York. She received a B.A. from Smith College, a M.A. from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. Stanford University. Susan had a passion for living and a deep commitment to service. She served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and was one of founding members of the Clayman Institute for Gender Studies at Stanford. Susan was introduced to ACT in the last '70's when she bought a house from Jean Kulli. She was the Coordinator for the local Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative in 1982 and was active in several local campaigns. In 1984 Susan took a position as a stockbroker at Morgan Stanley where she was mentored by Ann Hight. She retired from Morgan Stanley as First Vice President for Investments, specializing in retirement planning. Although her time was limited by the demands of her profession, Susan continued to serve on the Board of the Clayman Institute, was one of the founders of Girls & Gangs and was deeply involved in peace and justice work at All Saints Church.



Two years ago when Susan was diagnosed with inoperable cancer, she was participating in training for *By Your Side*, a course to equip volunteers to be compassionate companions for those who are at the end of life. Susan completed the training and served as an end-of-life volunteer with three women. According to the Reverend Sarah Nichols who served as Susan's spiritual advisor, after she learned her condition was terminal, "With a desire to live fully, authentically, and abundantly, Susan traveled for as long as she could to be with those whom she loved, and she asked her beloveds to take turns coming to stay with her over the past years to provide assistance and

care. She posted honestly on Caring Bridges; she allowed herself to be filmed for a potential documentary on end of life, and she and Zelda Kenney started the Cancer Support Group at All Saints - all efforts to live openly and authentically and to foster community so that people need not face the journey alone." She is survived by her daughter Elisha.



## Ruth Hadley

We are sorry to note the death of our delightful friend, **Ruth Hadley** on May 9 in Thousand Oaks at age 92. She earned her BA from Mount Holyoke College and an MA in Education from Columbia. She and her late husband, Carmer, moved to California in 1948. Ruth was an advocate for children who taught kindergarten in Pasadena schools for many years. She and Carmer were also long-time members of ACT.

We extend deepest sympathy to her three sons and their families.



## Tony Thompson

**Tony Thompson**, a longtime Pasadena resident and financial advisor died in Honolulu on July 28 at age 74. He was a generous civic activist and leader as a founding member and board member of Pasadena Heritage, the Oral History Project, and Friends of the Pasadena Library. He was active in Community Together, Neighbors for Open Government and PRIDE as well as ACT.

Our sympathy goes to Susan and their two daughters and grandchildren. They suggest that any contributions in Tony's memory go to a Parkinson's disease charity or to Pasadena Heritage.

## UDH News

Please note that our Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters' Oktoberfest Fund-raiser has been canceled for 2013.

## Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



### Obama and Ten Jin

The other day I wandered over to the Caltech Campus and spent some time in the Garden of Associates (previously known as Dabney Garden). I sat down on a bench beside the bronze sculpture of Ten Jin (the famous Japanese philosopher from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century) sitting astride a water buffalo and reading a manuscript. He and I have had many conversations in the past and I looked forward to this one. After I got his attention I said, "Ten Jin, our President, Barack Obama, is under fire from both the right and the left about several things and especially about the conflict in Syria. Many of us don't know what to think. Is the President being timid or is he being very wise in proceeding cautiously?" Ten Jen replied, "Is your country at war with Syria?" "No" I said. "We are not at war with Syria. But Obama drew a figurative red line in the sand stating that if Syria used chemical weapons in the civil war now raging the United States would launch a military strike against Syria. However, when proof came that chemical weapons had actually been used, Obama decided he wanted a vote of approval by Congress before launching the attack."

"So," Ten-Jin said, "You are not yet at war with Syria. Perhaps that is a good thing. Your President Obama may be smarter than some of his predecessors. Some of your presidents in the past have been too quick to pull the trigger. Did your wars with Afghanistan and Iraq accomplish anything?" "Well," I said, "We captured and killed Osama Bin Laden, the planner of the September 11, 2001 terrorist act that brought down the World Trade Center." "I see," said Ten Jin, "And your former president, George Bush, after leading you into war, was the one who captured Osama Bin

Laden?" "No," I said. "Obama was the one who later planned and ordered the daring capture of Bin Laden."

Ten Jin looked out across the garden in deep thought. Then he asked, "When did these wars start?" I replied that the Afghanistan War began in 2001 as retribution for the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and it was also an attempt to capture Osama Bin Laden. The Iraq War began in 2003 and was fought over the presumption that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. This later proved to be untrue. Finally Ten Jen asked me how many people died in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. I told him there were 2996, including those in the airplanes. "And," continued Ten Jin, "How many Americans died in Afghanistan?" I told him, "Almost 2,000 and these figures don't count the many thousands who were wounded. This doesn't count the Iraq War where 4,488 were killed and 32,000 wounded." Ten Jin then asked me, "How much did these two wars cost?" I replied, "Around four trillion and some analysts estimate the final count may go as high as six trillion. Ten Jin said, "You mean to tell me that all those lives and all that money was wasted over the issues of retribution and the false presumption of weapons of mass destruction. Why that means more people were killed in the wars than were killed at the World Trade Center!" "Yes," I said. "That is basically what happened."

Ten Jin then looked straight at me with a very piercing look, smiled, and said, "Our conversation started with you asking about the wisdom of your President. With the information you have given me, it seems you have answered your own question. By being cautious your President may be wiser than you think." With that said Ten-Jin returned to reading his manuscript and I wandered out of the garden and made my way back home to further ponder the situation.

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



September 16.

**D**id the President fumble the ball? Was his approach to the Syrian atrocities hopelessly naive, shockingly incompetent, politically incapacitating? Or did we end up, perhaps ironically, perhaps unintentionally, with potentially the absolute best possible outcome?

One of the things that strike me is that nearly all the President's critics ridicule his actions, yet fail to propose viable alternatives. Many pundits lambaste the President's setting a "red line" last year. Yet, what was the alternative? Should we be blithely unconcerned at the use of poison gas? Prohibiting chemical weapons is one of the few norms of international law that has been respected for decades, with good reason. It is not merely in our own best interest; it is in every other country's interest as well, as any one could become the target, and victim, of such an attack. In retrospect, it seems possible that the President's

strong reaction a year ago dissuaded the Syrian government from any broader use of chemical weapons for close to a year.

There is no clear public evidence as to whether this most recent incident was a deliberate, intentional use decreed by Bashar Assad or whether it may have been initiated by local authorities without the prior knowledge or consent of the Syrian President. Whatever the case may be, the evidence of a large-scale attack, from which hundreds were killed, is incontestable. How then should we react? Some critics note that thousands had already died in the Syrian civil war, so how are hundreds more any different? Once again, the alternative of not doing anything seems, to me, simply untenable. Poison gas attacks are different. They do cross a boundary, one that endangers us and the rest of the world. But if line has been crossed, how ought we respond?

Clearly, the country was not willing to intervene directly in the civil war. No one, Republican nor Democrat, supported invading yet another Middle Eastern country. So the President fell back upon traditional statecraft: a proportional response, related to the act, which would diminish Syrian's capacity to repeat their mistake and would extract some significant cost. It didn't have to topple the regime; it just had to be serious enough to degrade Assad's military capacity to some degree, and to hint at what more could come should Assad continue to use chemical weapons. Some criticized the proposed action as too weak; yet they were clearly unwilling to advocate putting American troops on the ground or endangering American lives. Some criticized the action as too strong, likely to harm or kill more civilians, possibly inciting Syrian responses against us or our allies, further destabilizing the region. Again, though, what was their alternative -- to take no action? Might that not simply encourage greater use of chemical weapons by the Syrians, des-

perate to defend a failing regime?

One fair criticism of the President's policy, I think, relates to his decision to seek Congressional approval -- not so much about this basic decision, but about his team's apparent failure to test the water with Congressional leadership before announcing that decision (although, had they done a whip count, it would undoubtedly have been leaked to the press). The President's team did seem unready for the degree of skepticism, and downright distrust, they received from both Republicans and Democrats. They clearly had focused consultations on a select group of leaders rather than the broader membership in both the House and Senate. Republicans probably privately delighted in forcing the President into an awkward position; Democrats, still feeling burned from being misled about Iraq, and responding to public input strongly opposing further intervention, were as far off the reservation as Republicans. Even after his Tuesday speech, it seems unlikely that the President would have won a vote in the House, even if he did win in the Senate.

What then would the President have done? It's hard to imagine that, failing to get Congressional approval after asking for it, the President would have unilaterally ordered the use of military force. Yet, backing down might actually have been worse.

So did the President actually plan his way out of this dilemma, or did he (and we) just get incredibly lucky and stumble unintentionally onto a winning path? We may have to wait thirty years for the diplomatic and personal histories to be written, but I think it's fair to speculate a bit.

When President Obama met with President Vladimir Putin on the last day of the G-20

summit, they spoke privately for some time. No joint statement came out of that meeting, but it seems likely that President Obama convinced Putin of his seriousness; military action was going to happen, and Assad was going to pay the price. One of the facets that hasn't gotten much discussion is how much Russia has at stake, both in controlling the potential use and proliferation of chemical weapons and in maintaining Assad's tottering regime. If Assad were to lose control of his chemical weapons stock, it's entirely possible that large amounts could end up in the hands of Chechen or other Islamic terrorists focused on the Muslim populations in Russia and the trans-Caucasus states -- Putin's absolute



worst nightmare. Further, an American military strike against Assad, even a modest one, could have tilted the balance in the civil war (psychologically, as much as militarily), perhaps leading to Assad's downfall, with him being replaced by a state quite hostile to Russia. So, out of pure self-interest, Putin had strong reasons of his own to see the Syrian chemical weapons controlled or destroyed.

It seems unlikely to me that Secretary of State Kerry's "off-hand" remarks about international control of the chemical weapons were really just tossed out by accident or without thought. Occurring as they did after Obama's talk with Putin, it seems more likely they were the beginning of an orchestrated move to defuse the situation while permanently dealing with Syria's loose grenades. This theory explains why we and the Russians seem to have been able to agree so quickly on language for Security Council approval. That says to me that both we and Russians really do want this to happen.

It is ironic that we seem to be heading for a solution far better, and far more comprehend-

sive, than anyone could have hoped for. Our military ruled out intervention broad enough to seize control of all Syria's chemical weapons, yet that is exactly where we're headed, without the use of military force. Skeptics continue to belittle the chances of this actually happening. But I am reminded of one of the most successful non-proliferation efforts ever accomplished -- the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Started in 1992, this program was funded exclusively by the US, and it paid for the deactivation and destruction of nuclear weapons in former Soviet states (including Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan). Although low-key and relatively unheralded, the program deactivated 7,500 Russian nuclear warheads and secured 260 tons of fissile material over the last 20 years. It worked because Russia believed it to be as much in her own self-interest as it was in our own self-interest. So it can be done, and the Syrian case is no less in everyone's own self-interest as controlling nuclear weapons was and still is.

Thus, I'm perhaps more hopeful and less skeptical that Russia really does want this to happen, and that with their participation, we can indeed do this. In a sense, whether Assad holds on or not is irrelevant; the combined weight of American and Russian insistence on this particular program may be enough to force it through regardless of who controls the Syrian government at any particular time.

On a less global, and perhaps less noble level, what does this mean for the President politically? Has he been weakened by his perceived inability to win broad Congressional approval for his chosen path? Does the Senate's rejection of Larry Summers further suggest political weakness? Will a government shut-down seal his fate and mean a Republican sweep in 2014?

I think pundits are reading too much into this

issue, which became a vote of conscience in the Congress. Democrats are defending several Senate seats in deeply red states, yet recent polling shows Democrat incumbents comfortably ahead in Alaska, North Carolina, Arkansas and Louisiana. Further, Democrats have found top-tier candidates in West Virginia and Montana to compete for open seats formerly held by Democrats. And the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Virginia is significantly ahead in a race the Republicans had been thinking would be easy pickings.

Further complicating life for Republicans has been the growing divisions within the party, manifested both by increasing likelihood of bloody primary fights for Senate seats and a hugely dysfunctional majority in the House that may force the government to shut down in October and then potentially default when the debt ceiling has to be raised in November. Congressional Republicans were hopelessly split on strategy, but most pundits assumed the Speaker would find some sort of compromise path to avoid a government shutdown. But time is running out -- there are only five House sessions scheduled before October 1st -- with no solution in sight. With the potential for military action in the public's mind, the stakes get even higher if one is blamed for a shutdown that impacts the military's ability to defend the nation.

If anything, the vitriol and absolutism on the right seems to be intensifying. I just don't see how the Speaker can find any middle ground acceptable to the Tea Party caucus on his side. Thus, my guess is that the Speaker will find 30 or 40 centrists in his own party to approve a continuing resolution to keep the government afloat, and the same caucus will approve an increase in the debt limit, accompanied by some token measure that delays or eliminates funding for Obamacare which can then be ignored by the Senate. That could cost the Speaker his Speakership, but I think funda-

mentally the Speaker believes the government must go on, that it can't be held hostage to irrational demands. Whatever the outcome, some high political drama is coming our way.

-- Jon Fuhrman



### A Fun Event for Progressive Shakespeare Theatergoers

Progressive Shakespeare Theatergoers: Sunday, November 24, 2:00 p.m.: *Pericles* at A Noise Within, 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, \$39 (group rate for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> row seats). Dinner at 7:00 p.m. at Alta Eats, 1860 Allen, Alta. for discussion of the politics of Shakespeare's play and progressive politics generally. Contact Dale Gronemeier at [dlg@dgronemeier.com](mailto:dlg@dgronemeier.com) or (323) 254-6700 for information/reservations.



### ACT Members in Tanzania



Susan Kane, Jeanne Register, Jon Fuhrman and Fred Register enjoy safari life in Tanzania this summer.

### ACTpasadena.org

Check the ACT webpage for the online version of *ThePhoenix* at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org). It usually is available soon after the mailed version arrives. It's in color and may have items that didn't fit in the mailed version.

Please contact Bruce Wright, with your suggestions for items to include on our web page, at [Brucewright@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Brucewright@SBCGlobal.net).



### Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Sandra Siraganian, Sierra Madre  
Monica & Sebastian Zacharia, Pasadena

### Special Thanks to Sustaining Members:

Mel & Renate Cohen, Arcadia  
Norri & Betty Sirri, Pasadena

### And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Mel & Renate Cohen, Arcadia



### Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group is still going strong on first and third Fridays at **CoCo's Bakery Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena** (west side of Lake, below Union) at **9 a.m.** See the Calendar on the back page for upcoming meetings.

Join the fun. Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. For more information check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or [in-man@pacbell.net](mailto:in-man@pacbell.net).

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



Dear ACT Friends,

**I**t was a whirlwind final week of the 2013 legislative session culminating with eight of my bills being passed by the legislature and on their way to Governor Brown for signature. We accomplished a lot in the final days including an increase in the minimum wage, driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and a compromise solution to prison overcrowding.

**SB 105** asks the judges to give the state extra time to reduce California's prison population in exchange for a promise to spend additional funds on prison rehabilitation efforts.

This bipartisan agreement is the latest effort to comply with the federal court order and sends a clear message that California intends to reduce prison overcrowding while avoiding early release of prisoners into our communities.

In order to meet the terms of the federal court order, we have agreed with the Governor's proposal to spend an additional \$315 million immediately for inmate housing. The agreement also provides additional incentives to counties to provide supervision and services to further reduce the prison population.

We have strengthened the requirements in the bill to ensure the Administration works with the legislature in developing long-term solutions so that California moves towards reducing the revolving door of recidivism while keeping the public safe.

I want to thank all my ACT friends for your ongoing support and encouragement. I was

pleased to meet with many of you or read your letters and emails supporting various bills. I look forward to seeing you at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party later this month and at events throughout the district in the coming months.

-- Chris R. Holden

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



## 2013 Steering Committee Meeting Calendar

This is the Steering Committee meeting schedule for the remainder of 2013. Co-Chair Anthony Portantino is scheduled to chair each of these meetings.

Thursday, October 3

Thursday, November 7

Thursday, December 5 (Annual Holiday Potluck)

All members are welcome and urged to attend Steering Committee meetings. Check ***The Phoenix*** Calendar and our website for meeting locations, <http://www.ACTPasadena.org>.

NOTE: At our September 10 meeting we voted to go back to the first Thursday of the month schedule for future meetings.



## October Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the October ***Phoenix*** will be Sunday, October 6. As always, send items to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). Mailing preparation will be Thursday, October 10 at a location to be decided.



# ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT For School & City Board Elections



## Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the goodwill of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members, and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

**Who can vote?** Year 2012 & 2013 members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

**How do I vote?** Mark and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope with the label attached. Or, if you desire a secret ballot, you may enclose it in an additional unmarked envelope. Each completed ballot sent by mail shall be submitted in the ACT envelope. Each voting member must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope. If there is no enclosed envelope, please send the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address to: ACT, Attn: Endorsement Election Committee, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena CA 91114-7074.

**Ballot rules** No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorsement elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you voted.

**Ballot Deadline** Ballots must be in the ACT Office by 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Further endorsement election information can be found on page 11 in this *Phoenix*.

**Why do we vote?** ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

## Endorsement Requirements

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate or either the "Yes" or "No" side of a proposition. Abstentions will not be counted, i.e. only ballots cast in each race will be counted as part of the percentage.
2. No quorum is required.

**Example:** (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Candidate X; Member #2 supports Candidate Y; Member #3 decides to vote "No endorsement":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Candidate X.....	<b>X</b>		
Candidate Y.....		<b>X</b>	
No Endorsement.....			<b>X</b>

We have only an ACT ballot, no Arroyo Democratic Club ballot this time -- all the PCC candidates are Republicans, and two of the three Library Board candidates are not Democrats).

On the Library ballot, since there are 2 seats to be filled, members can vote for up to 2 candidates (but any one member can't cast both ballots for one candidate); they can however vote for no endorsement or no recommendation. To win the endorsement, a candidate must get a margin equal to 60% of the votes cast.

**ACT Endorsement Ballot  
for the November 5th Local  
Elections including the PCC  
Board and Altadena Library**

*Please see Research Committee report  
following this ballot.*

**Pasadena Community College  
District 1:**

The Research Committee recommends  
endorsing Dianne Philibosian (7 - 0 - 0).

The Steering Committee recommends  
endorsing Dianne Philibosian (21 - 0 - 0).

<i>Vote for one</i>	<i>Voter:</i>	<i>#1</i>	<i>#2</i>	<i>#3</i>
Dianne Philibosian .....				
Ross Selvidge .....				
Alex Keledjian .....				
No Endorsement.....				
No Recommendation .....				

**Altadena Library Board:**

Note: There are 2 seats open, elected at-large,  
so members may vote for 2 candidates, or  
for one candidate, or for no endorsement.

The Research Committee recommends  
endorsing Meredith McKenzie (6 - 0 - 1).

The Steering Committee recommends endors-  
ing both Meredith McKenzie and David Tuck  
(20 - 0 - 1)

<i>Vote for one or two</i>	<i>Voter:</i>	<i>#1</i>	<i>#2</i>	<i>#3</i>
Steven Lamb .....				
Meredith McKenzie .....				
David Tuck.....				
No Endorsement.....				
No Recommendation .....				

**ACT Research Committee Report,  
for Nov. 5 Election**

**Pasadena Community College Board of  
Trustees: District 1**

The Research Committee interviewed all  
three candidates running for this seat, being  
vacated by Geoff Baum. **Dianne Philibosian,  
Ph.D.**, is currently Director of the Institute for  
Community Health and Wellbeing at Cal  
State University Northridge where she has  
held various academic positions since 1973.  
Dianne has long and deep roots in the Pasade-  
na community and a track record of civic en-  
gagement, having served previously on boards  
of the PCC Foundation (14 years), Child Care  
Information Services, Caltech Children's Cen-  
ter, among others, and currently on the Pasa-  
dena Center Operating Committee and LA  
County Child Care Planning Council. She has  
also served on the Board of Regents for the  
University of Pacific, an experience that she  
cites as particularly relevant; she believes her  
experience in bringing together disparate  
stakeholders and finding common ground may  
be especially helpful given the contentious  
relations with some faculty members. Dianne  
has endorsements from Jack Scott and Carol  
Liu and La Canada officials Laura Olhasso  
and Steve Del Guercio and she has a fully  
staffed campaign team.

**Ross Selvedge, Ph.D.**, is semi-retired from a  
career in finance and real estate and also has  
taught courses at USC, UCLA and Pepper-  
dine. He also has deep roots in Pasadena, hav-  
ing graduated from PUSD schools and PCC  
and more recently having served on numerous  
commissions and task forces, including Parks  
and Recreation Commission, Planning Com-  
mission, and Rose Bowl Operating Committee.  
He chaired the task force that resulted in an  
eventual proposal for and passage of a parcel



tax to support Pasadena's public library system. Ross cites endorsements from Paul Little, Terry Tornek and Sid Tyler. He was reluctant to provide details on his campaign team or financing but it appears he does have a viable team working with him.

**Alex Keledjian** is a 19-year-old PCC student who lives with his family in La Canada, having moved there from Pasadena in 2004. He served as a student representative on the La Canada Board of Education while attending high school and boasts endorsements from the entire Board on the strength of that service. He sees an opportunity to bring a diverse perspective to the PCC Board, both as a younger member and a student. He has an all-volunteer but fully staffed campaign team.

In discussing how to cope with possible revenue shortfalls when Prop 30 funds are no longer available, Philibosian cited the need to plan for lean times in advance, looking to local fundraising at the community level. Selvedge suggested that class sizes will have to increase while also focusing resources on where the needs are greatest – making sure transfer students get the classes they need and having enough classes for students needing remediation. Keledjian also acknowledged the remediation problem but feels that more classes are not the solution, preferring instead to work with local school districts so that more students come to PCC fully prepared for college. Future revenue could perhaps be obtained by renting out space to school districts in the PCC service area. In answer to a specific question about poor completion rates for students who come to PCC without adequate college preparation, Philibosian spoke about the current Pathways program in collaboration with K-12 schools and peer counseling as mechanisms for increasing preparedness and supporting under-prepared students while at PCC. Selvedge indicated a need for

more remediation classes so that under-prepared students don't "stall out" while waiting for needed courses. Keledjian prefers to attack the problem early on so that more students get to PCC with the necessary preparation. In talking about how to address possible enrollment disparities for African American and Hispanic students, Philibosian said that although matriculation rates for minority groups might accurately reflect the demographics of the PCC district as a whole, one of the most critical issues is the low completion rate for African American males in particular. Citing efforts at CSU Northridge in this area as an example, she proposed a need for more faculty role models and support for those faculty as one tool for helping the retention problem. Selvedge stated that he had not been able to determine, based on available demographic data, whether certain minority groups were under-represented in the current student population, but he indicated a desire to clarify that issue if he is elected. Keledjian proposed the idea of having a Trustee advisory committee made up of a diverse cross-section of constituents so that potential barriers to involvement by certain groups could be addressed.

All candidates supported the idea of satellite campuses as a way to expand capacity, increase PCC's presence in high-need communities, and increase access in light of difficult traffic and parking patterns in the region. Asked about their support for local school district parcel tax measures, Philibosian said that she supported Measure CC in Pasadena; Selvedge did not support Measure CC because he felt that the tax structure was inequitable; Keledjian said that he supported Measure LC in La Canada, although he was not old enough to vote at the time the measure was on the ballot.

The Research Committee felt that Dianne Philibosian brings the most relevant experience, knowledge and clear articulation of the

issues, and calm demeanor for the board. Alex Keledjian was seen as very mature, well-informed and engaging, but the committee felt he would benefit from a few more years of experience in the community before taking on a complex governance position.

The Research Committee voted 7-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Dianne Philibosian.

The Steering Committee voted 21 - 0 -0 to recommend endorsing Dianne Philibosian.

#### **Altadena Library Board of Trustees: At-Large Election (2 seats open)**

The ACT Research Committee interviewed 3 candidates who are running for 2 open seats.

**Steve Lamb** – Steve previously spent 8 years on the Altadena Library Board but resigned due to controversy over revealing sources of donations received to fight a lawsuit, and to reinstate his personal life. He also served on the Altadena Town Council and has a background in architecture. He demonstrated strong knowledge of the Board: its duties, history, and challenges. Future challenges for the Library that he identified were the transition to e-media, diversification of the population, and ADA and other rehabilitation requirements for the facility. He expressed support for the renewal of the parcel tax in 2014. Overall his knowledge of Library history and issues was strong but perhaps overshadowed by controversies with his previous elected positions and blog posts.

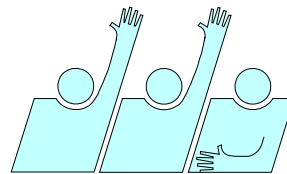
**Dave Tuck** – Dave is the incumbent and has been on the Library Board for 6 years. He clearly understood the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees and he and his family, including 7 children, have made extensive use of the Library facilities. The biggest challenge that he identified facing the Library is the ADA compliance of the main building, and he felt that fee-for-service enterprises (e.g.

passports and notary services that currently generate ~\$27,000/year) could go a long way in funding project capital needs. The interview ended with a long story about a field trip he led to Washington DC that inspired him to get involved in community service, and this was generally reflective of meandering answers he gave for previous questions.

**Meredith McKenzie** – Meredith has resided in Altadena for 3 years after previously residing in Pasadena, and prior that, Ventura where she ran an unsuccessful race for the Community College Board of Trustees. She is a professor at Cal Poly Pomona and a licensed real estate broker. Meredith has experience working on over 30 campaigns, including 3 winning campaigns for parcel taxes or bond measures. She is a frequent user of the Library and approaches her candidacy from this perspective. She demonstrated strong knowledge of the issues facing the Library, including details on the proposed ADA compliance plan and expansion of computer labs and community space. She agrees with extending the parcel tax expiring in 2014 and emphasized her fundraising capability to help get this done. Overall, her knowledge, excitement, and commitment were strong, although one Committee member questioned her sincerity given the ‘canned’ nature of her presentation.

The Research Committee result was a 6-0-1 vote to endorse one candidate, Meredith McKenzie.

Note: The Steering Committee voted 20 - 0 - 1 to recommend endorsing both Meredith McKenzie and Dave Tuck. Voters will elect two of the three candidates.



## From 25<sup>th</sup> District State Senator Carol Liu...



### Sacramento Update

**T**he end of session was wild and wacky as it tends to be, but the Legislature got some good things done in this first year of the two-year session. That includes raising the minimum wage from \$8 to \$10/hour over the next three years.

Three of my own bills passed the week before the final rush and have already been signed into law. **SB 116** extends the Emergency Food Assistance Program state income tax check-off from January 1, 2014 until January 1, 2019. Taxpayer donations generated nearly \$350K for food banks last year. **SB 238** allows the Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest to vote as a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board member on matters related to projects located within or substantially affecting the Forest. **SB 789** clarifies state law to help the California Arts Council administer funds generated by sale of the Arts special interest license plates. Plate sales generate nearly \$3 million annually for arts programs in schools and communities.

In the last week of session the Legislature sent the rest of my bills to the Governor's desk. These include SB 416, concerning the Caltrans 710 properties, and SB 177, regarding homeless children and youth. The Governor now has until October 13 to sign or veto bills.

**SB 416** clears the way for the sale of homes on the proposed North State Route 710 right-of-way. It declares the originally proposed surface route alternative infeasible and relieves

requirements for Caltrans to repair the homes before they are sold under the affordability provisions of the Roberti Bill. The bill also gives current tenants priority to purchase homes not sold under affordable housing provisions. Tenants of non-residential properties are also given priority to buy them before they are offered for sale to the public. Proceeds from the sale of the properties will be made available for local transportation projects. None can be used to build or advance a tunnel project.

**SB 416** received no "No" votes in any committee. Assembly Members Holden and Gatto co-authored the bill which passed the Assembly 77-0 and the Senate, 38-0. I am hopeful and optimistic that the Governor will sign SB 416 and expedite Caltrans' exit from the real estate business.

**SB177** requires the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop policies and practices to support homeless children and youths. This measure is also intended to ensure that child abuse and neglect reporting requirements do not create barriers to school enrollment and attendance. It also requires homeless children or youths to be immediately enrolled in school and allowed to participate in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities.

On the home front, I have a great fall planned! I will be visiting my cities and school districts, hosting some special events, and chairing Senate Education Committee informational hearings. My annual Pathways to Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity statewide tour will feature community schools where government, community and non-profit resources are coordinated through school sites to help at-risk students succeed. This is a very exciting time in education reform as we refocus on closing the achievement gap and preparing

students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It's important for Sacramento to stay tuned in to what is happening in the field as school districts prepare to implement the Local Control Funding Formula and Common Core curriculum. That is what I intend to do.

*Sen. Liu represents about 930,000 people in the 25th Senate District, which includes Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta-Montrose, Altadena, San Marino, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Duarte, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Glendora, and Upland.. Visit [www.senate.ca.gov/LIU](http://www.senate.ca.gov/LIU).*



**From**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> District**  
**Assemblymember**  
**Mike Gatto**



Greetings from  
 Sacramento!

**To Create Social Justice and Protect  
 American Jobs, US Must Demand  
 Increased International Minimum Wage,  
 Greater Wage Parity**

It's not often I find myself agreeing with former Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney; however, one year ago, when candidate Romney openly decried China for artificially depressing the value of their currency, I couldn't agree with him more. "I've watched year in and year out as companies have shut down and people have lost their jobs because China has not played by the same rules," said Romney. And he is right - outsourcing of American jobs to countries with less expensive labor and materials has led to the destruction of numerous US industries, not least among them the Southern California textile industry, and northern California technology manufacturing industry.

One way in which China and many other countries manipulate the value of their currency and engage in unfair trade practices is by refusing to enact decent and livable minimum wage standards. Artificially depressed global wages, like Indonesia's minimum wage of 46 cents an hour, make it nearly impossible for higher-paying nations to compete.

Congress, by statute, has ordered the United States Trade Representative to seek input from the fifty states on the effects of and policies relating to globalization and international trade. I am responding to that call by authoring Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 12, which directs the federal government to use its constitutional treaty powers to require trading partners to gradually raise their minimum wages, thereby raising the standards of living in those countries, and make U.S. workers and exports more competitive.

Since the dawn of the republic, the United States has used its treaty power to require things like free and fair elections in Iraq, respect for U.S. companies' patent and intellectual property rights (in various treaties), and of course, currency valuations (in the various Bretton Woods accords, etc.).

American workers and companies are having trouble competing because workers are paid inhumane rates in some other countries. This 'race to the bottom' hurts workers around the world and causes thousands of U.S. jobs to be sent overseas each year. Gradually increasing international wages, even from 50 cents an hour to one dollar, would make U.S. exporters, from movie makers to automakers, more competitive and would help raise billions of people out of poverty. It's time for California, and Congress to take meaningful action to protect American jobs and promote humane, livable wages around the world.

*Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the California State Assembly.*

## To frack or not to frack

By John Grula, reprinted from the  
*Pasadena Weekly* with permission



### Fracking needs to be phased out as we phase in more renewable energy sources

The natural gas and oil extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” has been in the news as of late and become very controversial. If you think this article is going to make a knee-jerk environmentalist/left-wing critique of fracking, think again. It’s a complex subject.

Fracking is a relatively new technique that uses large amounts of pressurized water, mixed with sand and chemical additives, to create fractures in shale rock located deep underground. The process frees trapped natural gas (primarily methane, which is comprised of one carbon atom chemically bound to four hydrogen atoms — CH<sub>4</sub> — and is gaseous in form) and some oil (longer polymers of carbon atoms which are liquid in form) and allows previously inaccessible natural gas and oil to be extracted from the Earth.

Natural gas is a versatile fossil fuel that is used for heating homes, cooking (think of your gas-powered stove and oven), electricity production, transportation and as an industrial feedstock for manufacturing plastics and other carbon-based materials.

Natural gas burns much more cleanly than other fossil fuels, such as oil and coal. Coal is by far the worst fossil fuel, and not only releases copious amounts of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) when burned, but also other harmful chemicals, including mercury, arsenic and acid rain-causing compounds, such as nitrates and sulfates.

When natural gas is burned it also releases CO<sub>2</sub>, but only half the amount released by

burning coal per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated. To the extent we replace coal-burning power plants with natural gas-burning power plants (which is already happening), this will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> production and help mitigate global warming.

As a result of the increased use of fracking in recent years, the price of natural gas in the US has plummeted from a high of \$12 per million BTUs in 2008 to the current low price of between \$3 and \$4. This has given a significant boost to the US economy. Substantial job gains have materialized from the expansion of the fracking process itself. In addition, manufacturing job growth has occurred when natural gas has been used, for example, as a feedstock for the synthesis of plastics and in its liquefied form is consumed domestically and also exported as a source of fuel. According to Daniel Yergin, author of the recent book, “The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World,” “This is fundamentally improving the competitive position of the United States in the world economy.”

Having provided the upsides, here are some major downsides to fracking, especially in regard to the state of California. For starters, the process uses huge amounts of water, a problem that a water-starved region such as ours can ill afford. In addition, the harmful chemicals used in the fracking process can contaminate surface bodies of water as well as shallow aquifers that are crucial sources of drinking water. Plus, once the brine and chemical-laced water used for fracking is injected deep underground, it remains contaminated and is essentially lost for any other uses for perhaps hundreds of years or longer.

Another major problem with fracking and the natural gas it produces is leakage of the gas itself (again, mainly CH<sub>4</sub>) into the atmosphere and water supplies. CH<sub>4</sub> is a very potent greenhouse gas and on a molecule-per-mole-

cule basis traps much more heat than does CO<sub>2</sub>. But because the current atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> is about 400 parts per million, whereas CH<sub>4</sub> comprises less than one part per million, CO<sub>2</sub> is still the biggest problem. Nevertheless, CH<sub>4</sub> leakage into the atmosphere is a major concern with respect to global warming and must be kept to an absolute minimum. CH<sub>4</sub> is also highly explosive and any leakage into water supplies carries the risk of causing drinking water to become flammable and explosive.

Perhaps the clincher in the case against fracking in California is a recent report in the journal *Science* that increased fracking in the central and eastern US has led to a dramatic surge in the number of earthquakes in those regions. According to *Science*, three relatively large (magnitude 5.0 and larger) fracking-induced earthquakes struck near Prague, Okla., (normally a seismically inactive area) in November 2011. While 5.0 earthquakes are not large by California standards, it is also the case that small-to-moderately sized earthquakes can sometimes trigger much bigger earthquakes. The last thing California needs is a human activity such as fracking that can increase our risk of devastating temblors.

At the very least, Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Legislature (Assemblyman Chris Holden, are you listening?) need to declare an immediate moratorium on any further fracking in our state until all the risks are more clearly understood. That probably goes for the rest of the nation as well. This practice, which puts human and environmental health in jeopardy, while also continuing our dependence on fossil fuels, needs to be phased out as we phase in more renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency.

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



## Calendar

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sept 29<br>Sunday<br>2-4 p.m.    | ACT 40th Anniversary Fund-raiser and Celebration at Bill and Claire Bogaard's home, 311 Congress Place, Pasadena. \$40 per person; sponsorships available. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.  |
| October 3<br>Thursday<br>7 p.m.  | ACT Steering and ADC Meetings at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Larry Wilson of the Pasadena Star-News will speak. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting follows at 7:30p.m. Everyone is welcome.       |
| October 4<br>Friday<br>9 a.m.    | Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.  |
| October 11<br>Friday<br>10 a.m.  | San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at the Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa St., Altadena. David Czamanske, Chair of the Pasadena Group of the Sierra Club will discuss the San Gabriel National Recreation Area proposal. |
| October 18<br>Friday             | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 10/4.)   |
| Nov. 5<br>Tuesday<br>7 am – 8 pm | Local Elections including PCC Board and Altadena Library Board.  |



## Is There a Red Check on Your Address Label?



Your continued membership in ACT/ADC is important to us, so a red check on your address label on this *Phoenix* is to remind you that we have not yet received your 2013 ACT and/or ADC dues. Please use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074 ASAP. Or renew online at <http://www.actpasadena.org/>. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net) or 626-795-5255.

P.S. Many thanks to our 2013 active members in 236 ACT households. And to our 248 ADC members. Your membership contributions keep us going.

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

\$40 Single	\$70 Single Sustaining
\$25 Each additional member per household	\$90 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$150 Patron
	\$275 Benefactor

### I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
\$20 Gift Membership (NEW!)	\$275 Benefactor

### I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
	\$275 Benefactor

### Extra Contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Account (for organizational costs)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	ZIP
Email address	