



**The Official Publication of ACT**

P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## ACT -- and Our Next 40 Years

As we approach our 40th anniversary (what an amazing accomplishment, in and of itself) in 2013, we have been pondering questions that all mature organizations face: how do we remain vibrant, attract new members, adapt our mission to changing times, yet remain true to our core and our history?

As we tackle these issues, we want the input from our entire membership. So in the center of this Phoenix there is a survey, to which we invite all members to respond. It is intended to help chart our way forward -- what do you want us to be, what do you value in our organization, what ought we be doing, how do we grow and become an even more effective advocate for progressive causes and candidates. Tell us what you think.

Please answer the questions on page 7-8, but feel free to add any comments or advice you may wish to offer. Please return the survey to ACT in the enclosed envelope, or mail it to our PO Box (P.O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114 - 7074), or send e-mail comments to [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).



### 2012 Steering Committee Calendar

The ACT Steering Committee and the Arroyo Democratic Club meet at 7:30 p.m. (socializing begins at 7 p.m.) on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month in rotation. All ACT and ADC members are always welcome and urged to attend.

NOTE: The January meeting violates both the rotation and first week rule -- it's on **Tuesday, January 10** at the home of Susan Kane

& Jon Fuhrman, as listed in the Calendar on the last page.

The February meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, location to be announced. We hope to have PUSD Superintendent John Gundry as guest speaker.

The full 2012 meeting schedule will be published in *The Phoenix* as soon as it is finalized.



## Democrats to Meet



The Region 12 Pre-Endorsement Conference will be on Sunday, January 22, beginning at 1:15, at Monterey Park City Council Chambers, 320 West Newmark Street in Monterey Park. The fixed agenda is consideration of Assembly Districts, Senate Districts and Congressional Districts in ascending numerical order, that is ADs 41, 43, 49 and 51, SD 25, and CDs 27, 28 and 34.

Voter eligibility is based on current districts, however, all eligible voters will vote in the new districts for endorsement purposes, based on where they are registered.

ADC's representatives are Ernestine Moore, Emily Stork, Wendy Gordon, Anita Pemstein, Jacqui Jones, Tom Hubbard, Monica Hubbard, Sally Beer, Mary Barrie, Chuck Hains, John McLean and John Buchanan. Unfortunately the ADC Charter was allowed to lapse. As of December 18, when this was written, we don't know if the reinstatement will be in time to let ADC representatives vote.

Additional information is available at the California Democratic Party website [cadem.org](http://cadem.org).



## San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club

The San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meets on the second Friday of each month, September through June at 10 a.m., usually at the Altadena Public Library. An interesting program or speaker follows a brief business meeting.

The next meeting is on Friday, January 13, 10 a.m. at the Altadena Library. UDH President,

Bill Hackett will provide an update on Pasadena United Democratic Headquarters plans and finances.

## Pundit of the Month Contest!

Are you a shrewd observer of the political tides? Want to match your prognostications against those of national - and local - pundits?

Then enter our "Pundit of the Month" contest! For this first round, tell us who you think will come in first and second, and their percentages, for the Iowa caucuses, and the New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida primaries. There is a \$10 entry fee, which will go to our Judy Boggs Intern Fund.

Send in your predictions by letter or e-mail (to [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net)); you can enclose a \$10 contribution or we'll bill you after the contest.

The winner will be announced at the February Steering Committee meeting and published in the Phoenix, with appropriate accolades from us all, and gets, for several months at least, bragging rights among the cognoscenti.



## Civil Rights Struggle In Pasadena

In April of 1963, a number of local African-American clergy "occupied" Pasadena City Hall in sympathy with Dr. King's efforts against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. A key leader of the Pasadena demonstration was Rev. Matthew N. Richardson, who will be honored as the featured speaker at this year's Martin Luther King Celebration, which will be held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 2283 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Sunday, January 15, 3:30 PM. This annual community event is sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Pasadena. Contact Inman Moore or George Van Alstine for more information.

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, December 19.

**J**ust when we thought the Republican primary couldn't get any stranger, it seems to be taking the next turn into never-never land. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich, after soaring to a dominant position, seems now to be falling by the wayside, just as Michelle Bachman, Rick Perry and Herman Cain before him.

What explains this remarkable fad-like behavior among Republicans? In part, it seems that Mitt Romney continues to hold a solid quarter of the party, but simply can't expand beyond that. The rest of the party seems to flit from one candidate to the next, searching desperately for an alternative. As soon as they find one contender, that person's flaws quickly come home to roost.

It is perhaps a telling indictment of the Republican Party that they had so few potential candidates of national stature who had under-

gone the microscopic scrutiny that a national candidacy inevitably -- and appropriately -- brings. Gingrich, though, had undergone that scrutiny. He seems to have been done in essentially by his own pomposity and unfiltered "grand thoughts". It was his inherent character and style that led to such scathing assessments from former colleagues, particularly fellow House members, including significant leaders in the conservative movement. It was his serene hubris that led him to think he could run an "unconventional" campaign, leaving him short of funds to rebut relentless media attacks by competing candidates and short of ground organizers to compete with Ron Paul's dedicated field operation.

And then, to cap it off, Gingrich has been attacking the federal judiciary, with incendiary suggestions about impeaching judges whose decisions he disagreed with, abolishing courts, and using federal marshals to compel judges to appear before Congress to answer for their decisions. One wonders how such comments might influence people like Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, who might be the swing vote on deciding whether District Court judges overstepped their bounds in redrawing Texas Congressional boundaries (a case that could very well help tip the balance of control in the House) or whether the national health insurance mandate is constitutional.

At this point, as strange as it sounds, Ron Paul is looking like a possible winner of the Iowa caucuses. Paul cannot possibly win the nomination, so should he win in Iowa, it simply clouds the entire process. Romney will almost surely win New Hampshire, Gingrich still leads in South Carolina, and Florida will be a real test. All this likely guarantees a drawn-out struggle.

Mitt Romney is unquestionably the best positioned to wage such a long fight, with strong funding and a nation-wide organization; yet he

still just doesn't connect with the Republican core, and nothing he says or does seems to breach that barrier. Could another candidate come into the process late in the game (like New Jersey Gov. Christie) or in a brokered convention? Whatever happens, it's going to be fun watching. And if you want to be in on the action, join ACT's contest for "Pundit of the Month" -- enter by submitting your picks for first and second place (and percentages) in the Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida primaries. Entries (via letter, e-mail to me -- [jon.fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon.fuhrman@charter.net) -- or web site -- [www.actpasadena.org](http://www.actpasadena.org)) are due by January 2, with a \$10 contribution to the Judy Boggs Intern Fund. Winner gets bragging rights for several months running!

Special Note: Also on our web site, I'll be posting an extra article on the whole jobs and taxes issue -- does raising taxes on upper-income taxpayers really kill jobs, particularly in small businesses, or are the Republicans selling a load of horse manure? For the true policy wonks among you, look for this on our web site next week.

Here in California, budget woes continue, which are leading to a plethora of potential ballot initiatives bubbling up from both inside and outside government.

On the budget front, the Governor "pulled the trigger" and ordered the about \$1 billion in mid-year reductions. It could have been worse -- the basic school year was untouched, instead of being cut by a full week, but money for busing was slashed (despite districts being legally required to bus students for a number of reasons). Interestingly, the budget picture may actually be looking up. November revenues were \$500 million above forecast, reducing

the year-to-date shortfall significantly. Economic indicators are mostly pretty positive, from higher employment, home sales and car sales to lower numbers of foreclosures. Further, on the national front, claims for jobless benefits fell last week to 366,000, well under the 375,000 rule of thumb that indicates robust job growth. So it may be that the economy truly is starting to gain steam. If so, economic growth may rescue us from our budgetary woes, but that's a thin reed to count on.

Meanwhile, in response to years of deprivation and a growing sense that voters are now willing to fund critical services more realistically, there are a slew of ballot initiatives pending or ready for circulation. The Governor is proposing modest increases in the sales tax and upper level personal income tax rates to raise about \$7 billion for the general fund, about half of which would go to schools and higher education. The Think Long group, with several Silicon Valley billionaires behind it, wants to lower personal and corporate income tax rates but extend the sales tax to cover services as well as goods, hoping to raise \$10 billion for the general fund. Pasadena's own

Molly Munger is sponsoring an initiative (titled Our Children, Our Future) that would raise personal income taxes on all but the lowest income families (with higher income families getting a higher raise) to raise \$10 billion for schools and early childhood education, keeping the money separate from the general fund and channeling it directly to local schools, providing for a substantially greater degree of local control but also local accountability.

These measures conflict in some ways, and they might be complementary in others, but most pundits argue that, if all three appear on



the ballot, voters will turn them all down, rather than attempt to choose from among them. So some intense negotiations are under way; things should sort themselves out by early next year, but if no one backs down, it could make for tougher sledding for all three initiatives. (By way of fair disclosure, I'm personally helping on the Our Children, Our Future initiative.)

On another initiative front, the Republican's attempt to overturn the State Senate redistricting is now undergoing signature verification. About 697,000 signatures were submitted, which is on the low end of the numbers needed. The sampling stage will determine if at least 95% of the required 504,760 signatures have been gathered. That means the proponents need to show they have at least 479,500 signatures; if not, the petitions are rejected. If they have over that, but less than 110% of the required number, then every single signature is verified. So the proponents need a validation level of at least 68.8% to survive to the next step; they need a 72.4% validation rate to get on the ballot. At the end of November, they were running just above 69% state-wide -- enough to go to the next step, but not enough finally to qualify. Fresno and San Diego counties have since come in with higher validation rates, but Los Angeles, where the bulk of the signatures are located, is still validating their sample. (Other state-wide initiatives have had validation rates ranging from 70.2% to 76.4%.) Overall, it looks like they might get to a full-signature validation stage, but fall just a bit shy of getting on the ballot. That, however, would extend the uncertainty as to what district boundaries would be used for the 2012 election.

Another initiative -- the so-called "Paycheck Protection" initiative, which seeks to prohibit unions from using payroll deductions to fund their political PACs, and thus cripple unions' ability to contribute funds (which typically go

to Democrats) -- submitted over 900,000 signatures, so they are sure to get on the ballot in November 2012. Thus, even if the Presidential race is not overly exciting, there will be issues designed to attract and motivate conservative and Tea Party voters. So buckle up and get ready -- next year is going to be one hell of a ride!

-- Jon Fuhrman



### **Do we have your current Email address?**

Please send your new Email address to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net)



### **Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:**

Julianna Hines, Pasadena  
 Vickery and Neil Murphy, La Crescenta  
 Toby Osos, Pasadena  
 Kevin Sea, Upland  
 Lisa Vernon, Pasadena  
 Felicia Williams, Pasadena

### **Special Thanks to Sustaining Members**

Felicia Williams, Pasadena

### **And really special thanks to Benefactors**

State Senator Carol Liu  
 & Michael Peevey, La Canada

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

Roberta Cole, Shadow Hills

## Nominating Committee Report

At our December meeting, the Nominating Committee reported the following preliminary list of officers and committee chairs and members for 2012 ACT and ADC. We are still contacting folks to fill in the blank spots – such as a third Co-Chair. At the January 10 General Membership meeting, nominations can be made from the floor and we will vote on our newly nominated officers (shown in *Italics* here). Please, please, please if you are willing to serve, give Executive Director Jon Fuhrman a call at 626-795-5255. Also please let him know if you can't continue or would like to do something different in 2012.

### Proposed 2012 ACT Steering Committee:

#### Co-Chairs

Carolyn Carlburg, *Wendy Soltes*, \_\_\_\_\_

#### Recording Secretaries

Sally Beer, *Fred Register*, *Taylor Dark*

**Corresponding Sec'y** Beth Gertmenian

**Treasurer** Jon Fuhrman

**Communications** Wendy Gordon

#### Computer/Web Page

Fred Register, Jon Fuhrman, Elliot Cuite,  
Ross Mitchell, Bobbie Moon, Henry Moon

**Demographics** (*The Nominating Committee suggests rolling Demographics into the Program Committee*)

**Election Procedures** *Ann Hunnewell*

#### Fundraising

*Emily Stork*, Anne Wolf, Bill Hackett,  
Jim Heringer, Teresa Lamb Simpson

#### Mailing

Ellen Coles, Sally Beer, Tom Hubbard,  
Jon Fuhrman, Joe Pardee, Jim Heringer,  
Nellie Moore, Inman Moore, Linda Moore,  
Ann Hunnewell, Teresa Lamb Simpson

## Membership

*Neal Wrightson*, Ralph Hurtado,  
Jeanette Mann, Sally Beer, Chuck Hains  
Jeanne Register, David Hodge,  
Greg Harrison, Connie O'Donnell,  
Anne Wolf, Jon Fuhrman, Elliot Cuite,  
Susan Kane, Bill Hackett, Mark Gonzalez,

**The Phoenix** Chuck Hains, Sally Beer

## Program

Inman Moore, John Buchanan,  
*Wendy Gordon*, Dolores Hickambottom

## Research

John McLean (City),  
Roberta Martinez (PCC),  
Susan Kane (Federal),  
George VanAlstine (Schools),  
Brian Walsh (Propositions),  
Ralph Hurtado, Greg Harrison,  
Neal Wrightson, Jeanette Mann,  
Jon Fuhrman, Jim Heringer, Emily Stork,  
Dolores Hickambottom, Adam Murray,  
Inman Moore, Tim Wendler, Peter Dreier,  
Joanne Wendler, Geoffrey Baum,  
Garrett Schneider, Anthony Portantino,  
Jacquelynne Jones Corby, Mary Barrie,  
Allan Eisenman, Berjouhi Koukeyan,  
Peter Wong, Roberta Marti, Elliot Cuite,  
Mike Cornwell, Monica Hubbard,  
Lyssa Axeen, Daniel Lopez

## Proposed 2012 Arroyo Democratic Club Officers

President	Bill Hackett
Vice-President	<i>Tim Wendler</i>
Secretaries	Same as ACT
Treasurer	Same as ACT



## From Page 1, Organization Survey

Note that some questions ask you to choose up to three answers for a given question, and to rank order them by circling 1 for your top choice, and so on.

What term best defines ACT as an organization (currently)?

- Non-partisan political group
- Progressive political group
- Democratic political group
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like ACT to be defined as we go forward?

- Non-partisan political group
- Progressive political group
- Democratic political group
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

What should be the main priority activities for ACT as an organization [rank top three]?

- Researching and providing information to members about candidates and initiatives 1 2 3
- Recruiting individuals to run for local, state, national office 1 2 3
- Providing support (financial & other resources) to candidates 1 2 3
- Working/volunteering on candidates' campaigns 1 2 3
- Hosting fundraisers/events with high-profile local/state/national political figures 1 2 3
- Hosting candidate forums 1 2 3
- Putting on other informational programs for members and the community at large? 1 2 3
- Participating in local Democratic Headquarters in major election years 1 2 3

- Publishing the Phoenix 1 2 3
- Advocating specific issues with elected officials 1 2 3
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ 1 2 3

Should ACT expand its coverage of "local" politics to other surrounding communities?

- South Pasadena
- La Cañada
- Monrovia
- Duarte
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Should ACT spend more effort putting on programs for its members and the community at large?

- Yes  No

If so, what should be the focus of those programs [rank in order of preference]?

- Local politics/candidates? 1 2 3 4
- Local social issues? 1 2 3 4
- State/national politics/candidates? 1 2 3 4
- State/national social issues? 1 2 3 4

Do you have specific suggestions for future programs? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to recruit/attract new members to ACT [rank top three]?

- Capture volunteers from local Democratic Headquarters 1 2 3
- Visit local college campuses 1 2 3
- Advertise on social media 1 2 3
- Enhance website 1 2 3
- Offer more relevant programs 1 2 3
- Offer more frequent programs 1 2 3
- Change meeting venues 1 2 3
- Change meeting times 1 2 3
- Change organization's focus to social issues 1 2 3

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have specific ideas about how to raise ACT's profile in the community?

Are there any other comments/suggestions you would like to make?

Please return this survey to ACT in the enclosed envelope, or mail it to our PO Box (P.O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114 - 7074), or send e-mail comments to [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).

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**From  
44th District  
Assemblymember  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Greetings from Sacramento!

**Dear ACT Members,**

Our area went through a lot these last few weeks. The wind damage was significant and the aftermath was frustrating for all involved. Our own co-chair, Wendy Gordon and many others were out of power for way too long. As I said during the Altadena Tree Lighting, our community can be winded but it can't be blown down. There was an amazing, resilient spirit on display throughout the foothills by residents, public safety and work crews.

I was very pleased that Governor Brown's

office answered my call and positively responded to my invitation to tour the damage. CALEMA Secretary Mike Dayton came down and spent an entire day touring the foothill communities most devastated. I had the opportunity to travel with him during much of the tour. The affected cities did a very good job of showcasing the significant damage received. The day after the tour, Governor Brown declared a state of emergency for Los Angeles County.

My staff did an incredible job staffing phones, answering questions for constituents and helping to direct them to the appropriate resources. We learned a lot through this and it clearly showed that much more needs to be done to be prepared for the next disaster. That's why I'm introducing legislation to force investor owned utilities to present disaster preparedness plans to every county they serve. These meetings would commence three months following a signature by the Governor. I'm also asking the counties to invite cities to participate in these meetings and the California Public Utilities Commission to set stringent standards for preparedness.

Last Wednesday, there was a hearing in Sacramento on the pepper spray incident at the UC Davis campus. As a legislator and the father of a UC student, I want to make sure that our children our involved on their campuses and have the right to exercise free speech without such a significant threat to their well being. I flew to Sacramento so I could add my voice to support efforts to protect campuses and our children. I had the opportunity to emphasize the need for an open and public process as the UC task force conducts its review and makes recommendations. I was also quite taken aback by the CSU presenters who used the phrases "mob" and "agitators" when referring to the protesters. Clearly, such rhetoric is not helpful. It's also important to note that much of the unrest is



due to rising fees and increasing costs on students who attend our colleges and universities, because of the budget cuts. Many of the triggered cuts this past week continue to devastate higher education. They were a bad idea in June and it continues to be bad public policy to enact such cuts to education in particular and to do it without a public vetting or discussion of the consequences. If democrats can't stand up for public education, we're all in very big trouble.

I am also very grateful to my friends and neighbors who have been celebrating with me the judge's decision to force Assembly leaders to open the books. It was a big day for democracy and transparency when the judge issued his ruling. I am proud that I released my budget and schedule prior to being forced by the court to do so. As the judge clearly stated in his ruling, open means open. It's sad that the legislature need a judge to remind it of that simple point.

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy holiday and new year. I've got my daughters home and I'm enjoying them.

-- Anthony

*Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia. He can be reached by Email at:*

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>



## He Gets It

*"To be clear. I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming. Call me crazy."*

—Tweet from Jon Huntsman

## From State Senator Carol Liu...



## Sacramento Update December 2011

**California budget outlook.** On December 13, the Governor announced that due to revenues falling below prior projections; just less than one billion of the \$2.4 billion in trigger cuts included in the 2011-2012 budget will go into effect. More serious cuts to K-12 education have been avoided for now. Trigger cuts will, however, impact Home to School Transportation, In-Home Supportive Services, the Department of Developmental Services, the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges. Trigger cuts were included in the budget when Republicans would not agree to revenue increases as part of the 2011-2012 budget deficit solution.

With a projected 2012-2013 budget deficit of \$13 billion, the Governor will propose additional cuts in the budget he submits to the Legislature in January. He is also placing an initiative on the November 2012 ballot to raise \$7 billion by increasing taxes for millionaires and high-income earners by two percent for five years. No family making less than \$500,000 would have an increase in taxes. In addition, the Governor also proposes to raise the state sales tax by half a cent. The funds would be set aside for education and public safety programs. Other competing ballot initiatives are in the works, and the Governor is negotiating with their sponsors to see if they can agree on placing just one measure on the ballot. You can see a video of the Governor's

press conference at:

<http://www.gov.ca.gov/video.php?id=47>

The Legislature will begin its review of the Governor's January budget and subsequent May Revise through its budget committees and subcommittees and work towards adoption of a new budget by the end of June 2012. Thus far, budgets adopted in the last three years have cut California's \$26 billion structural budget deficit by half. However, there are still difficult decisions to be made to stabilize California's fiscal position before the Legislature can focus on long-term budget solutions that will buffer the state from economic swings and protect funding for schools, public safety, and essential services for those in need.

**Women making a difference.** As we work together and across many fronts to accelerate California's economic recovery and create a sustainable future for our state, US Census data show the important contribution women are making to business development and economic growth. At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, there were 7.8 million women-owned businesses in the nation, with 1 million of them located in California.

Los Angeles County has the largest number of women-owned businesses (316,583 businesses) of any county in the nation. More information about women-owned businesses can be found on the web at

<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/get07sof.html?12>

**Gratitude for emergency services workers and first responders.** We are all grateful to our cities, emergency service workers, non-profits, and volunteers for helping our communities get back on their feet after the severe windstorm we experienced in early December. With extreme weather events on the rise, we need to use these experiences as learning opportunities to strengthen our re-

gional public and private sector response capacity and educate the public on how they can better prepare for such emergencies. By examining what went right and what went wrong, we can plan ahead to meet the challenges of severe weather and fires being brought upon us by climate change. This was a topic at the December 15th Governor's Conference on Extreme Climate Risks and California's Future (see <http://www.gov.ca.gov/ecrcf.php> for more information). My GREEN21 program will be partnering with Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC) to address these issues in early 2012.

**Happy Holidays!** It was a pleasure to see many of you at my Open House on December 18<sup>th</sup>. I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Holiday and New Year!

-- Carol Liu

*Senator Carol Liu represents nearly 850,000 people of the 21st District, which includes Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit [www.senate.ca.gov/LIU](http://www.senate.ca.gov/LIU).*



## Thank You from Bill Thomson

Dear ACT: Thanks very much for the support of ACT for my re-election. I'm extremely grateful and appreciative of the help.

I continue to be excited about PCC, and I'm looking forward to the next four years. Education is the issue of our time, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue addressing its challenges.

Please convey my thanks and appreciation to the leadership and members of ACT.

-- Bill Thomson

**From  
43th District  
Assemblymember  
Mike Gatto**

Greetings from  
Sacramento!

**Supporting Local  
Artisanal Foodmakers**

Readers of this publication understand the value of buying locally grown produce and artisanal food products. Both tend to be organic, fresher, and tastier. Such purchases support the local economy, and the products require less fossil fuel to ship. In this burgeoning niche market, local artisans strive to fill our cravings with things like homemade Persian yoghurt and hand-baked, small-batch specialty breads.

Except when they get shut down by the County. California's byzantine, outdated, or protectionist food laws are a constant source of frustration for local producers. I know of one local baker who was told he could not sell his product even though he uses the same oven that a bread wholesaler uses. I know an artisanal yoghurt producer who was told she had to stop the very practice that makes her yoghurt unique. Neither of these was for health reasons. In many cases, the crackdowns stem from a misapplication of a confusing law, or the presence of an outdated law, put on the books during a different era by a special-interest group trying to protect its members.

I believe the state can strike a balance between protecting public health and allowing our cottage-food movement to flourish. This is a compelling issue, not only for those who value handcrafted food products, but also because the fate of several new local small businesses depends on obtaining clarity on



this issue.

I have consulted with these local artisanal businesspersons and with officials at the California Department of Food and Agriculture so that we can develop sensible strategies, laws, and regulations on this issue. Among the broad, systemic budget and fiscal reforms I plan on introducing next year, there will likely also be a small but necessary fix to our artisanal food laws. This is another example where the state can work with, not against, our creative small businesspeople and entrepreneurs.

Mike Gatto is the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly. He represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and parts of Los Angeles, including Los Feliz, North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, and Van Nuys. He has served in the Assembly since June 2010. His web site is [asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://asm.ca.gov/gatto). E-mail Mike at: [assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov), or call (818) 558-3043.



**Phoenix Deadline**

The deadline for the January *Phoenix* will be Sunday, January 15. Please send items to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, January 19 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana Drive, Altadena and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)





## Calendar

Dec 27 Tuesday 4:30-6:30 pm Schiff Holiday Gathering at the Autry National Center, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles. Please contribute a non-perishable food item. RSVP to Patricia Horton at 626-583-8581 or [pmehorton@aol.com](mailto:pmehorton@aol.com).

Jan 6 Friday 8-9 a.m. Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays.

Jan 10 Tuesday 7 p.m.

ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at the home of Susan Kane & Jon Fuhrman, 3220 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena. Program will be analysis and comment on Iowa and the breaking New Hampshire results. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jan 13 Friday 10 a.m.

S G Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at the Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa, Altadena. Speaker is Bill Hackett with and update on the UDH.

Jan 20 Friday

Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 1/6.)

Jan 22 Sunday 1:15-5 p.m.

Democratic Pre-endorsement Conference at Monterey Park City Council Chambers, 320 W. Newmark Ave., Monterey Park.



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