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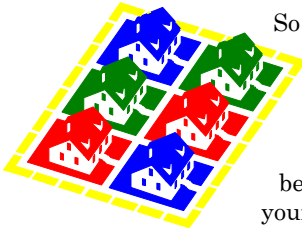
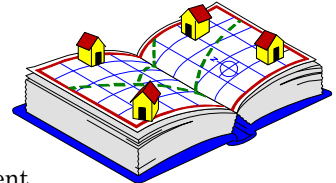
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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Sign Up For Your Chance to Shape California's Future!

Next year, for the first time in state history, reapportionment of the state legislature will be done by an independent commission instead of by the legislators themselves. A panel of fourteen citizens (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 Independents) will determine the boundaries of 40 State Senate districts and 80 Assembly districts.

The process for selecting this commission is convoluted, but there are two key features: It is designed to exclude politicians and their closest associates, and anyone else may sign up to be considered. But **the application period will close on February 12th.**



So if you have any interest at all, take a moment

to go to: wedrawthelines.ca.gov and fill out the very simple form. It couldn't be easier, costs nothing and, who knows? You may end up with the experience, and the opportunity, of a lifetime!

If chosen to serve, you will be paid \$300 a day for work that will take the better part of nine months, beginning in December of 2010. So be sure that your work situation would permit that kind of commitment.

While the chances of being selected are small, there are factors that improve your odds: Among the first 4,000 eligible applicants, many more are from Northern California than from Southern California, many more are men than women, and many more are white/Anglo than ethnic minorities. Since there will certainly be a reasonable balance by gender, ethnicity and region on the final commission, people from this area -- and especially women and minorities -- have a decent chance.

To serve you must have been registered with the same political party (or with no party) in California for at least the last five years, and have voted in at least two of the last three statewide elections. You need to be of good character and be able to be impartial. That's it.

However, you may not serve if you have done any of the following in the last ten years:

- Been a candidate for (or been appointed to) elected state or federal office.
- Been elected or appointed to a state or local party central committee.
- Been an officer, employee or paid consultant for any state or federal campaign committee, or for a party central committee.
- Served as paid staff of any state or federal elected official.
- Worked as a local, state or federal lobbyist.
- Contributed \$2000 or more in a single year to any local, state or federal candidate.

Finally, if anyone in your immediate family (spouse, parent, child, sibling) is disqualified for any of these reasons, you are, too.

Apart from that, everyone is eligible. So seize the day! Go on-line and sign up today!



Jean Kulli

From the Star-News:

“Jean Kulli (Edna Jean Traughber Kulli), heart of her family, friend to many, and pursuer of social justice for all died in her home on January 4, surrounded by her loving family. Jean was born on July 2, 1920 in Nashville, Tennessee, daughter of the late Vernon William and Edna Hayes Traughber. The Traughbers moved to Los Angeles in 1927, and Jean graduated from Franklin High School, Class of 1937, where she met her future husband, John Emil Kulli. Jean was a member of the UCLA Class of 1941 and was married on June 27, ‘41 in Glendale. Though her college education was interrupted, Jean went back to school and graduated in 1970 with a degree in English



from Cal State LA. She is survived by her husband, her brother James, three children - John "Jay," Jolinda and Sandra as well as five grandchildren, Jennifer, Matthew, Victoria, Martin, and Anne and nine great-grandchildren. A grandchild, Alexander, predeceased her. In addition to immediate family, Jean leaves beloved nieces and nephews and dear neighbors. To the greater Pasadena community, Jean was an enthusiastic volunteer in many political campaigns, historical celebrations, and local charities. Among her favorite organizations were ACT, the Polytechnic School, All Saints Church, AFS and Pasadena Heritage. Late in life, Jean enjoyed a career in real estate with William Wilson/Sotheby's. Always active in housing and home life, Jean developed many friendships with her clients and colleagues. In 2006, Jean gave a speech at UCLA as the oldest living recipient of a scholarship awarded on merit by the alumni association. To generations of her family and friends, Jean was many things for many years: wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, neighbor, colleague and friend. To this extended family, she was a dedicated cook, a supplier of endless chocolate-chip cookies, a formidable tennis player, a manager of legendary parties and celebrations, and the keeper of the toy drawer in the kitchen to which three generations of children - her own and her neighbors' - would scamper whenever they came in the door.”...

Above is the Kulli family's lovely tribute to Jean that appeared in the Pasadena Star News on January 10. It is sadly true that we learn a great deal that we didn't know about our friends when they die.

We are heartbroken that our friend **Jean Kulli** succumbed to lung cancer on January 4. Jean was a wonderful, bright, warm woman - vital and active all her days. A week before her death, in a conversation with Ralph Hurtado she said, “Well, I am 89!” That is as hard

for us to believe as the fact that she is gone.

Jean helped start our organization: she and John were Charter members, she was an ACT Co-Chair, and she was our original Executive Director - back when our office was upstairs at Washington and Lake, our member and donor files were on cards and we were not able to elect Democrats to federal or state offices, no matter how hard we worked. (After 3 years as Executive Director, Jean went on to a somewhat more lucrative real estate career and the late Judy Boggs took over the ACT office.) While Jean was active in other civic organizations, it was her dedication to ACT and to Democratic politics – including her weekly afternoons at the most recent United Democratic Headquarters – that we think of when we remember her.

We are grateful to the Kullis for hosting our fundraisers as well as countless Steering Committee meetings, with Jean preparing cookies and gourmet snacks for us every time. We have fond memories of being in the Kulli home on the hill.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Johnny, Jean's brother James, son Jay, daughters Jolinda and Sandra, grandchildren, great-grand children and the extended family. They and Jean will be in our hearts always.

A memorial service to celebrate Jean's life is planned for Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m. at All Saints Church, Pasadena. The family suggests that any memorial contributions be made to Union Station Homeless Services or Las Familias del Pueblo in Los Angeles

-- Sally Beer



Seuss-isms

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot — nothing is going to get better. It's not.

-- The Lorax (Dr. Seuss)

ACT Web Page News

The November and December issues of *the Phoenix* are now available online at our web page, www.ACTPasadena.org. November is available to the world; December to ACT and ADC members when they do a minor sign on. We hope to update each month so that the current *Phoenix* is always available to members online and earlier issues are available to everyone.



ACT February Meeting features Latino History Presentation

Our February 4 ACT Steering/ADC meeting will feature a presentation by Steering Committee member, **Roberta Martinez**, on Latino history in the Pasadena area. Roberta will draw on the research she did for her recently published book, *Latinos in Pasadena** to provide us with an insider's view of the impact Latinos have had on local history and politics.

Please join us on Thursday, February 4 (coffee at 7 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.) at the home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Avenue, Pasadena for a great program before our business meeting.

*Congratulations to Roberta on the publication of *Latinos in Pasadena*, a volume in the Images of America series. It is bursting with historic photos augmented by Roberta's informative text. It is available at the Pasadena Library and local bookstores. For information about it, visit www.arcadiapublishing.com.



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, January 11.

Amid the screaming headlines and breaking news stories, President Obama issued an Executive Order last month that was overlooked by most mainstream media, but it might have a tremendous lasting impact.

The Order launches a fundamental restructuring of our security and classification system -- what is secret, or top secret, or tippy-tippy top secret ("special access" or black-ops programs), and who decides that, and how long shall it remain classified, and how and when do we declassify fifty years worth of accumulated information. This may not seem like a glamorous subject, yet we spend over \$10 billion a year on our security system, and five previous Administrations tried to reform it with little success. The result has been a relentless growth in secrecy; repeated abuses of the

system to hide embarrassing, but not really sensitive, information; a failure to meet goals in declassifying historic data; and, since 9/11, an explosion in new classes of "sensitive but unclassified" data which are kept from the public despite a lack of statutory authority to do so.

Characteristically, the Obama Administration began the process with great openness and transparency, soliciting input from a broad spectrum of sources, using a Web site to capture, and make visible, that input and officials' responses to those suggestions. What is remarkable, though, is that many of the ideas from that input do in fact appear in the final Executive Order.

There were a number of welcome reforms. The CIA no longer has the unilateral authority to veto declassification decisions. The declassification process is streamlined, and there is a statement of principle that no information may remain classified indefinitely.

But the heart of the new process is a mandate that each Executive Agency (Cabinet Departments and independent agencies like the CIA) promptly review what are called their "classification guides." This is the set of rules each agency uses to define what should be classified and why. It's the collected set of judgments about what information might truly harm the national security, and therefore deserves protection, and what level of security it deserves. In theory, it ensures that, for example, all the thousands of personnel in the Defense Department use the same criteria and decision-trees in making classification decisions, so that an Admiral in Hawaii and an administrator in Washington, looking at the same data, would arrive at the same conclusion.

Unfortunately, most classification guides are 20, if not 30 or 40, years old. They are rife with Cold War mentality and outdated stan-

dards. The Department of Energy launched a sweeping review of their classification guides in the Clinton Administration, as a demonstration project. It was a major success, leading to a significant decrease in data being classified, fewer personnel authorized to classify data, and reduced costs. Yet DOE was the only agency to undertake this review, and its success depended in no small part on Secretary O'Leary's personal commitment.

Now the President has thrown his personal weight behind this project, requiring each agency to undertake an equivalent review. This is, without doubt, the most fundamental review of our classification system since the original national security legislation in 1948.

Beyond its own importance, though, this Executive Order is a fascinating case study of how the Obama Administration seems willing, and even eager, to tackle the fundamental underpinnings of enormously complicated problems that have bedeviled past Administrations. Another example currently underway is the Defense Department's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). This document delineates our overall national defense strategy: what threats do we face, how do we protect ourselves against them, what types of forces do we need, what role should they play, how much will they cost. It's a fundamental review of our entire armed forces structure -- how large an Army should we have, what sort of combat vehicles should they have, how many aircraft carriers and submarines should we deploy, how many nuclear weapons do we need and why do we need them. It should articulate our vision of the world, our role in the world, and how we execute that role.

President Obama has a very different vision

than President Bush did. The first drafts of the QDR apparently reflected the traditional approaches, with traditional justifications. The White House has reportedly rejected those drafts and senior personnel are becoming more personally involved in redrafting the review to reflect the President's thinking. This is likely to mean a very different perspective on how many nuclear weapons we need, thereby laying the groundwork for greater progress with Russia on nuclear disarmament treaties. The new document may also provide justifications for scaling back anti-missile systems, or developing them in cooperation with NATO members and perhaps even Russia; for reducing the number of carrier battle groups the Navy supports; for revising Air Force plans for the next generation of fighter jets; and for reconsidering DOD plans for space weaponry. The QDR may be a bit arcane and technical, but it underlies the next four years of budget requests, R&D, and large-scale procurements, as well as the core question of what we expect our military to accomplish and how we expect them to do it.



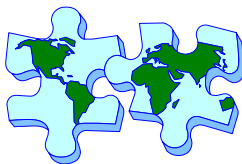
Here again, the Administration seems to show no hesitation to address the fundamental, underlying issues. This might not result in easily visible results in the short term, nor is it likely to generate politically useful sound bites. But the lasting effects are going to be extraordinary, because this is the way we really change the course of our lumbering bureaucracy.

While the Administration, from my perspective, has gotten it right on these issues, I think they caved to popular hysteria and got it wrong in responding to the failed airline bombing attempt. The President asserted that we had the intelligence, but just didn't connect

the dots. I think it's not that simple.

Imagine a jigsaw puzzle of the sky and clouds with 1000 pieces. You have all the pieces, so it should be easy to match one randomly chosen piece to its neighbor. Yet clearly it isn't. You could try every one of the remaining 999 pieces, and eventually find a match, but by just looking at the pieces, no particular piece would stand out.

Now imagine a puzzle with a billion pieces; each has a neighbor, but it becomes essentially impossible to connect the two. It would have



been nice had the terrorist's father reported that his son was scanning the Web for explosives recipes, or had left notes about airline routes or departure times. In fact, though, he merely reported his son had become estranged from the family, was espousing fundamentalist views, and was associating with questionable characters. Four months earlier, a phone call was intercepted mentioning a Nigerian. Almost surely, over the prior six months, phone calls were intercepted mentioning a Senegalese, a Mauritanian, a Somali, a Sudanese -- to connect any one of those conversations with a particular person two or four or six months later is just not a realistic expectation. I wish the President had been more forthright about the inherent limitations to our ability to process and act on intelligence snippets like these. But on an issue like this, with passions running so high, perhaps his cool analytic style would not have been well received.

Talking about passions running high, commentators seem obsessed with talking about Obama's diminishing popularity and Democrats declining fortunes. Most assume significant losses in the House in November's mid-term elections, and the recent retirement

announcements by Senators Dodd and Dorgan were interpreted as confirmation that the sky was falling for Democrats.

Mid-term elections are always a problem for the White House incumbent, but often more so for Democrats. Part of Obama's election victory was due to dramatically increased turnout among groups that often vote in lower proportions, particularly minorities and young voters. Turnout always declines from Presidential to mid-year elections, and declines further in special elections or off-year gubernatorial elections as we had last November. When turnout declines, Democrats typically suffer.

On the other hand, November is a long way away. Some of the President's decline in popularity comes from the left-wing, from people disappointed at our inability to get a full public option or to resist the pro-life amendments in the health care bill. Some comes from current concern about the economy and unemployment rates. In November, the climate might be quite different -- we might have a signed health care bill, we might be seeing job increases instead of job cuts, we might be seeing the last combat troops leaving Iraq, and we might be seeing the Dow back up above 12,000. And we will surely see two months of President Obama out on the campaign trail, reminding voters why it's important to have more than 60 Democratic Senators and a strong House majority.

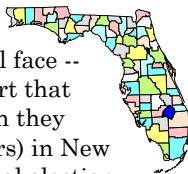
Democrats may very well lose some seats in the House. However, it's worth remembering that we have 257 seats because we won so many traditionally Republican districts. It's not surprising that a few of those might go back to Republican hands. Further, eleven House Democrats have announced their retirement, so some of those seats will be in play now. On the other hand, twelve Republicans have announced their retirements, so as many Republican seats may be newly vulnerable as

Democratic seats. So far, at least, the total number of retirements is modest compared to past years.

In the Senate, much attention was focused on Senators Dodd & Dorgan, whose retirements were relatively unexpected. Yet, in Connecticut, Sen. Dodd was definitely on the ropes; with his retirement, the Democratic Attorney-General, Richard Blumenthal, is almost sure to coast to victory. Sen. Dorgan might well have retained his seat, but he was facing a potentially tough battle against John Hoeven, the very popular Republican Governor, in a generally Republican state. So the retirements have moved one questionable race into a definite loss, and another into an easy win.

Pundits generally didn't point out that Republican Senators were retiring from New Hampshire, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Florida, and Kentucky. Democrats have won recent elections in New Hampshire, Ohio, and Missouri, and we have strong candidates in each. So it's quite possible we could pick up two or three seats from those states.

Florida is a fascinating case, and it highlights the other problem that Republicans will face -- internecine warfare, of the sort that cost them a House seat (which they had held for the past 100 years) in New York in last November's special election. The incumbent Republican Senator, Mel Martinez, resigned last year, and Gov. Crist has appointed a care-taker. Crist, the centrist Republican Governor, is himself running for the Senate seat. He was thought to be a shoo-in, given his tremendous popularity and centrist positions. But a former Speaker of the Florida House, Marco Rubio, is challenging Crist in the Republican primary. Rubio was considered a fringe candidate, initially polling in the low single digits. But he attracted the support of the true-believers, raised millions and is



now neck-and-neck with Crist in the polls.

Rubio's supporters have forced the Republican state party chair to resign, and they seem intent on taking over the Republican party structure. My guess is that Rubio will win the primary, but in the process alienate both centrist voters and Crist supporters, opening up the Senate seat to whichever Democrat wins the primary. Unfortunately, the Democratic Senate candidates are relatively unknown right now, but the Republican bloodletting may be bad enough to open the door for them.

This struggle for the soul of the Republican Party is playing out in many states and many races across the country. It bodes well for Democratic chances, but it also bodes ill for the country. These "fundamentalist" Republicans brook no compromise, tolerate no deviation, and want to purge their party of the impure even if it means losing races. They pressure incumbents toward inflexibility and extreme partisanship, regardless of the cost in legislative accomplishment or governmental effectiveness.

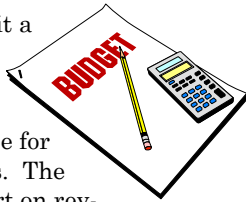
Here in California, we saw that same war played out locally. Assemblyman Anthony Adams, representing the district stretching from Sierra Madre east along the foothills into San Bernardino County, was one of three Republican Assemblymembers to vote for the Governor's budget (including tax increases). He was forced out as chair of the San Bernardino Republican County Central Committee. A recall movement almost gathered enough signatures to force an election. Sure to be violently opposed in the upcoming primary, he decided not to seek re-election. While that decision frees him to vote his conscience this year on budget and tax issues, it is emblematic of the fate of any Republican who dares to cross party lines. It will surely make this year's budget debates



that much more difficult by discouraging any other potential middle-roaders.

And our budget does look grim. The Governor's preliminary budget runs a \$20 billion deficit, for the remainder of this fiscal year and all of next year (through June, 2011), to be resolved almost entirely through spending cuts. By and large, education was spared, with only a \$2 billion reduction for K - 12 and community colleges together. Most cuts are in the social welfare and health care areas. The Legislature is not likely to approve those cuts, but neither will they have the votes to raise taxes. So once again we're stuck in the middle, with neither side budging, and the Governor has again declared a fiscal emergency.

The Governor will submit a budget update in May, based on the latest revenue figures, and there may be a smidgen of hope for improved economic news. The state had been \$850 short on revenue compared to the budget forecasts for this fiscal year through the end of November. But the December figures came in \$450 million above forecast, cutting this year's deficit to under \$400 million. If that trend were to continue (or, dare we hope, accelerate), we could end up with nearly \$3 billion in extra funds for this year. It doesn't close the \$20 billion gap, but it helps. The state still faces considerable budget uncertainty; some revenues the Governor projected won't materialize (as, for example, from the sale of part of the state workers' compensation fund), while we may face other unbudgeted expenses (from federal court mandates to increase prison funding, or from state court decisions overturning prior budget cuts in the social welfare system). All told, it's likely to be another tough year in Sacramento.



-- Jon Fuhrman

National Women's Political Caucus

On Monday, January 25, 2010, the National Women's Political Caucus of Greater Pasadena will hold a general meeting to install its new officers at the home of Mary Lois Nevins, 561 Bradford Drive, Pasadena, from 6-8 p.m. In addition, to honor the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973, Sherri Bonner, executive director of Pasadena Planned Parenthood, will speak. Light refreshments will be served before the program.



What would you like to do in 2010?

The Nominating Committee is still searching for 2 new ACT Co-Chairs, plus other officers and committee members for ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club. We hope our 2009 officers and committee members will want to stay on for 2010, but it's not a life sentence. Please let us know if you can't continue or want to serve in a different capacity. Contact Jon Fuhrman at 626-795-5255 or email at jon_fuhrman@charter.net. Or contact any Nominating Committee member: Adam Murray, Jackie Jones Corby, Bill Hackett, Fred Register, Sally Beer, or Ralph Hurtado. Call any of them with questions, requests, or to volunteer your name, etc.



From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

It is a new decade, and I hope the beginning of a return to economic stability for California and its residents. All evidence is that we still have some bumpy roads ahead. But, I truly believe if we can put some meaningful reforms in place, not just stop-gap measures, the state can pave a road to economic prosperity. Those reforms will be a major focus of this year's legislative session: budget reform, education reform, prison reform, government reform, and the way the Legislature does business will all be on the table.

The 2010 session began with final action on the state's response to the federal Race To The Top education improvement grants program. I again could not support the major reforms in open enrollment, but the measures passed and were signed into law by the Governor. The first week also included the Governor's state of the state address. Nothing new there but some foreshadowing of the budget he presented on January 8th. As it stands now, California faces a \$19.9 billion gap between revenues and projected expenditures over the next 18 months. The Governor has called a special session to consider his proposals to fill the gap, which include:

- Pay cuts and increased retirement contributions from state employees,
- Cuts in education administration,
- Cuts to the prison system,
- A shift in the state gasoline sales tax to generate money for the general fund,

- Significant cuts to the remaining social services programs such as CalWorks and IHSS, and
- More vigorous pursuit of federal funds.

The President Pro Tem of the Senate has already signaled that the Senate will pursue alternative strategies to those the Governor has put forth. Please watch my website for updates on budget proposals and counter-proposals.

As we proceed with budget deliberations, I will be continuing my work on reform with the Senate Education Subcommittee on Education Governance and Accountability and the Select Committee on Women and Children in the Criminal Justice System. I continue to Chair the Senate Human Services Committee and I was recently appointed as Chair of the Budget Committee Subcommittee #1 on Education. I also now sit on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

I was pleased at the end of 2009 to be selected as "Legislator of the Year" by the Occupational Therapy Association of California. I also received a 100 percent score from the California Public Interest Research Group for my consumer-conscious voting record.

Many thanks to all of you who attended my holiday open house and brought gift and food donations. Five 21st Senate District charities serving low-income, disabled, immigrant, and homeless people benefitted from your generosity. I know you put smiles on many faces. If we all continue to help and encourage each other, we will emerge from this economic downturn as a stronger and more resilient community. May you all enjoy good fortune in '10.

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.

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



**Dear ACT and
ADC members,**

The legislative year went by in a flash. The Governor signed nine of my bills, including one to protect students and one to save limited healthcare dollars at public health agencies. I was disappointed that my bill regarding salary freezes was held in the Appropriations Committee. It seemed like a good idea, in the midst of a budget crisis, to cap salaries for the highest paid state workers for 24 months.

● **Salary and Benefits**

There has been a lot written lately about the legislature and compensation. I usually don't write about my personal financial decisions, but I think it's appropriate to share my values during this serious budget crisis. Three years ago, I voluntarily refused to take a \$3,000 pay raise. I refused a state-purchased district car and a raise in my per diem (living allowance) rate. I did not accept per diem when the budget standoff went beyond the legislative session. At a time when so many folks have lost their jobs, had their homes foreclosed on or who are just plain struggling to make ends meet, I didn't think it was right to increase my state benefits. I believe that it's important to lead by example and the 44th Assembly District deserves a representative who reflects the values of our outstanding district.

● **New District Staff**

I am very pleased to announce that Tangelica Turner and Mark Gonzalez have joined my District Staff. Tangi is a graduate of Monrovia High School and Spellman College and has

long ties to Pasadena. Her geographic responsibility will include Pasadena and Altadena. Her policy issues are Higher Education, Career Technical Education and Science & Technology. Mark is a well known student activist who was a recent Judy Boggs Intern for the United Democratic Headquarters. He is a graduate of Eagle Rock High School and Cal State Northridge. He will staff North East Los Angeles, health, veterans & seniors affairs and labor issues. Please call on Tangi and Mark if there are any state related issues or concerns with which you require assistance. They can be reached at (626) 577-9944.

● **2010-11 Assembly Fellows Applications**

The Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 program year. The 11-month fellowship program provides college graduates with the opportunity of a lifetime, to serve as a full-time Assembly staff member working on fiscal and policy issues in an Assembly Member's Capitol or committee office. The Center for California Studies at CSU Sacramento administers the program in conjunction with the California State Assembly. The Assembly Fellowship Program offers college graduates the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of the legislative process, providing a challenging, professional work experience that serves as the foundation for successful careers in both the private and public sectors. For more information go to www.csus.edu/calst/assembly or you can contact my district office to receive a brochure.

● **Portantino Third Annual Legislative
Wrap-up and Campaign Breakfast**

It's hard to believe, but I am facing my final re-election to the State Assembly in 2010. I thought it would be a great idea to catch my key supporters and new friends up on my first two terms in the Legislature and kick off the New Year at the same time. **I'm holding my**

third annual Legislative wrap-up and campaign breakfast on January 30, 2010.

The breakfast will serve two purposes: it will allow me to share insights and anecdotes from my first three years in office and will kick-start my campaign for my final June Primary. **YES, Election Day will be just five months away from January.**

I hope that you would consider being a host for the breakfast. It is going to be held at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E Altadena Dr, at 10 a.m. in the morning. Help me celebrate 2010 with a bang!

- Platinum Host - \$750 (includes 6 tickets)
- Gold Host - \$500 (includes 4 tickets)
- Silver Host - \$250 (includes 2 tickets)
- Bronze Host - \$150 (includes 2 tickets)

Individual Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door.

RSVP: Tim Wendler at (626) 405-8130 or Email info@portantinoforassembly.com. Send contributions to Portantino for Assembly, PO Box 93935, Pasadena, CA 91109-3935 in advance to receive discount ticket rate of \$35.

As with my 2006 and 2008 Primaries, early support is critical in building momentum for successful June and November elections. Thank you for your consideration and Happy Holidays.

Assemblymember Ant/ Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Cañada, 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/>



A sharp turn toward another Vietnam

By George McGovern



As a U.S. senator during the 1960s, I agonized over the badly mistaken war in Vietnam. After doing all I could to save our troops and the Vietnamese people from a senseless conflict, I finally took my case to the public in my presidential campaign in 1972. Speaking across the nation, I told audiences that the only upside of the tragedy in Vietnam was that its enormous cost in lives and dollars would keep any future administration from going down that road again.

I was wrong. Today, I am astounded at the Obama administration's decision to escalate the equally mistaken war in Afghanistan, and as I listen to our talented young president explain why he is adding 30,000 troops -- beyond the 21,000 he had added already -- I can only think: another Vietnam. I hope I am incorrect, but history tells me otherwise.

Presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon all believed that the best way to save the government in Saigon and defeat Ho Chi Minh and his Viet Cong insurgents was to send in U.S. troops. But the insurgency only grew stronger, even after we had more than 500,000 troops fighting and dying in Vietnam.

We have had tens of thousands of troops in Afghanistan for several years, and we have employed an even larger number of mercenaries (or "contractors," as they're called these days). As in Vietnam, the insurgent forces are stronger than ever, and the Afghan government is as corrupt as the one we backed in Saigon.

Why do we send young Americans to risk life

and limb on behalf of such worthless regimes? The administration says we need to fight al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. But the major al-Qaeda forces are in Pakistan.

The insurgency in Afghanistan is led by the Taliban. Its target is its own government, not our government. Its only quarrel with us is that its members see us using our troops and other resources to prop up a government they despise. Adding more U.S. forces will fuel the Taliban further.

Starting in 1979, the Soviets tried to control events in Afghanistan for nearly a decade. They lost 15,000 troops, and an even larger number of soldiers were crippled or wounded. Their treasury was exhausted, and the Soviet Union collapsed. A similar fate has befallen other powers that have tried to work their will on Afghanistan's collection of mountain warlords and tribes.

We have the best officers and combat troops in the world, but they are weary after nearly a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Why waste these fine soldiers any longer?

Even if we had a good case for a war in Afghanistan, we simply cannot afford to wage it. With a \$12 trillion debt and a serious economic recession, this is not a time for unnecessary wars abroad. We should bring our soldiers home before any more of them are killed or wounded -- and before our national debt explodes.

In 1964, Johnson asked several senators who were not running for reelection that year if we would campaign for him. He assured those of us who were opposed to the war in Vietnam that he had no plans to expand the U.S. presence. Johnson won the election in a landslide, telling voters he sought no wider war. "We are not about to send American boys nine or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves,"

he assured during his campaign.

But once elected, Johnson began to pour in more troops until American forces reached exceeded 500,000. All told, more than 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam, and many more were crippled in mind and body. This is to say nothing of the nearly 2 million Vietnamese who died under U.S. bombardment.

Johnson had a brilliant record in domestic affairs, but Vietnam choked his dream of a Great Society. The war had become unbearable to so many Americans -- civilian and military -- that the landslide victor of 1964 did not seek reelection four years later.

Obama has the capacity to be a great president; I just hope that Afghanistan will not tarnish his message of change. After half a century of Cold War and hot wars, it is time to rebuild our great and troubled land. By closing down the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, we can divert the vast sums being spent there to revitalizing our own nation.

In 1972, I called on my fellow citizens to "Come home, America." Today, I commend these words to our new president.

George McGovern, a former senator from South Dakota and a decorated World War II combat veteran, was the Demo nominee for president in 1972.



Strange Days Indeed

by: William Rivers Pitt, excerpted from [truthout](#)

...One event above all others, however, remains paramount in the cause-and-effect nexus of 9/11: the presidential election debacle of 2000. Nine months before the attack, the Supreme Court leaned on a preposterous Equal Protection argument and handed the White House to a man who became, in the fullness of time, the worst president in the history

of the office. The disastrous Bush administration, staffed from stem to stern by deranged neoconservatives like Dick Cheney and Don Rumsfeld, failed to follow up on any aspect of the anti-terrorism efforts of the Clinton administration - incoming NSA Director Condoleezza Rice famously ignored the voluminous al-Qaeda files left for her ... reading them only after the attacks had taken place - and likewise ignored a blizzard of warnings about an impending attack, including the now-infamous Presidential Daily Briefing of August 6, 2001....

It is not at all difficult to argue that if the broken election of 2000 had not taken place; if the right-leaning majority on the Supreme Court did not take rank partisanship to the highest and lowest levels by giving that election to their party's man instead of letting the votes be counted in the proper fashion; if Al Gore had been allowed to assume the office he rightly won, his administration would have continued to pursue the rigorous Clinton-era anti-terror policies that had successfully defeated those would-be millennium murderers. In other words, but for the sad and sorry electoral debacle at the outset of this decade, two tall towers would still stand in New York City, the Pentagon would be whole and there would be no hero's graveyard in that field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Three events - half a dozen terror attacks thwarted in the final year of Clinton's stewardship, followed by the ersatz ascendance of a brigand and his band of fools who came to power by way of a broad-daylight fraud that would make even Tammany Hall blush, followed by a day of horror that should have never been allowed to happen at all - came to define these last ten years. All that came to pass is aftermath, a deadly chain of events loosed by those three truths. For all his myriad flaws, President Clinton was the most

significant anti-terror leader in American history, but the hard work of his administration was ignored by a bunch of Bible-beating absolutists who thought they knew better. Their failures - "failures" being used loosely, because a few special people got rich at our expense, and it's awfully hard to call that an accident - are our inheritance.

You know the rest all too well. Nearly 5,000 of the best soldiers America has to offer are dead. Almost 50,000 more are wounded, most of them permanently. Bush's wars have cut down a full third of America's combat strength, leaving us with fingers crossed that no other would-be foes decide to see if this punch-drunk champion can be taken down. Less important than the lives lost is the very present truth that hundreds of billions of dollars got spent to no good end, except to make a few people you'll never meet rich. The economic calamity still enveloping this nation should be called "The Iraq Depression," as it is a simple, bloody and absolute fact that we would all be better off in every measurable way had Bush not ignored Clinton's good work, had Bush not assumed an office he did not win and had this nation not been taken into the nightmare that defined these last ten years...

William Rivers Pitt, *truthout*



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.

2010 ACT & ADC Membership

ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership is by the calendar year – so our membership dues **are due now**. Please use this *Phoenix* coupon to send in your 2010 dues, or respond to the membership letter that will be in your mailbox in the next few weeks.

Also please note that we have voted to place \$10 from each membership into our Political Account so we will be able to help fund future candidates and campaigns that ACT and ADC endorse.



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)

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

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Extra Contribution

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

Name

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Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Tim Wendler's Democratic Calendar



Here's a list of events where you can stay connected with efforts to improve our community. See <http://www.pasadenademocrats.com/event/> for updates.

Sunday, January 17 (3 pm)

Canada Crescenta Democratic Club

Monday, January 25 (6 pm)

NWPC meeting @ Mary Lois Nevins home, 561 Bradford St. Pasadena

Thursday, January 28 (7 pm)

Pasadena's Mayor Bill Bogaard's annual State of the City event with the theme "Charting a New Course" at La Salle High School

Thursday, January 28 (7 pm)

Foothill Community Democrats at The Peach Cafe, 141 East Colorado, Monrovia
<http://www.foothillcommunitydemocrats.org>

Saturday, January 30 (10 am)

Annual Assemblymember Portantino Campaign and Legislative Wrap-up Breakfast at the Altadena Community Center. Individual Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. Contact info@portantinoforassembly.com to RSVP or make your donation at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/entity/13126>

Wednesday, February 10 (8 pm)

San Gabriel Valley Young Democrats, Amigo's restaurant (Wilson & Colorado)

Sunday, February 21 (3 pm)

Canada Crescenta Democratic Club

Monday, February 22 (6 pm)

NWPC meeting @ the Hamlet on So. Lake & Cordova, Pasadena

Thursday, February 25 (7 pm)

Foothill Community Democrats at The Peach Cafe, 141 East Colorado, Monrovia
<http://www.foothillcommunitydemocrats.org>

Also see the ACT Calendar on the back page of this Phoenix.



Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the February *Phoenix* will be Sunday, February 7. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers can call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

John & Virginia Kimball, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Clare & Christopher Tayback, San Marino

And really special thanks to our Benefactor

Beth Gertmenian, Pasadena

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Margaret Marsh, La Canada

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Margaret Marsh, La Canada



Calendar

January 25 Monday 6-8 p.m. The National Women's Political Caucus of Greater Pasadena will hold a general meeting to install its new officers at the home of Mary Lois Nevins, 561 Bradford Drive, Pasadena. Sherri Bonner, executive director of Pasadena Planned Parenthood, will speak.

January 30 Saturday 10 a.m. Research Committee meeting to consider PUSD parcel tax and legislative races at the home of Neal Wrightson, 1633 Mar Vista Ave., Pasadena.

February 5 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.

February 4 Thursday 7:30 p.m. ACT and ADC General Membership meeting at the home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Ave., Pasa. Roberta Martinez will speak on *Latinos in Pasadena's history*. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m, meeting to follow.

February 12 Friday 10 a.m. San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at Ricki de Kramer's home, 712 Garfield Avenue, South Pasadena.

February 19 Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 2/05.)



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