



The Official Publication of ACT

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the phoenix
On-Line

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



ACT Goes Electronic

Endorsement Balloting Done by E-mail!!



The Research and Steering Committee recommendations are here! On page six. Now you, our members, get to vote. Traditionally, we used paper ballots included in the Phoenix, and you had to mail them back.

But no more! As we dive boldly into the 21st century, we are sending each member an e-mail with a link to an on-line ballot you can submit electronically. They are tabulated anonymously, and the link will work only once so no one can vote more than once.

If you belong to both ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club, you will see two ballots for each office – one for the ACT endorsement, and then one for the ADC endorsement.

For households with multiple members, each person will get their own e-mail, if we have separate e-mails for each person.

But if we have only one e-mail address for a household with multiple people, your household will get multiple e-mails, each personalized for one individual, but sent to the same e-mail address (the only one we have). Each person should use the e-mail personalized for them, use that link, and vote once. Each link is different, so we know who has voted and who has not (but, of course, we don't know for whom you voted).

And lastly, for those who don't use e-mail, or declined to give us your e-mail address, we will mail out paper ballots for you to mail back by April 14th.

April Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for copy for the April *Phoenix* will be Monday, April 18. Please send items that you wish to have published to Chuck Hains at

hains27@sbcglobal.net and to Sally Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com.
(Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)

ACT Steering and ADC Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. Via Zoom

ACT and ADC Ballot Results
Campaign Contribution Decisions

Join us on Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. for our ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting via Zoom.

Results from three PCC Board races (Areas 3, 5, and 7); two Pasadena City Council districts (3 and 7); the L A County Sheriff, and other races will be announced. Members will discuss possible campaign contributions and Steering Committee members will vote on the money decisions.

Socializing before the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The program and meeting follow at 7:30 p.m. Marilee Marshall will chair the ACT meeting; Tim Wendler, the ADC meeting. Fred Register will serve as the Zoom host. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.

(Find the Zoom link for the meeting on the ACT webpage, <http://www.actpasadena.org>.)



Upcoming ACT Meetings*



Thursday, April 14 - (See details above)

Thursday, May 5 – Discussion of Judicial races

Thursday, June 9 – Election analysis of the June 7 Primary results.

*ACT Steering / ADC meetings are normally on the first Thursday of the month. The above meetings are not in the usual sequence due to the election schedule. All meetings, whether via Zoom or in person begin with socializing at 7 p.m. and the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 14 will be a Zoom meeting. May 5 and June 9 may also be Zoom meetings; it will depend on the status of the pandemic.

Save the World One Postcard at a Time!

We *can't* give up! The people of the world are depending on us. While California voters generally make the correct ballot decisions, we have the unique opportunity to change the few districts that don't, and to help increase our US House majority. Until we have candidates to work for after the primaries, we need to register every possible Democrat to vote on June 7.

We will supply the postcards, addresses, and scripts. You just need to share your energy, time, and good juju to get this done! Can't you just feel your hands itching to get started?

Thank you for being part of our team AND saving our state and country! Email or call one of us right away so we can get going on this.

~ Karen and Katie

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Early Notice of UDH Celebration



The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) is planning a fundraising event to celebrate the inaugural televised hearing of the Select Committee on the January 6 Insurrection.

The plan is to enjoy a delicious meal together while viewing the Select Committee's first televised hearing – at last. May or even early June is the expected date. In person is our hope; Zoom (with food and beverages delivered to our homes) would be our fall back if COVID dictates.

UDH Fundraising Chair John Gallogly is making the arrangements. Says John, "Justice may be delayed, but it won't be denied!"

We will keep you posted.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, March 28.

So much, and yet so little to write about. Just as well, since I'm keeping this column short since we're featuring our Research Committee report this month.

We're still seven months away from the midterms, so worries about Democratic enthusiasm or the GOP base are still hugely premature. Yes, the President's job approval rating hovers around 40%, and all things being equal, we'd like it to be around 50% -- or better, where, by rights, it ought to be. But we can't predict what will happen to inflation, gas prices, the Covid pandemic, the budgets, the choice movement and the potential impact of upcoming Court decisions on middle-of-the-road suburban women voters.

Yet there are some trends and new developments that hint at better times coming. First off, our esteemed former President seems to be losing some bounce in his step. He had another of his patent-

ed campaign rallies last weekend in Georgia, trying to invigorate the failing GOP primary campaign of his chosen Gubernatorial candidate David Purdue, running against incumbent Brian Kemp. Kemp, of course, committed the unforgivable sin of failing to "find" (or manufacture) 11,000 ballots for Trump so he could carry Georgia in 2020. Kemp is now a Trump enemy for life. But Purdue is finding it hard sledding, even among his former friends. The AP reported that Purdue's 30 top individual donors had contributed over \$450,000 either to his prior successful 2014 Senate campaign or to his unsuccessful 2020 campaign; this year, so far, they've given \$26,000. Further, some of those same 30 top donors have this year given \$81,000 to Kemp, Purdue's opponent. With friends like that...

So the former President tried to come to the rescue (with the primary only two months away now) with a major campaign rally, but local journalists reported that it was a total bust, the worst turnout they had ever seen for any Trump event. With Purdue running a full 10 points behind Kemp in all the polls, Mr. Trump's magic hold on the GOP may be starting to wither.

We see that in Alabama, where he turned on his formerly endorsed candidate Mo Brooks; in the North Carolina the Senate race; and elsewhere around the country. At the same time, Trump is slowly seeing the jaws of justice clamp down on him and his family and company. He is exhausting his legal running space and being forced to testify or provide documentation on multiple fronts. The Georgia state criminal investigation, with a special grand jury being empaneled in early May, is just getting going.

A second trend is the economy. New jobless claims fell last week to a level last seen in 1961. New job creation continues at a strong pace. The stock market is resilient, notwithstanding the oil shocks from the Ukraine war. All these suggest a strongly positive outlook six to nine months

from now. The price of gas is still high, but there are subtle signs suggesting that price increase is, at least in part, transitory.

A third trend is the budget negotiations, and what seems like a turn by the Administration back to the Bill Clinton strategy of 1993 – raise taxes (on billionaires, this time) and ~~cut the deficit~~ ~~at the~~ same time. It might not get any GOP votes (of course, nothing the President proposes would) but it might get the votes of Sens. Manchin and Sinema, and that's all we need. Those with longer memories might remember the fierce budget battles of 1993 and 1995, when President Clinton's centrist budget was barely enacted over fiery GOP resistance. And what happened? For the first time in 30 years, the Federal Government had annual surpluses from 1997 through 2001 – actually paying down the national debt. Why is it that only Democratic administrations seem able to balance the budget and pay down the debt? (And, of course, we get absolutely no credit for that in our national political discourse.)

Commentators worry that such budgets pander to the middle, to the eleven centrists left in the country, and ignore the base. But there doesn't seem to be much evidence that our base is unhappy. Fundraising by the DNC and the national Congressional committees is at an all-time high. That national trend is mirrored right here in Pasadena – donation levels to ACT by our own members are noticeably higher than in past years (for which, by the way, we are deeply grateful). Further, individual candidates at the national level, either for Senate or for the House, also seem to be doing exceptionally well.

Two other longer-term developments merit mentioning. The January 6th Committee is readying itself for televised hearings. They hoped to start

in April, but now mid-May is more likely as new evidence keeps popping up, and more insurrectionists plead out and start to sing. Have no doubt that the Committee will present a riveting, ironclad case, with all the media savvy of a major Hollywood production, to document for the world this shocking tale. Have no doubt that Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger will have starring roles. Have no doubt it will be dramatic, gripping, painful, even frightening as it outlines how close we came. But will it change minds? We are so polarized and siloed that it might fail to do that, but not for want of trying.

The other longer-term development is the war in Ukraine. It is hard to overstate how unexpected the entire struggle has been – that Putin actually did invade; that Russia's vaunted armed forces, so overwhelming in number, crumbled at nearly every turn; that the Ukrainian Prime Minister Zelensky, a comedian by trade not taken seriously by the world, channeled his inner Churchill to become a beacon of courage and resilience; and that the outnumbered and out-gunned Ukrainian armed forces could stand their ground with stunning bravery and determination.

How is it that the Russians failed so miserably? Few people focused on the fact that Ukraine is actually a really big country, with nearly one third of Russia's population. It's not like the Russians just had to drive their tanks from San Diego to LA; they had to go from Atlanta to the Great Lakes, across all sorts of terrain and innumerable rivers. Further, it seems that Russian equipment was old and poorly maintained. Everything broke down. Communications system failed, forcing Russian commanders to use unencrypted cell phones, which enabled the Ukrainians to geo-locate and attack the Russian com-



mand structure. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of all the Russian personnel were support personnel, so when a modest number of combat soldiers were killed or wounded, whole units became unable to fight. Their logistics planning assumed a two-day campaign with no opposition. When there was opposition, it took only a few days to run out of fuel, ammunition, food, water and all the other supplies an army of 200,000 people needs, with little or no back-up plan to provide those supplies. Ukrainian fighters apparently were masterful at taking out fuel trucks and supply convoys, eliminating the combat capability of front-line troops. And there were multiple stories of Russian troops abandoning their vehicles, surrendering to Ukrainian forces, and even killing their own commanders.

The supreme challenge for Putin is how to extract himself from this self-imposed disaster. He is already talking about focusing on just the eastern areas of Ukraine and accepting the current government with assurances of neutrality. But Ukrainian troops are no longer just on the defensive; they are retaking territory lost to the invaders. Where will that stop? Will the Ukrainians accept anything less than full withdrawal? They might have two weeks ago, but perhaps no longer.

And if Putin retreats with his tail between his legs, how will the country, and the world, perceive President Joe Biden? He stared down Putin, united Europe, and kept us out of a nuclear conflict. Not a bad bullet-point on one's resume.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Political Quotes

“We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it.”

— **George Orwell**

“During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.” — **Orwell**

April 9th Interfaith Celebration

ACT members are invited to the **SD25 Interfaith Celebration of Migrants and Refugees**. It will be a celebration of the diversity of District 25 and uplifting important legislation in the California legislature that can make our immigrant communities stronger. **Senator Anthony Portantino is the keynote speaker!**

The in-person celebration, scheduled for **Saturday, April 9th from 3-5pm at Knox Presbyterian, 225 S. Hill Ave. in Pasadena**, will provide a space where community members can honor the experiences of migrant and refugee community members in District 25, learn about pressing issues they and their families face as well as proposed solutions, and hear from our keynote speaker, Senator Portantino.

Please note that registration for the event is required: bit.ly/SD25Celebration.

Sponsors: Advancing Justice - California, Armenian National Committee of America: Western Region, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - California, Immigrant Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Knox Immigration team, Mountainside Communion, Planned Parenthood Advocates Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, and San Fernando Valley Young Democrats.

~ Julie Martinez, ACT member

SD25 Interfaith Celebration of Migrants and Refugees

Keynote speaker:
Senator Portantino

Saturday, April 9, 2022
3:00-4:00pm (program)
4:00-5:00pm (reception)
Knox Presbyterian Church
Pasadena, CA

REGISTER: bit.ly/SD25Celebration

Immigration Resource Center
BEND THE ARC
Planned Parenthood
KNOX IMMIGRATION TEAM
ADVANCING JUSTICE

Research and Steering Committee Report

Pasadena City Council

The Research Committee met via Zoom to interview the candidates for City Council Districts 3, 5 and 7. In District 5, **Jess Rivas** is running unopposed so, as is our custom, we did not interview her but are happy to have her on the Council and hope to invite her to address our Steering Committee sometime after the elections. The meeting was attended by Karen Breau, George Brumder, Beth Gertmenian, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Juliet Martinez, Marilee Marshall, Barbara Paul, Denise Robb, George Van Alstine, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, and Bruce Wright (13). Jon Fuhrman joined us for the District 7 interviews (14).

The candidates were asked questions designed to elicit their views on the investigation of potentially illegal police shootings, how we can protect our tenant population from excessive rent increases, how we can help the homeless population, how the City is going to meet its new housing requirements and accommodate increased density in residential areas, how are we going to deal with the future of the Rose Bowl and how to balance the need to conserve water while protecting our “urban forest.”

District 3

John Kennedy [incumbent]

Kennedy was born and raised in Pasadena, he served as Student Body President at Blair High School and Student Senator at the University of Southern California, where he received dual degrees in International Relations and Economics. He earned a Juris Doctor Degree from Howard University School of Law. Kennedy was elected to the Council in 2013.

He currently serves on the Finance Committee, is

Chair of the Public Safety Committee, and is one of three City representatives to the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. Having worked for the City of Pasadena in the Finance, City Attorney, Police, and Public Works Departments, he also served on a variety of Boards including the Pasadena Police Foundation, Tom Bradley Legacy Foundation at UCLA, Library Task Force for Alternate Funding, the Community Health Alliance of Pasadena, Community Development Committee, and the Developers’ Selection Committee for Heritage Square Senior Housing Development.

Kennedy drafted the initial documents for, and championed the creation of, the Community Oversight Commission of the Pasadena Police Department and was the chief advocate for Body Worn Cameras. During the pandemic, Kennedy was instrumental in securing grants for businesses to help them survive COVID-19, as well as an eviction moratorium and proposed relocation benefits for displaced renters. One of his main priorities is to house the un-housed and marginally housed residents. Toward that end he is making certain that 1,000 units will be built in 1,000 days thus facilitating the building of thousands of units of affordable housing and low-income housing. He also led the City to agree to a policy statement that guaranteed low-income housing would be equitably distributed throughout the geographic boundaries of the City.

For Kennedy clean and safe water is a high priority and he was a major force in promoting the project to replace the unsafe Sunset Reservoirs thereby providing cleaner drinking water and diminishing Pasadena’s reliance on outside water supplies.

Brandon Lamar

Lamar’s life has been focused on public/community service, and community engagement. He has been involved in Pasadena since his youth,

being a part of Pasadena's own programs such as Pasadena Youth Ambassadors, Pasadena Youth Council, Pasadena Alpha Phi Alpha Mentoring program, Pasadena Vision 20/20 initiative, and many more.

Brandon studied at Azusa Pacific college. Later on, he became a steering committee member of Vision 20/20, a community advisor for Day One Pasadena, and assisted in the start-up of the La Pinto esca Teen Center and Pasadena Parks After-Dark programs. Lamar is now the Chair of the Human Relations Commission and serves on the Executive Boards of Pasadena NAACP, Pasadena Organizing for Progress, Leadership Pasadena, and Black Los Angeles Young Democrats.

While the two candidates differ greatly in education and experience levels, their views are similar other than on rent control. Lamar favors rent control while Kennedy does not believe it is a viable solution and thinks it only leads to further housing issues down the line. Rather Kennedy's emphasis, as is consistent with his record, is on how to provide affordable housing. At least one of the committee members was put off by the fact that John answered that "he did not consider himself an environmentalist" when asked the question on how to balance water conservation with protection of our urban forest. Some of us thought he simply meant that it was beyond his area of expertise. Lamar did not have any answer to the question either. We all liked Lamar and some people voted no on the motion to recommend Kennedy because they did not want to discourage Lamar from continuing his good work, others voted no because they just favor de-facto term limits, and at least one person voted no because he thought discussion was cut off too soon. Those of us who favored Kennedy valued his qualifications, his dedication and good record over the years.

The Research Committee voted 7-6-0 to re-

commend the endorsement of John Kennedy.

The Steering Committee voted 24-1-0 to recommend the endorsement of John Kennedy.

District 7

Allen Shay without notice failed to appear for his scheduled interview.

Ciran Hadjian appeared for her interview but declined to be interviewed because one of the persons participating in the interview had already endorsed another candidate and that person's participation was, from her perspective, "unethical." Attempts by the chair and by other members to explain our by-laws to her and reassure her she would be given due consideration were unsuccessful. Our view was "too bad for Ciran." Even people who may have supported her lost all respect for her as a candidate who was so easily intimidated by the mere presence of one very polite member.

Jason Lyon

Lyon attended UCLA School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review, and graduated Order of the Coif, among other honors. He began his legal career as an associate at Latham & Watkins. Lyon moved to California more than 20 years ago and was elected to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council in 2003. In 2004, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn appointed him to the East Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. In 2006, Jason was appointed to L.A.'s blue-ribbon Neighborhood Council Review Commission and elected Vice Chair.

In 2006, Lyon's son began attending preschool in Pasadena and Lyon at that point committed himself to serving our community. During that time, he served in various volunteer capacities for Pacific Oaks School. After settling here permanently in 2010, Lyon joined the board of directors of Young & Healthy, a nonprofit dedicated to providing Pasadena's uninsured and under-

served children access to high-quality health care at no cost to their families. He served as its president for two years, during which time he oversaw the establishment of a fund to ensure the organization's long-term fiscal security. Lyon was elected to the Vestry of All Saints Church and became its senior lay leader in 2016. In that capacity, he oversaw the parish's transition from retiring rector Ed Bacon to Mike Kinman. In 2018, Lyon joined the board of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, which works to advance the economic vitality and quality of life in our region. That same year, he accepted a seat on the board of Planned Parenthood Pasadena San Gabriel Valley. Lyon was appointed to Pasadena's Historic Preservation Commission in 2017. During his term on the commission, he worked to update the city's ordinance limiting demolition of historic homes. In 2019, Council member Andy Wilson appointed Jason to the city Planning Commission. Lyon currently serves as the Vice Chair of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Jason is endorsed by Anthony Portantino, and Jack Scott, among others.

In answers to our questions, Lyon favors police oversight, establishing a community standard for our police department and ensuring that they adhere to that standard. He favors rent control, if the voters want it, as a tool for protecting tenants, and the conversion of motel and office space to provide affordable housing and house the homeless. He supports the increase of additional dwelling units but does not approve of the state's solution of unchecked development which he believes will destroy the character of our neighborhoods and will only result in more luxury housing as opposed to affordable housing. He states that we need a thoughtful, sensible housing strategy, directing new development to major transit corridors, adapting existing buildings to residential uses, and expanding infrastructure to accommodate these changes. Solutions for the homeless

problem should target the specific reasons that people in our community become homeless.

In the most recent census of unhoused individuals, more than half of the people experiencing homelessness had lived in Pasadena for more than 20 years. Many of these folks are not suffering from chronic mental health or addiction issues, and they are not chronically homeless. They are falling out of housing because they can no longer afford to live in this city. We need to expand our case worker team so they can build one-on-one relationships with folks living on the street and address their specific needs and get them off the street into long-term housing.

The fight against climate change has to begin at the personal, local level. Pasadena should be a leader in the fight. Not only can we assist with the global cause, but we can also improve air quality right here at home and reduce the pollution that causes harm to our residents. We should move aggressively to reduce our carbon footprint, expand the urban forest and reduce heat islands, incentivize conservation, expand food waste recycling, and undertake rigorous environmental analysis of all new developments in the city.

The Research Committee voted 13-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Jason Lyon.

The Steering Committee voted 24-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Jason Lyon.

Los Angeles County Sheriff

The interviews for Los Angeles Sheriff were attended by George Brumder, Karen Breaux, Beth Gertmenian, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Barbara Paul, Denise Robb, George Van Alstine, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, and Bruce Wright. (12) All candidates were invited, or reasonable efforts were made to invite them; the candidates who accepted our invitation are listed in the order in which they were

interviewed.

Incumbent **Alex Villanueva** and Los Angeles Airport Police Chief **Cecil Rhambo** did not respond to our invitation. Retired LASD Captain **Matthew Rodriguez**, responded but declined to interview saying he was the only Republican in the race and his platform was not consistent with our progressive organization.

Candidates were asked questions about how the sheriff should interact with the Board of Supervisors, the Civilian Oversight Commission, the Inspector General and the District Attorney. They were also asked if they believed gangs still existed among the rank and file and what efforts could be made to clean them up.

All of the candidates expressed that, unlike the present sheriff, they would follow the law, cooperate as appropriate with the above entities and would clean up the gangs that they all acknowledge exist among the rank and file. Initially we all agreed that any of the candidates would be a tremendous improvement over the present sheriff. We focused our discussion on their respective qualifications, and who would be most likely to beat Villanueva and effectively run the department.

Robert Luna

Luna recently completed service as Long Beach Chief of Police, capping a 36-year career. He grew up in East Los Angeles, in a poor Latino immigrant family. Luna started as a reserve officer in 1985 and rose through the ranks. He was appointed Chief of Police in 2014 and recently served on the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) executive board, and is active with the organization's Homeland Security Committee and the Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI) mentorship program. He is also a Rambo graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Executive Institute and National Academy, and Harvard University's program for

senior executives in state and local government, and the University of Southern California's (USC) Delinquency Control Institute. Luna has a master's in public administration from Cal State Long Beach.

April Saucedo Hood

Hood has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is currently a parole agent.

Eli Vera

Vera graduated from Union Institute and University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Management. He is a 32-year veteran of the LASD, promoted to the rank of Chief. However, Vera was notified in September, via a brief letter from Villanueva, that he was being demoted from a chief to a commander. A sheriff's department spokesperson told the Los Angeles Times that it was an "unapologetic move" made to keep Villanueva's competitor out of confidential meetings that the sheriff regularly holds with senior staff.

Vera has served in various capacities and positions of leadership throughout his career with the Department. He is currently assigned to Technology and Support Division where he oversees the Communications and Fleet Management Bureau, Data Systems Bureau, Records and Identification Bureau, and Scientific Services Bureau — totaling to roughly a \$250 million dollar budget.

Britta Steinbrenner

Steinbrenner holds a Master of Business Administration Degree and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration/Management both received from the University of La Verne, along with an Associate of Arts Degree from Santa Monica City College. As Captain of the County Services Bureau (CSB), her responsibilities were to oversee a 450 person staff who provide

building security and law enforcement services for six county hospitals, 85 libraries and 320 county buildings with oversight of a \$130 million dollar contract, two private security guard contracts and the 700 guards who augment those security services.

Eric Strong

Strong was born and raised in L.A. County where he attended St. John Bosco High School, and the University of California at Los Angeles. He also served in the United States Marine Corps. Strong began his career in public safety in 1993, following in his father's footsteps as an officer for the Compton Police Department. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and currently serves as a Captain in the Sheriff's Department.

Initially it was noted that any of the candidates would be a most welcome change from our present sheriff. They all expressed disdain for Villanueva's policies, his refusal to follow the law or address the issue of deputy gangs, and his efforts to turn the Department against elected and appointed officials even to the point of weaponizing things like COVID vaccine mandates. In our deliberations we were guided by what we agreed was an unusually urgent need to back a candidate who could defeat Villanueva. We were very impressed with Luna and initially thought bringing in an outsider was the best way to go. We were concerned, however, that it would take too long for an outsider to become familiar with the practices and culture of the Department. Of course, in the abstract we also liked the idea of a first female sheriff. We did not really consider Hood because she presently lacks sufficient relevant experience. We felt that Steinbrenner was somewhat qualified but lacked the financial backing to be a serious contender. We also liked Strong but, in the end, we moved to Vera. Vera is undoubtedly well qualified and his presentation caused most of us to conclude that his life

and work experiences made him the best suited for the job. Vera, whose family are Cuban immigrants, grew up in Section 8 Housing in Los Angeles. He has worked patrol in South Los Angeles, overseen two divisions, has been a SWAT commander, and has overseen important investigations such as the de-escalation of force in the County Jail. Although his background reveals he is a competent law enforcement officer and can be tough when needed, he also presented as a caring individual. For example, he talked about how on two occasions he and his wife fostered children with whom he came into contact on service calls, one of whom he later adopted. He also spoke about how we need to get young people out of the system and into rehabilitation.

The Research Committee voted 10-0-2 to recommend the endorsement of Eli Vera.

The Steering Committee voted 24-0-1 to recommend the endorsement of Eli Vera.

Pasadena City College Board of Trustees

The Research Committee considered candidates for Pasadena City College Districts 5, 7 and 3. In District 1, our previously endorsed candidate, **Sandra Chen Lau**, was running unopposed. We hope she will accept our invitation to address the Steering Committee after the election. The meeting was attended by George Brumder, Jon Fuhrman, Beth Gertmenian, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Julie Martinez, Barbara Paul, Denise Robb, Tim Wendler, and Bruce Wright. (10)

All the candidates are Democrats. They were asked how they would address the rocky relationship between the faculty association and the Board, as evidenced by the fact that three incumbents were being challenged and the faculty association is backing each of the challengers. They were also asked how they would address the challenges in returning to in-person learning; the disparity between the percentage of college ready students who completed a degree in six

years and non-college ready students who did not; how to increase the numbers of African American and Latino students and faculty; and how to address food and housing insecurity for poverty ridden students.

District 5 (San Marino, South Pasadena, Temple City)

Linda Wah [incumbent]

Wah was initially appointed to the Board in 2010 and successfully ran for reelection in 2011 and 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Information Systems and a Masters of Business Administration from California State Los Angeles. During her years on the Board, she helped to promote the availability of community college classes in high schools through the establishment of “Dual Enrollment.” This program accelerates college completion by enabling high school students to enroll at Pasadena City College. Wah has been a strong advocate of the Pasadena City College Promise program which provides two years of tuition free education for all first-time, full-time students, regardless of age, income or immigration status. She has also advocated for veterans.

Kristine Kwong

Kwong, a graduate of McGeorge School of Law, was admitted to the State Bar in 1992. She is a lifelong resident of South Pasadena and current chair of South Pasadena Parks and Recreation. Kwong believes many members of the Board have been in office too long and have become complacent. According to Kwong, the problems at PCC are due to failed leadership. As an education lawyer, she has years of experience working to improve schools and universities. She has provided educators, faculty, and administrators with essential information regarding compliance with legal issues and regulations, contracts, and employee relations. The present Board manage-

ment has too often failed to consider the concerns of faculty and staff. These avoidable tensions between faculty and management have caused significant problems in hiring and employee retention. The safety and security of the students and faculty in returning to in person learning is an ongoing concern.

Kwong will foster a strong relationship with all stakeholders that is built on trust and respect. She is also a strong advocate of Dual enrollment which allows high school students to take classes for college credit. She is committed to meeting with high school counselors and administrators to expand dual enrollment and increase opportunities for all of our students.

The Research Committee voted 9-1 -0 to recommend the endorsement of Kristine Kwong.

The Steering Committee voted 19-3-3 to recommend the endorsement of Kristine Kwong.

District 7 (Arcadia and Temple City)

Anthony Fellow [incumbent]

Fellow was first elected to the Board in 2009. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. He is a professor of Communications at California State University, Fullerton where he has worked for 28 years both as an administrator and professor. He teaches courses in media history, media law and media and politics. In addition, he was an adjunct professor in USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism for five years.

Alton Wang

Wang grew up in Arcadia and attended Arcadia's public schools. In 2016 he obtained a BA from Wesleyan with a double major in sociology and government. His government concentration was in American politics. Alton believes that you need a strong relationship between the board, the

faculty and the administration. He is proud that he is endorsed by not just by the faculty association but by student leaders. The process of returning to in-person class needs to be smoother and not create boundaries. The transition is still in progress as we see what happens with COVID. Everyone needs to be kept safe and be prepared for another wave.

Wang has continuously worked to open as many doors for others as were opened for him and his family. Alton's parents were immigrants and both attended PCC. As an organizer, and a Democrat, he helped drive record voter turnout among Asian American communities in California and across the nation. Alton promises to expand student success and promote community-oriented governance that prioritizes listening and engagement.

Those of us who supported Wang agreed with one of our members who started the conversation by simply stating "I think Fellow has been on the Board too long." Unlike Wang, Fellow appeared lacking in enthusiasm, blamed the recent problems on the faculty not wanting to do their jobs, and did not see any issues about the transition back to in-person learning.

The Research Committee voted 6-4-0 to recommend the endorsement of Alton Wang

The Steering Committee voted 21-3-1 to recommend the endorsement of Alton Wang.

District 3 (Northwest Pasadena)

Steve Gibson

In 2010 Gibson, who was a returning student, graduated from Pasadena City College with an AA in communications. He subsequently obtained his BA and Masters of Science in communications from California State Northridge followed by a PhD in Education from UCLA. He has lived in District for 16 years.

The most important issues for Gibson are accountability and helping to restore the relationship between the faculty and the Board. Open discussions are needed in order to find common ground using a mediator if necessary. Gibson noted that his district has the highest percentage of people of color and there needs to be an active program put in place to address the loss of enrollment especially among Black males.

Gibson believes there should be community forums to help bring in more students, representatives of PCC should visit high schools, speak to guidance counselors and address student groups to encourage them to come to PCC. Food anxiety could be addressed through the cafeteria and housing needs to be looked at and discussed as well.

Berlinda Brown [incumbent]

Berlinda Brown was first elected to the PCC Board in 2009 to represent Trustee Area 3, which covers Northwest Pasadena. Brown holds a B.A. from California State University Dominguez Hills. She is committed to helping students graduate in a timely fashion for careers that help them achieve personal goals and benefit the nation's economy.

Before retiring, Brown worked as a health care professional for the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center for more than 30 years. She credits her experience at the medical center in molding her belief in society's need for a well-educated and career-ready workforce. In her earlier days on the Board Brown championed the establishment of a PCC Satellite program at John Muir High School.

Brown has served on the East Arroyo Neighborhood Association Board of Directors and is currently serving on the Pasadena General Plan Update Advisory Committee.

Compared too Gibson, Brown fared poorly. She

seemed out of touch with present day problems. She blamed the faculty for the “rocky relationship.” The return to in-person learning has “already been accomplished” and she was not aware of any challenges to its implementation now or going forward. She did not even know there was a pantry which gives out food to students, let alone that it had closed during COVID or have any ideas how food distribution could be improved.

The Research Committee voted 9-1-0 to recommend the endorsement of Steve Gibson

The Steering Committee voted 19-3-1 to recommend the endorsement of Steve Gibson.

Los Angeles County Assessor

Jeffrey Prang [incumbent]

The Research and Steering Committees unanimously voted to recommend the endorsement of previously endorsed candidate Jeffrey Prang.

Board of Equalization

Tony Vasquez [incumbent]

The Research and Steering Committees unanimously voted to recommend the endorsement of Tony Vasquez.

Statewide Constitutional Offices

The Research and Steering Committees unanimously voted to recommend the endorsement of **all the incumbent Democrats.**

Congress

The Research and Steering Committees unanimously voted to recommend the endorsement of our previously endorsed candidates, **Judy Chu** and **Adam Schiff.**

State Assembly

The Research and Steering Committees unanimously voted to recommend the endorsement of previously endorsed candidate, **Chris Holden.**

PCC District 5 Campaign Note

Bill Hackett is no longer associated with the Kristine Kwong campaign.



Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition Update

The Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition, which ACT unanimously agreed to join in December, continues to press on organizing the community to provide input into Pasadena’s Draft of its Housing Element.

The Coalition, whose focus has been to gather community input about affordable housing policy for submission and inclusion into the City of Pasadena’s Housing Element, has submitted documents to both the City and State’s Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) last year and this past February calling for consideration and inclusion of 26 housing policy solutions. **(See the ACTPasadena.org website for links to all the documents.)**



The HCD, which has been critical of the City’s original and revised drafts to its updated Housing Element, has given nods to the work of the Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition and other community groups. It’s called upon the City to hold more public meetings so residents can provide input. The HCD has also recognized the need that the City include more specific details about its plans as the Coalition has identified.

As a result, the City staff scheduled two meetings in March with the Mayor’s self-appointed Housing Task so the public could provide input for what will become the City’s third Draft submission. There will also be meetings the end of April or early May with the Planning Commis-

sion before a last draft is submitted to the City Council for a vote of approval.

The State, which requires that Cities update their Housing Elements periodically, has notified the City it is overdue to submit an acceptable draft and is out of compliance. If it remains out of compliance, it could suffer loss of various governmental funding programs because housing element compliance is a determinant factor for funding grants. A compliant housing element assures the City consideration for funding sources to help build affordable housing.

~ Ed Washatka

The fifteen members of the Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition include representation from the following faith-based and community-based organizations:

Abundant Housing LA-West San Gabriel Valley • ACT • Affordable Housing Services • All Saints Church • Clergy Community Coalition • Democrats of Pasadena Foothills • Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) • League of Women Voters-Pasadena • Making Housing and Community Happen • National Day Laborers Organizing Network • Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition • Pasadena Foursquare Church • Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center - Social Justice Committee • Pasadenans Organizing for Progress – POP • Pasadena For All.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

The legislative session has officially commenced, and I am pleased to share that I introduced 18 bills for this session. I am excited to introduce AB 2632, the California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement. Inspired by legislative

progress that has taken place in the states of New York and Colorado, this bill would limit the use of solitary confinement to 15 days and eliminates the use of solitary confinement entirely for certain vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities and pregnant women. I am also happy to author AB 2644 relating to juvenile custodial interrogations. This bill would prohibit the use of statements made by youth (25 years of age or younger) as evidence in criminal or juvenile court proceedings. Studies have shown that interrogations made by law enforcement with the use of threats carry no benefit for our youth. I welcome your support as these bills make their way through the process.

In the district, we recognized Raymond Ealy as the California Legislative Black Caucus Unsung Hero for the 41st Assembly District. An Unsung Hero is defined as a person who makes a substantive yet unrecognized contribution — a person whose bravery is unknown or unacknowledged. Ray is an example of this leadership because he puts in the work today and for generations to come.

This year, we have selected our Woman of the Year, and ten Women of Distinction that have demonstrated exceptional community service and leadership. Our 2022 Woman of the Year is City of Pasadena's Director of Public Health and Health Officer, Dr. Ying-Ying Goh. Our Women of Distinction from throughout the district include Juanita West-Tillman (Altadena), Cher Ofstedahl (Claremont), Chief Colleen Flores (La Verne), Maritza Flores-Travanti (Monrovia), Elizabeth McSwain, (Rancho Cucamonga), Marilyn Sparks (San Dimas), Bertha Aguirre (Sierra Madre), Cathy Billings (South Pasadena) and Kim Anthony (Upland). Over 150 nominations were submitted. I look forward to keeping you up to date and welcome you reaching out to my office.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

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



Dear ACT members

Like many ACT members, I was incredibly pleased to have attended the memorial service for two special people, Nellie and Inman Moore. I had the honor of adjourning the State Senate in Inman's honor and was glad that I was able to hear the wonderful words extended on their behalf by their family and clergy. The extended ACT community and the Pasadena progressive activist movement lost two powerful voices.

This year, I'm continuing my focus on education, mental health and sensible gun control. I have authored legislation to increase funding for our public schools and to expand mental health training to 75 percent of all school personnel. Prior to the Pandemic our student mental health needs were significant. Today, our students are struggling more than at any time in history. One in five high school students thinks about suicide and the percentage increases for LGBTQ students to one third. We are in a mental health crisis that requires a significant investment in and commitment to student wellness.

That's why I've authored SB 1302 to establish a \$250,000 wellness grant for every high school campus. We must do more than talk about our children's mental health; we need to take action to address them. I am also very committed to universal dyslexia screening for California's first graders. This week I attended a press conference in San Francisco where I advocated for the state to mandate the necessary screening to address this learning disability. I joined the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Decoding Dyslexia,

and Golden State Warriors star Gary Payton, Jr. to express my strong support for universal dyslexia screening. California has the resources available to train school personnel and to implement this important student health mandate. We need the courage and political will to do it. Every year we delay in requiring it, we put thousands of students across our state in jeopardy of falling behind in school. This is an unacceptable situation.

In addition to my policy agenda, I have made the switch from attendance-based school funding to enrollment-based funding my top budget priority. The funding formula switch would inject 3.5 billion dollars into K-12 schools. This increase is desperately needed and due to an unprecedented budget surplus, California has the resources to make the change.

As a member of the San Gabriel Valley legislative caucus, I suggested that the entire caucus meet with Governor Newsom's transportation policy staff for the purpose of garnering funding to complete the Gold Line. This is an important project for the future of the San Gabriel Valley in the wake of our climate crisis and traffic gridlock.

I am also working with several statewide and regional bicycle organizations on legislation to require cities to implement bike and pedestrian safety plans. The more I ride my bike across southern California, the more convinced I get that we need safer streets. The best way to achieve them is to require cities to implement plans and to help them do it by making funding available.

On the family front, Bella is finishing her second year of college and Sofia is working on a film in Georgia. I wish she were in Los Angeles, but am enormously proud of her successful career in entertainment.

I'm praying for the people of the Ukraine and Artsakh. I'm also saddened by the attack on the LGBT and Trans children and families in Texas,

Florida and elsewhere. With so much unrest, aggression and hatred in parts of the world I find myself feeling blessed and lucky to live in California and in our precious democracy.

Warmest and Best Thoughts, ~ Anthony



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



As I set fingers to keyboard (used to be 'pen to paper') it's March 24 and now less than 100 days until June 30, traditionally the last day to expect the current year's Supreme Court decisions. This term could produce one of the most consequential decisions to come down in our lifetime. The Court's ruling on a Mississippi law which forbids abortions after 15 weeks provides an opportunity for them to reverse Roe v. Wade.

Should this happen, in excess of half the states would immediately or very soon thereafter ban abortions. This would unleash a myriad of concerns, problems, effects and changes that boggle the mind. First and foremost because Congress would have the power to make Roe law, 'abortion rights' becomes the mother of all wedge issues, especially in purple states and severely gerrymandered ones. The primary season will be behind us, and November's general election will decide the balance of both houses.

Even if the Democrats manage to stave off the loss of one or both chambers, they still will not have the requisite votes in the Senate to overcome cloture and save choice, but will be able to confirm Biden's judicial and other confirmable appointments as well as pass some budgetary legislation.

A majority of Americans support choice and being able to tie Republicans to Trump, which

extends to Putin, may provide us with the rare opportunity of being the party in power during the mid-term cycle to not lose congressional representation. The ramifications of a Roe reversal will come at the expense of the poorest Americans, just like the effects of climate change, but what else is new? Our work is cut out for us. Every election cycle we say this is the most important election ever but guess what, it's always true.

Ever wonder what goes into producing *'The Phoenix'*? While I don't know everything, I'll share with you what I do know. The day after the Steering Committee meeting Chuck Hains sends out an email to about a half dozen regular contributors and the staffs of local legislative representatives advising them that the deadline to submit copy is the following Monday. By Wednesday, just two days later, Chuck and Sally Beer, who together do an amazing job of editing and laying out the material, send it to the printer and the committee that assembles it turns it around in 24 hours and you receive it usually by Saturday - just 8 days from beginning to end. (Editor's Note: more like by Monday.) ☺

My writing process starts with reading that day's Times which on this day had two stories on abortion. The first dealt with new legislation in Arizona which limits abortion to the first 15 weeks like the Mississippi law the Supreme Court is currently deciding. Arizona currently has a law on the books that upon Roe reversal, outlaws abortion immediately and will supersede this new law. The second story tells of corporate America that will provide funding to their employees who want abortions but live in states where it's not available, to travel to states where it is. I then write the story which doesn't take much time because I'm constantly writing on a dozen policy issues that interest me, while I walk.

Enjoy.

~ Ron out



Not So Fast!

Why Democrats Should Not Concede the House

The pundit class has decided that Democrats are facing a lost cause in holding onto the House of Representatives in the 2022 Midterms. They couldn't be more wrong. While the party certainly faces challenges, none are insurmountable, and the Democrats even have some advantages. Let's look at some of the myths around the "lost cause" theory:

The incumbent President's party loses seats in midterm elections.

While this is historically accurate, there are several factors that make the 2022 elections unusual. For one thing, the Democrats actually lost thirteen seats in the last presidential election, which is itself an historical anomaly. In the 2008 presidential election, the Democrats gained 21 seats and in the 2012 election they gained 27 seats. The good news for 2022 – Democrats have fewer seats to lose. Plus, the seats they need to recapture in the House were seats that they held before 2020.

Biden's low approval ratings spell disaster for Democrats.

Not necessarily true. Although Trump's low ratings in 2018 meant a loss of 41 seats to The GOP, this was due largely to the flood of suburban voters who were distressed by Trump's presidency and wanted to send a message. These were the same voters who were not enthusiastic about Trump in '16, but disliked Hillary Clinton more.

The 2022 midterms are different for several reasons. First, most voters regard Biden as a one-term president, so there is less incentive to make the election a referendum on the presi-

dent. Secondly, voters in 2022 are more polarized and are likely to vote strictly along party/ideological lines. Since the country is fairly evenly divided along partisan lines, the midterms will be decided by turnout.

Partisan gerrymandering and voting restrictions favor Republicans.

Not true. Neither gerrymandering nor voting restrictions appear to favor either party in the (very few) battleground House districts. While some states have been gerrymandered to favor Republicans, others have favored Democrats. In terms of the partisan balance of House seats, the effect has been minimal. The same may be said for voting rights. While voting restrictions in red states impact minorities, because of gerrymandering there are few if any House districts where the restrictions could determine the outcome of an election.

There are many House districts that are vulnerable to Republican takeover.

Also not true. According to the Cook political report, there are only 15 House seats that are considered toss-ups – 9 held by Democrats and 6 held by Republicans. In addition, there are 4 Democratic seats that now lean Republican and 3 Republican seats that lean Democrat. Even if Democrats lose 9 of the tossups and Republicans net one in the "lean" column, then the Republicans net gain is only 4 seats, which is not enough to retake the House. Since the other 413 seats are considered at least fairly safe, it leaves a narrow playing field for both parties. Which makes turnout in the 15 toss-up districts even more crucial to control of the House.

The pandemic and rising inflation spell doom for the party in power – Democrats.

Possibly true. If the pandemic continues to rage, along with inflation, it will certainly be tough for Democrats to hold onto the House. However, if the pandemic – and the controversies surrounding it – subside in the next few months, then other

issues will take center stage. If inflation slows down and the economy continues to grow, then voters will also focus on other issues. (Keep an eye on the consumer sentiment index)

Turnout will be key, and the enthusiasm gap favors Republicans.

Partly true. Turnout certainly will be key to the election, especially in the toss-up districts which will determine control of the House. But while the national enthusiasm gap favors Republicans, this may not be true in the toss-up districts, where local issues may be more important than national sentiment. In the three California toss-up districts held by Republicans, Democrats hold a 3-5-point advantage in registration, which could dilute any enthusiasm gap. And in each of those districts, the Republican members have expressed support for Trump's actions, either by voting against impeaching him after January 6th or refusing to accept the election results. Their support for Trump post-January 6 will undoubtedly stoke enthusiasm from grassroots Dems.

So, what can we in the United Democratic Headquarters do to keep the House in Democratic hands?

The answer – lots!! Three of the “toss-up” Republican seats are in Southern and Central California. With a strong turnout, these districts (which have a majority Democratic registration) have a good shot at switching to Democrats and holding onto the House.

Phone and text banking, canvassing, postcarding, as well as financial support in the “toss-up” districts, both here in California and around the country will be critical for the future of our nation. As the saying goes “Democrats don't agonize, we organize.” We at the UDH are excited to work with each of you from now until November. Onward to victory!

The conclusion – don't believe the “lost cause” theories.

~ Hoyt Hilsman, UDH Steering Committee
Chair and former PCC Trustee



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“Here, Right Matters” by Alexander S. Vindman

The recent attacks on Ukraine by Russia are being carried out, according to President Putin, to achieve de-Nazification of Ukraine and to restore Ukraine as a proper part of Russia. Such claims, that Ukraine is not a nation, and that it is governed by Nazis, is not new. Attacks, indeed genocide, on Ukraine by Russia, go back to the Stalin era, to the “Holodomor”, or Ukrainian famine, of 1932-33. This famine has been documented by the Ukrainian-Polish lawyer, Rafael Lemkin, who was Warsaw's chief prosecutor before World War II and, after his escape from the Nazi invasion of Poland, became an international human rights lawyer and advisor to Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, who was chief judge at the Nuremberg trials. Lemkin is the one who coined the phrase “genocide”, in reference to the Ukraine Holodomor famine as well as to the Armenian genocide during World War I. Lemkin describes the Ukraine famine in his memoir, *Totally Unofficial*, as well as in his 1953 essay, “Soviet genocide in Ukraine”. A full account of the Ukraine famine of 1932-33 is given by Anne Applebaum in her 2017 book, *Red Famine, Stalin's War on Ukraine*.

Putin's denial of Ukraine sovereignty and echoes of the need for denazification were repeated, after the February 2014 Maidan Square demonstrations that forced pro-Putin President Yanukovich to flee to Russia, as justification for Russia's

annexation of the Crimea and invasion of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. As Anne Applebaum writes in *Red Famine*, “In August 2015, Russian-backed separatists deliberately destroyed a monument to the victims of the Holodomor famine in the occupied eastern Ukrainian town of Snizhne. Also in August, *Sputnik News*, a Russian government propaganda website, published an article in English entitled ‘Holodomor Hoax’. The article presented views reminiscent of the old era of denial, calling the famine ‘one of the 20th century’s most famous myths and vitriolic pieces of anti-Soviet Propaganda.’”

Following the election of Volodymyr Zelenskyy in April, 2019 (succeeding Petro Poroshenko), Donald Trump made his famous phone call to President Zelenskyy. Lt Colonel Alexander Vindman, the NSC Director for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, was on that call; and he reported the inappropriate requests that Trump made to President Zelenskyy for “a little favor”, i.e., an investigation of Hunter Biden, before agreeing to invite Zelenskyy to a White House visit and to release much needed and promised military aid to Ukraine. Col Vindman’s report of that call, first to the NSC Ethics Officer and then to the NSC Inspector General, set in motion a chain of events that led to the Impeachment and trial of Donald Trump.

These events around that phone call and the impeachment investigation and trial have been reported, from different perspectives, by several writers. Over the next several months I will report on four perspectives of these events: (1) by Alexander Vindman in his memoir (the current review); (2) by Dr Fiona Hill, who served as Vindman’s boss in the NSC, in her memoir, *There is Nothing for You Here*; (3) from the perspective of the House of Representatives impeachment investigation, by Rep Adam Schiff, in *Midnight In Washington*, and (4) the view-from-Ukraine perspective of Ambassador Marie

Yovanovitch in her just published memoir *Lessons from the Edge*. This will be followed by a deeper look into Russia, with reviews of Anne Applebaum’s account of the 1933 Ukrainian famine, of Raphael Lemkin’s memoir, of Fiona Hill’s biography, *Mr. Putin*, and of Russian TV journalist Yevgenia Albats’ *State Within a State: The KGB and Its Hold on Russia: Past, present and Future*.

Alexander Vindman and his twin brother Evgeny (Eugene) were born in Kiviv, Ukraine in 1975. After the death of their mother, the three-year-old twins and their older brother, Leonid, were brought to New York in December 1979 by their father, Semyon, and their maternal grandmother.

They grew up in Brooklyn’s Brighton Beach neighborhood. After Alexander graduated with a degree in history from SUNY Binghamton and with ROTC training at nearby Cornell University, he joined the Army as a Lieutenant. He had postings first in Korea, then in Iraq and at Fort Lewis in Seattle, then in Bavaria, Germany. At the end of his term in Germany, Alexander received an appointment as a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) for Russia and Ukraine. As an FAO he underwent extensive language training in Ukrainian (he already spoke Russian) and for the FAO role integrating all the strategic, political, cultural, sociological, economical and geographic considerations for US Policy. Following this extensive training, Vindman was posted as a military attaché at the US Embassy in Kiviv in 2009-10. In this role he travelled extensively throughout Ukraine and Russia and obtained a firsthand knowledge of the region. In 2011 Vindman returned to graduate school and earned a MS degree from Harvard University in Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies. Then in 2012 he was assigned as Army attaché at the US Embassy in Moscow. He thus was able to witness firsthand the January/February 2014

Maidan (Independence) Square demonstrations, the overthrow of President Yanukovich, and the Russian invasion and annexation of Crimea in March, 2014. Returning to the Pentagon, he was a politico-military affairs officer focused on Russia for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Vindman was on the Joint Staff from September 2015 to July 2018, when he was transferred to the National Security Council (NSC) at the White House, reporting to Dr. Fiona Hill and (after Hill’s resignation) to John Bolton. The second half of his book covers Vindman’s work on the NSC, the circumstances of that infamous phone call between Trump and Zelenskyy, and the chain of events that led to the first impeachment and trial, and resulting adverse fallout for Vindman’s career.

Vindman references General James Mattis about what Mattis calls “deep history”. Mattis has advised, “read about history, and you become aware that nothing starts with us. It started long ago. If you read enough biography and history, you learn how people have dealt successfully or unsuccessfully with similar situations and patterns in the past. It doesn’t give you a template of answers, but it does help you refine the questions you have to ask yourself.” This advice certainly applies to the centuries-long relationship between Russia, Ukraine and Poland.

~ Robert V. Frampton

Next month: A review of the newly published (last week) memoir of US Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch.



Your Photo in The Phoenix

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at for inclusion in an upcoming issue, at.

hains27@sbcglobal.net



Mar Apr Calendar

- April 4 Monday 5:30 p.m. UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom
- April 9 Saturday 3 to 5 p.m. SD25 Interfaith Celebration of Migrants & Refugees at Knox Presbyterian. See page five.
- April 14 Thursday Endorsement ballots must be returned, on-line or by mail.
- April 14 Thursday 7 p.m. ACT / ADC Meeting via Zoom. Socializing at 7 p.m.; Ballot results and consideration of campaign contributions 7:30 p.m.
- April 18 *Phoenix* deadline. Monday.



ACTpasadena.org

Our website has undergone some big changes recently and we are operating on a new platform. Please take a look:

[HTTP://WWW.ACTPASADENA.ORG/](http://www.actpasadena.org/)

Thanks to website manager, Bruce Wright and to Marcus Green for constantly updating and adding to the site. Bruce asks for your calendar input plus your views and items of interest. Reach him at brucewright@



Calling Facebook Users

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

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Renatta Cooper, Pasadena
William Suter, South Pasadena
Joan & Patrick Cathcart, Pasa.

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Joan & Andreas Aebi
Charlotte Bland
Bill & Claire Bogaard
William & Edith Byerly
Bob & Maureen Carlson
Joan & Patrick Cathcart
Catherine Caton
Mel & Renate Cohen
Renatta Cooper
Jim & Priscilla Gamb
Brice & Caroline Harris
Jim & Ginny Heringer
John & Ida Hitchcock
Monica & Tom Hubbard
Bruce & Betty Ann Jansson
John & Virginia Kimball
Sue Miele
Michael J. O'Connor
Connie O'Donnell
Veronica Raymond &
Barry Taft
Karen Rowinsky
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Carl & Carol Selkin
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Paul Hunt &
Gina Frierman-Hunt
Julian, Steven Jr. & Council-
member Steven Madison
Greta Pruitt

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Joan & Andreas Aebi
Gail Bardin
William & Edith Byerly
Walter & Zan Cochran-Bond
Andrea Gordon
John & Virginia Kimball
Julian, Steven Jr. & Council-
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Connie O'Donnell
Elizabeth Pomeroy,
in memory of Inman Moore
Carl & Carol Selkin
Shirley Spencer
Scott Van Dellen
Odessa Walker

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

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Bob & Maureen Carlson
Ken Chawkins
Andrea Gordon
Julian, Steven Jr. & Council-
member Steven Madison
Connie O'Donnell
Elizabeth Pomeroy,
in memory of Inman Moore
Fred & Jeanne Register
Carl & Carol Selkin
R. Rhoads Stephenson
Edie Taylor
Odessa Walker



Renew for 2022!

Have you paid your 2022 membership dues for ACT and/or ADC? If not, now is the time. Please send your check with the form below or renew online at our website. If you have any questions about your membership, check with Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com or 626 864-5255.

To all you generous members who have already paid up: **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

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

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$40 | Single | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$70 | Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25 | Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$90 | Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15 | Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$150 | Patron |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$275 | Benefactor |

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

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35 | Single | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$60 | Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$85 | Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15 | Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$125 | Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Gift Membership (NEW!) | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$275 | Benefactor |

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

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35 | Single | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$60 | Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$85 | Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15 | Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$125 | Patron |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$275 | Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

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

Name Home Phone

Address Office Phone

City ZIP Email address

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

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



Cartoon of the day

"Ted Cruz may have inadvertently boosted the sale of a children's book that deals with Critical Race Theory. ...Kendi's book 'Antiracist Baby' became a No. 1 bestseller on Amazon the day after Senator Cruz railed against it ..."

~ Rob Rogers

Quote of the day

"It's because of people like Madeleine [Albright] that the story of America is, ultimately, one of hope - an upward journey."

~ Barack Obama