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ACT Candidate Forum Is Well Attended

The political new year in Pasadena got off to an impressive start at the ACT sponsored candidate forum on January 10. Candidates for both Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District were in attendance at the first candidate forum prior to the city-wide election primary on March 7th.

The event, hosted by PCC, was attended by over 150 people who turned out on a rainy night to hear six school board and seven council candidates answer questions posed by moderator and former ACT Co-chair, John Buchanan. The questions covered assorted topics including protecting immigrants, improving student performance, and supporting an independent police auditor.

View the full forum recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsQS6vqs9HU>.

Joining ACT and the PCC Faculty Association as co-sponsors were a broad range of community organizations including Pasadena Chapters of the ACLU and NAACP, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police (CICOPP), Greater Pasadena Affordable Housing Group (GPAHG), Community Council for Equality and Justice at Madison School (CCEJM), Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA), National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON), Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP), Pasadena Tenants Union-PTU, Pasadena Latino Forum (PLF), and Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Educational Governance (PEPPEG). We thank them all.

— Ed Washatka



February Steering Committee and ADC Meeting

Please come to ACT's next Steering Committee and ADC meeting on Thursday, February 9 at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena. The agenda includes endorsement ballot results.

Our guest speaker will be Kristin Maschka, who was one of the key leaders of the Hillary Clinton for President Campaign in the San Gabriel Valley. Kristin, a new ACT member, will talk about what the Hillary campaign did, how they integrated their efforts with the Headquarters, and how we might collectively capture the interest and efforts of the many volunteers and provide constructive outlets to express our shared opposition to the Trump Administration.

As always coffee and conversation begin at 7 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Progressive Discussion Group Awards

We congratulate Inman Moore and Pablo Alvarado for the well deserved honors they received at the January 6 meeting of the Progressive Discussion Group. Inman is the first recipient of PDG's *Lifetime Achievement Award*. He has been the convener of PDG for its first two decades in addition to writing his "Wonderings and Wanderings" column for this publication, writing a memoir, [On the Road to Civil Rights](#), and doing myriad other good works in his very busy life.

Pablo received PDG's second *Progressive of the Year* award for his work in 2016. He was a grassroots organizer for Pasadena's immigrant community, leader of the Pasadena Job

Center, Executive Director of the National Day Laborer's Organizing Network and took a central role in the successful fight for the Pasadena minimum wage ordinance.

We are proud to have these amazing men as ACT members.



2017 Steering Committee and ADC Officers

We welcome two new ACT Co-chairs, Ed Washatka and Joanne Wendler, elected by general membership vote following the Candidate Forum on January 10. They will serve for 2017-18, joining Jeanette Mann who is in her second year as a Co-Chair. Ed will continue as Treasurer as well.

Welcome also to Darla Dyson, newly elected Recording Secretary. Darla will join Barbara Paul who continues as a Recording Secretary. Beth Gertmenian will continue as Corresponding Secretary.

Bill Hacket continues as Arroyo Democratic Club President and Tim Wendler as ADC Vice-President. (The Treasurer and Secretaries serve both organizations.) Our heartfelt thanks goes to all of you!



Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Parking is available in the big lot behind the restaurant. (The next meeting is Friday, February 3.)

Come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Dale Gronemeier at 323 254-7600 or dlg@dgronemeier.com for information.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore

Trumpism and Ten Jin



I thought I would never write about Donald Trump anymore. But here I go again. Trump is now officially the 45th President of the United States. Increasingly it appears that Trump considers the United States Presidency as just a subsidiary of the Trump Empire, on a par with his hotels, golf courses, and God knows what all.

He is showing no real effort to put his financial holdings into a blind trust where he will be totally free of them as long as he is in the White House. To say that he will turn his financial affairs over to members of his family and never the twain shall meet is ridiculous. The United States Presidency is now being snugly wedged into the Trump Empire along with its other holdings.

So a typical day at the White House might go something like this. The Secretary of Defense calls President Trump about an urgent crisis in the Middle East, and the President tells him to wait until tomorrow. Today he is tied up with a labor dispute at one of his hotels.

The Secretary of Labor is then called and Trump says "I would like some help from you in a hotel labor strike."

He then calls Putin, and says, "Putin, old pal, you helped me win the election. Now I need help in opening a new oil field over on the eastside of Russia. Perhaps it could be very profitable for you."

He then calls in the Secretary of State and says, "My children tell me that the Trump Empire is having some real trouble with the company in China that makes my ties. Could you offer the company some kind of carrot to get them up and running?"

He then takes a call from Ben Carson, the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, who can't seem to find his office.

Just then a contractor, who is building a new casino for the Empire on a foreign getaway island, calls with a problem about shipping some building materials.

As he gets off the phone, he is told of several insulting remarks made about him by someone somewhere. He immediately starts twitting and spends the rest of the day just twitting away.

Just another day in the Trump Empire!! Tomorrow he will spend some time with that dratted Congress. Why don't they just leave the country's affairs where they belong with him and his children?

Yes, the Trump Empire seems to be moving right along and the Presidency of the United States is now being snugly put in place alongside all the other parts and parcels of the Empire. Perhaps Donald will have a few moments tomorrow to discuss that urgent problem in the Middle East. However, it may have to wait until the tailor can measure the size and proportion of Trump's new crown. After all you don't acquire an entire country for the Empire every day of the world!

Post Script: A presidential term is for four years. Tomorrow is another day. Dreams sometimes get sidetracked and take time to come to fruition. My old Ninth Century Japanese philosopher pal, Ten Jin, sitting astride his Water Buffalo down at the Garden of Associates at Caltech, tells me to be patient and never give up on my hopes and dreams. "Thanks, Ten Jin!"

-- Inman

Trump's Russian Strategy - Treason?

A very interesting article on the question of Trump and Treason (1/17/17) can be found at www.laprogressive.com/trump-treason.

Political Notes



Tuesday, January 24.

Well, we have a new President. It seems surreal, but President Trump is not going away. Indeed, he is hard at work, starting a long march backwards.

Not surprisingly, he launched a first salvo at Obamacare, directing Cabinet Secretaries to grant any waivers or exceptions requested by State Governors. He froze non-defense hiring, and put a hold on most new spending in selected domestic areas (like the EPA and Interior Departments). He forbade funding of international family planning organizations that offer or facilitate abortions (while avoiding a head-on attack against Planned Parenthood, and the domestic heat that might engender). He put a hold on any new regulations, and he's promised to eliminate many existing regulations. He's indicated that both the Keystone XL and the Dakota Access pipeline are likely to be approved unconditionally. (The

irony is, with energy prices so low, Keystone probably won't be built, and the proposers are likely secretly thanking Obama for saving them from a huge financial boondoggle.)

Just as interesting, though, is what hasn't happened yet (although there is no telling what may be coming). Most glaring is the lack of any action on Dreamers – the children who were brought here at an early age and who essentially have known no other country. Taking action against illegal immigration was a central, even dominant, theme of the President's campaign, yet it may be that he recognizes how troubling an area this is.

The Senate has also been busy reviewing the President's Cabinet nominees. One after another seems to have issues which, in prior Administrations – both Democratic and Republican – would have automatically disqualified them. But no longer do the old rules apply, it would seem. More critically, Republican Senators seem willing to bend to the Administration. First Sens. McCain and Graham announced they would support Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State, and then Sen. Rubio went along. It would seem their steadfast and lifelong conservative opposition to and wariness of Russia just melted away under President Trump's gaze. Further, when the Senate approved the budget reconciliation resolution, only Sen. Rand Paul voted against it, despite widespread rumbling that repeal and delay was just not acceptable.

Nonetheless, we'll have some interesting political jockeying in the near future. Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, who is a physician, have introduced a replacement bill for Obamacare, with Senators Capito of West Virginia and Isakson of Georgia as co-sponsors. That's four Republicans – enough for a majority, if all 48 Democrats and independents were to go along. Interestingly, the bill doesn't repeal Obamacare – it just makes it voluntary. It would allow states to

opt in to the existing system (so states like California could continue just as we are). If a state failed to opt in, the bill would provide equivalent funding to allow state residents to buy their own insurance. It would further encourage use of health savings accounts, and it would allow states to enroll residents in high-deductible plans intended to provide catastrophic coverage, pay for generic versions of most drugs, and cover all childhood vaccinations. It would eliminate the hated “mandate”, but it would by default automatically enroll eligible members into these skeleton catastrophic coverage plans. Individuals could opt out and buy more expensive, and better coverage, but

by default they would be in automatically. Thus, there is no mandate, but you’re covered automatically.

But wait, you say – what on earth is the difference. The mandate is gone, but you’re enrolled automatically. There really is basically no difference. It is simply a linguistic ploy to try to get around the fundamental recognition that to pay for an expanded health care system that treats

more sick people, you need to have a lot more healthy people to make the finances work. You just can’t carry young adults on their parents’ policies, and prohibit life-time caps, and prohibit denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, without expanding the pool of healthy people whose premiums underwrite the costs of that expanded coverage.

The sponsors have called this the Patient Freedom Act, trying to emphasize the elimination of the dreaded mandate and the supposed Orwellian control of medicine by the Federal government. In truth, it’s not all that different from the present system. It’s not as good, but it’s a whole lot better than many

other alternatives kicked around by the GOP caucus. It also, in a way, crystallizes the dilemma for Democrats.

As Democrats, who believe in government and believe in helping to make things happen, we are always at a disadvantage compared to those who are perfectly happy to blow things up or shut things down. If we want government to keep working, we have to compromise. Tea Party members don’t have to compromise; if government actually shuts down, they simply have achieved their ultimate goal. So how hard do we, as Democrats, bargain? How much do we give away to keep two-thirds, or half, or even one-third of the loaf?



The healthcare debate may crystallize some of those decisions. House Republicans are dramatically less interested in something like the Cassidy-Collins Patient Freedom Act. However, they don’t really have a clear alternative, and their caucus probably has too many factions for them to agree on a single approach. Even with Speaker Ryan’s leadership, they are unlikely to agree on something specific. So if the Senate

Republicans can enlist President Trump’s support for a modestly reasonable plan, should the Democrats go along?

I’d be inclined to say yes. Particularly with the option of allowing states to opt in to the existing program and keep the tax subsidies for their residents, it’s probably as good as we can ever hope for. Further, in the process, the Republicans are likely to tear themselves apart as their coalition starts to fray. Allying with centrist Senate Republicans and President Trump might be our most effective course of action, on this and many other issues as well. Who would have thought?

– Jon Fuhrman

Research and Steering Committee Report

The Research Committee met on January 14 to interview candidates for City Council. Marguerite Cooper, Jon Fuhrman, Dale Grommeier, Jim Heringer, Dolores Hickambottom, Susan Kane, Marilee Marshall, Barbara Paul, Ed Washatka, and Bruce Wright participated in the interviews for the contested City Council seats. Jim Heringer could not stay for the voting and therefore is not counted in the number (9). Jean Register arrived in time to participate in the interviews for District 5 (10). The same 10 people then proceeded to interview candidates for the contested PUSD seats. (10)

Pasadena City Council

The candidates were asked to discuss whether our police department was losing officers due to lack of sufficient pay and good working conditions, their views on recent development and its effect on traffic, parking and preservation of our trees. They were also asked to comment on "in fill development" or the idea of transforming commercial properties into housing or mixed use, their interest in ameliorating the suffering of the homeless, ensuring the protection of our immigrant population, especially in terms of how, if at all, police officers should interact with ICE and whether City Council members are sometimes inappropriately prevented from communicating fully with their constituents by advice from the City Attorney.

District 7 Candidates

(1) **Phil Hosp**, a Republican, graduated from Loyola High School. After receiving a business degree from Boston University, he served four years as a Tank Officer in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain. Hosp served two tours in Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star. After serving in the military, He obtain-

ed a law degree from Loyola Law School and is currently a securities fraud attorney with an international firm. He has been active in a number of organizations, including the Los Angeles Big Brothers Program and Loyola Law School Veteran's Justice Project. He lives in Madison Heights with his wife and two preschool daughters. Hosp's emphasis is on reducing development, crime and traffic. He favors more and better planned mass transit, citing as an example of bad development, that the light rail was placed at ground level, dividing the city in half and creating a traffic nightmare. He thinks we should retain the best officers and increase their salary. Hosp acknowledged that the police have to interact to some extent with ICE but was adamant they should not be enforcing immigration laws and believes the immigrant community should be protected, as immigrants are an important part of our economy and part of the diversity that is important to our city. Hosp's endorsements include the Pasadena United Teacher's Union.

(2) **Alejandro Menchaca**, lifetime Democrat, lives in the South Lake District. He was born in Montebello, earned a BA in political science from Stanford and a law degree from USC Law School where he was president of La Raza Law Students Association. He was admitted to the bar in 2002 and currently has a solo practice in Los Angeles. Menchaca is the Founder and President of the Latino Professional Network which presently has approximately 40,000 members from diverse fields and backgrounds. Through his efforts, this organization has supported numerous local charities and community initiatives. He has served on the boards of East LA Weingart YMC, the Mexican American Bar Association, and the Mexican Cultural Institute. In 2010, he ran for State Senate in District 22 and played a large role in drawing the Latino community to support Eric Garcetti in his mayoral election. He thinks our starting salaries for

police officers could be higher and that our budgetary problems could be solved through a sales tax. He favors revitalizing South Lake to appeal to millennials, maintaining and expanding park space and protecting our trees, noting that some children from the inner city never see a tree but live in a world of concrete. He does not think the police should enforce immigration law.

(3) Sheena Tahilramani, a Republican, moved to Pasadena relatively recently from Washington D.C., choosing Pasadena because of its “economic, social and educational opportunities.” She has a background in public relations and is a small business owner. She previously worked at the White House Office of Political Affairs and then at Karl Rove & Company where she served as the company liaison to high level client external organizations such as Fox News and the Wall Street Journal. With respect to the police department, she believes we should stick to the budget. Urban planning is not her area of expertise but she would like to see more mass transit, use of bikes and move away from cars. Protecting our immigrant community is not a priority for her as she believes illegal immigrants are a problem and that people can and should immigrate legally as her family did.

(4) Andy Wilson, a Republican, was appointed to fill Mayor Tornek’s seat and now seeks election. Wilson has lived with his wife and children in Madison Heights for 20 years. An avid walker, he is a strong advocate for enhancing pedestrian and biking infrastructures to reduce local traffic and is a strong advocate for preservation of our trees. He holds an MBA from Harvard and a BS in engineering from Dartmouth. He supports revitalizing South Lake and focusing new development in the downtown core so that our historic neighborhoods are not overwhelmed. Wilson served for 6 years on the board of Pasadena Heritage, an organization that is largely responsible for

preserving our historic neighborhoods and buildings throughout the city. Wilson is a tech start up entrepreneur and the founder and director of Momentum Venture a seed fund focused on early stage technology companies that are looking to expand. His ongoing volunteer activities include co-founding and running Innovate Pasadena, a grass roots community building effort focused on motivation/entrepreneurship and local high-tech job creation. Wilson believes that our police department has not managed its image very well and is too defensive about feedback. He agrees we need qualified people and that we should offer competitive pay but believes that pension obligations are the biggest budget problem. Wilson’s endorsements include Terry Tornek, Bill Bogaard, Victor Gordo, John Kennedy and Steve Madison.

(5) It should be noted that another candidate, **Bryan Witt**, a recently registered Democrat, who describes himself as the only “progressive democrat” in the race was scheduled for an interview but did not appear. When called to see if he was coming he apologized and said he had forgotten or calendared the interview for the wrong date.

Analysis: Among the District 7 candidates, with the exception of Tahilramani, the answers of the candidates we interviewed in this non-partisan race were within the acceptable range. Tahilramani’s views were far to the right of both of the other Republican candidates and, thus, she was not seriously considered as a suitable candidate for the endorsement of a progressive organization. As the endorsement recommendation reflects, this was a close one. Wilson was perceived by some to be slightly more to the progressive end of the Republican spectrum than Hosp while others saw little difference. Menchaca is a progressive Democrat, whom we would like to see more involved in local politics particularly in ACT. Some people wanted to con-

sider endorsing him and/or would have been comfortable in not endorsing anyone at this time. Menchaca was not more seriously considered because, as one person pointed out, he has gotten a very late start on his campaign, and has little local support which will make it hard for him to win in District 7.

The Research Committee voted 5-4-0 to recommend the endorsement of Andy Wilson. The Steering Committee voted 12-3-2 to recommend the endorsement of Andy Wilson.

District 5 Candidates

(1) Victor Gordo, a Democrat and successful labor lawyer has served on the City Council since 2001 and has worked throughout his tenure on improving the quality of life in District 5 where he lives with his wife, and two young children. He was most recently reelected in 2009 with 91.2% of the vote. Born in Mexico he arrived here at age 5 and attended Madison Elementary. He later delivered the Pasadena Star News. The first person in his family to attend college, he worked his way [waiting tables] through Pasadena City College and Azusa Pacific. On the City Council, he has led efforts to combat liquor stores which were negatively affecting residential neighborhoods and has replaced them with affordable housing. He is a strong advocate for affordable housing, economic growth and stability in the local business districts and promoting safe, family-friendly environments. He supports getting people out of their cars, improving public transportation, and appropriate development along the inner corridor. Gordo, a naturalized citizen, who grew up in a garage with his parents and siblings, under the constant threat of deportation, is very sensitive to the protection of our immigrant community especially children. He believes that we need more and better paid police officers and is working with the city and the police

union to achieve these goals. A strong advocate of community policing, and officers on bicycles, he laments that during the recession the special enforcement teams were cut in half due to lack of funding and have not been replenished, a situation that seriously hampers the prevention of serious gang crime such as that which recently occurred. Gordo strongly believes that it is not the function of the police department to enforce immigration laws but acknowledges that it is not possible for the police to be ordered not to speak to ICE.

(2) Aida Morales, a Democrat, Guatemalan American and 50 year resident of Pasadena, has a BA from Cal State Los Angeles. She has served on the Northwest Commission, the Affordable Housing Action Committee and the Guatemalan Heritage Organization. Morales is a concerned and politically active citizen. However, given her lack of familiarity with the issues of interest to us we did not consider her a viable candidate at this time.

(2) Krystal Lopez Padley, a Decline to State, asserted that she does not identify with either the Democratic or Republican parties. Lopez Padley was born in Santa Ana. She earned a BA in English Literature from UCI and a Masters in writing from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She resides with her husband and preschool children in the Northwest area of Pasadena and laments that her neighborhood parks are not safe for her or her children. She thinks that the police have a morale problem as opposed to a pay or staffing problem and that more transparency and more trust between the police and community is important. She is strongly supportive of affordable housing, protecting immigrants, alleviating traffic congestion by adding more cars to the light rail, more dedicated bikeways, more buses and bus routes.

Analysis: With respect to the District 5 candidates it was noted that it would be nice

to have more women on the City Council and that Lopez Padley is an attractive energetic young person. We felt that she has a future in local politics and we would like to see more of her, although some of us tend to distrust decline to state registrants. Most significantly, given our knowledge of Victor Gordo, most of us did not find credible, her assertions that the incumbent was an “empty chair” who was not interested in the needs of his constituents. The lively discussion which ensued prior to our recommendation of Gordo was, however, mostly about policing issues, as one individual who participated has strong beliefs that we don’t need more police officers and it is not enough for our department to have a policy not to enforce immigration laws but that officers should actually be ordered not to interact with ICE. Gordo and this individual disagree.

The Research Committee voted to 6-3-1 to recommend the endorsement of Victor Gordo. The Steering Committee voted 13-3-1 to recommend the endorsement of Victor Gordo.

Pasadena Unified School District

Given the threats of mass deportation emitting from the Trump administration, the candidates were asked their views and ideas on how to protect immigrant students. They were also asked how the Board should use the \$23 million received from the state to improve the academic performance of disadvantaged children and youth; how to help more Latino and African American students meet the state standards for proficiency in Language Arts and Mathematics and how to meet the challenge of forecasted lower enrollments. Further, they were also asked to comment on the success of the current Superintendent and whether or not the Board’s attorney should be allowed to prevent Board members, as elected officials, from communicating fully with their constituents.

All candidates who answered our questions supported the Safe Zone resolution which had been put forth by Elizabeth Pomeroy and which had recently passed 8-0. They all supported protecting the children but were not as yet sure how far they would be able to go, how the resolution would be implemented and what more could be done as the details would need to be worked out, likely without publicity, and training provided at all level.

They all thought the Superintendent was doing a superior job and that any problems that had occurred had or would be alleviated in the future through more transparency. All candidates thought more analysis of the data was required to determine how best to spend the state funds to serve the needs and raise the scores of the disadvantaged and that we needed to work more on attracting students. They all also thought they should be allowed to speak with their constituents except on confidential matters which were related to personnel or were the subject of litigation.

District 1 Candidates

(1) Kimberly Kenne, a Democrat and incumbent, and current President of the School Board is an Altadena resident and a system integration expert by profession. Kenne has a BS in Business Administration from Georgetown University, where she majored in finance and minored in computer Science. Kenne was originally elected to the Board in 2011 and reelected in 2013. She has been actively involved as a parent leader at the school site, district, and state levels since her children started kindergarten.

(2) Rita Miller, a Democrat, has been a resident of Altadena since 2011. She holds a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law was admitted to the bar in 1988 and worked as an attorney for 12 years. She is presently a high school teacher at LAUSD. She is currently teaching at Downtown Magnets

High School. Rita is a 2-year member of the Student Site Council and current Parliamentarian. She is active in her school, offering extra assistance to students after class and participating in the many Downtown Magnets ASB events.

The Research Committee voted 9-1-0 to recommend the endorsement of Kimberly Kenne. The Steering Committee voted 16-0-1 to recommend the endorsement of Kimberly Kenne.

District 3 Candidates

(1) **Michelle Richardson Bailey** was born and raised in Pasadena and attended local public schools: Washington Elementary, Don Benito Elementary, Eliot Junior High, Pasadena High School, and Pasadena City College. She and her husband have 3 children who all attended Pasadena public schools. Richardson Bailey has served as a Pasadena City Commissioner for the last 13 years, and previously chaired the Northwest and Human Relations Commissions. Bailey has been an employee of PUSD for the last 14 years. She recently joined the district's Equity and Access Committee, and the School Site Council at Blair school. She is a former Vice President of the Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), Pasadena Chapter 434, and is a member of the Pasadena Alliance of African American School Educators. She believes that the diversity of our district should be reflected in the governing board, and that she brings the missing minority perspective for the under representation of our diverse community. Richardson Bailey is endorsed by Anthony Portantino, Tyrone Hampton, and Renatta Cooper.

(3) **Adrienne Ann Mullen**, a Democrat, was appointed to the Board and now seeks election. She holds a doctorate in Education from UCLA and presently is Dean of Adult Education in the Los Angeles Community College District. Mullen has worked in public and pri-

vate education for over 28 years. Her goals are to be sure the district is a good steward of public funds and to increase the district's reserve. She further states that she will work to grow the dual enrollment program with PCC which allows current high school students to take college classes while completing their high school diplomas and to grow signature programs like dual language immersion and other magnet type programs across district schools.

The Research Committee voted 10-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Michele Richardson Bailey. The Steering Committee voted 18-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Michele Richardson Bailey.

District 5 Candidates

(1) **Matthew Baron**, a recently registered Democrat, and self proclaimed "Berniecrat" teaches agriculture and seems to be doing a great job creating school gardens and encouraging troubled youngsters. It was difficult to interview Baron and more difficult to determine his view on the issues. While seemingly he is a progressive person in his own way, he made it clear that he did not like our questions or our process. Despite the fact that a detailed explanation of our interview process had been provided to him in writing, he did not seem to understand or more accurately want to acknowledge that he was seeking our endorsement and we were going to ask the him questions that were important to us.

(2) **Elizabeth Pomeroy**, a Democrat and the incumbent, graduated from Stanford University and holds a Ph.D. in English from UCLA. She served on the staff of the Huntington Library for ten years, and also worked at the W.M. Keck Foundation in Los Angeles. She has taught English at Pasadena City College for a decade, and earlier taught at UCLA, UC Irvine, and California State University Los

Angeles. Her first teaching years were in middle school and high school. Over the past thirty-five years, she has been active in local organizations, serving as Board member of the Pasadena Historical Society, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, the Sierra Club and other groups. She has served the City of Pasadena as a member of the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Library Commission. Her son and daughter both attended Pasadena public schools.

The Research Committee voted 8-1-1 to recommend the endorsement of Elizabeth Pomeroy. The Steering Committee voted 16-2-0 to recommend the endorsement of Elizabeth Pomeroy.



State Central Committee Delegates Elected

— Kristin Maschka our new E-Board Rep

On Saturday, January 7, over 500 local Democrats turned out in the light drizzle to elect new Democratic State Central Committee members from the 41st Assembly District. Our District elects 6 women and 6 men, and also elects one person as our representative on the State Central Committee Executive Board. The State Central Committee is the ruling body of the Democratic Party in California, and it is tasked to run party affairs and make formal endorsements in state elections.

Kristin Maschka was elected to the E-Board, receiving 155 votes, versus 124 votes for Robert Nelson, the next nearest competitor. Our six women delegates are Kristin Maschka, Teresa Simpson, Tina Fredericks, Peggy Renner, Joanne Wendler, and Leslie Bilderback. Our six male delegates are Robert Nelson, Joe Salas, Tim Wendler, Jason Schadewald, Tommy Randle and Jordan Vannini.

Congrats to all new delegates, and best wishes in our collective effort to make the Democratic

Party as vital and energetic and relevant as possible!



The Los Angeles Women's March

After the Pasadena Woman's Rally in the City Hall Rotunda, I headed to the Metro for a ride down to the Los Angeles Women's March. No such luck, the line for the Metro stretched all the way out of the station.

Not a problem, I thought, I'll just jump into my car and drive to the Madre station. When I entered its garage, up and up I drove, searching for a parking slot. Once on the roof, I found its *one open* slot and parked.

Down on the train platform, there was a good size crowd waiting. When the train arrived, the cars were all full of people -- standing room only. At the Allen station, at the Lake station, down to the South Pasadena station more people jammed into the cars, but that was it. Thereafter, the train let one or two off, but none on. These folks would keep arriving later, swelling the March numbers.



When I got off the Metro in Japantown, I looked up several blocks and beheld a huge colorful mosaic of hundreds of thousand people with signs flooding First Street and its side streets.

By the time I arrived, the LA March had al-

ready paraded from Pershing Square down Hill Street to gather in front of Grand Park where a speaker's platform was set up. I hurried to join the crowd and arrived as musicians were playing.

I was immediately struck by the joyous spirit of the crowd. Thousands of happy women, of course, but also men and children galore. Thousands of pink "pussyhats" brightened the crowd. I had heard that stores were now out of pink yarn!

So many signs -- "Here For My Daughters and Granddaughters", "Here For My Mother", "We Will Not Be Silenced", "Pussy Grabs Back", "A Women's Place is in the Resistance". I was taking photos and I turned to take a picture of "Baby's first Protest March" and heard "Mrs. Register". I looked up. It was Lauren, a bright student and talented actress from my Mayfield days and her six-month old baby! There were many important speakers, Mayor Garcetti, Barbara Streisand, Natalie Portman, and others not so well known. The speeches were scheduled to go on until four p.m. -- too long for a standing crowd and many peeled early. But the Los Angeles March, along with marches all over the United States and in many foreign countries were a statement. We the People have a solidarity. We are watching and listening. We vote. We will resist.

– Jeanne Register



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Christopher DeWan, Pasadena
 Ronald Garber, Duarte
 Phil Hosp, Pasadena
 Kristin Maschka, Pasadena
 Alice Meerson, Pasadena
 Adrienne Ann Mullen, Pasadena
 Mara Moye, Burbank

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Mary Naff, La Canada
 Cory Sewelson, Altadena
 Councilmember Andy Wilson, Pasa.

And really special thanks to Our Benefactors


Ed Washatka and Linda Centell, Pasa.

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

Alice Meerson, Pasadena
 Mary Naff, La Canada

And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

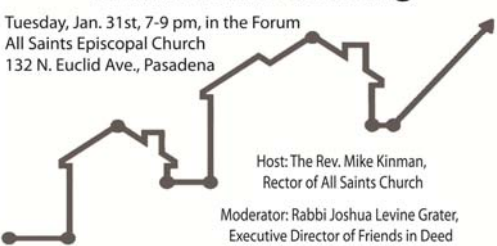
Ed Washatka and Linda Centell, Pasa.



All Saints Church Economic Justice & Non-Violence Working Group
and Sustainable World present:

City Council Candidate Forum on Affordable Housing

Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 7-9 pm, in the Forum
All Saints Episcopal Church
132 N. Euclid Ave., Pasadena



Host: The Rev. Mike Kinman,
Rector of All Saints Church

Moderator: Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater,
Executive Director of Friends in Deed

Featuring Candidate for District 3: John Kennedy; Candidates for District 5: Victor Gordo, Aida Morales and Krystal Lopez Padley; and Candidates for District 7: Phil Hosp, Alejandro Menchaca, Sheena Tahlilamani, Bryan Witt and Andy Wilson.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations:
 ACT, Affordable Housing Services, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE),
 Faith Community Coalition, Friends in Deed, Greater Pasadena Affordable Housing
 Group (GPAHG), Housing Works, Pasadena Tenants Union, Pasadenans Organizing
 for Progress (POP), Union Station Homeless Services and the Office for Urban Initiatives
 at Fuller Theological Seminary.

For further information, contact Ada Ramirez, aramirez@allsaints-pas.org, 626.583.2734

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



Dear ACT members,

It's great to be back in Sacramento, thank you ACT for helping me get there. I'm very pleased to report that I've been appointed to Chair the Senate Education Budget Subcommittee. As many of you will recall, Jack Scott chaired this committee while he was in the Senate. It is a great place for me to focus on Community College issues and other public education priorities that I am passionate about and that our district holds dear.

I'm also very pleased to report that I've managed to convince Learning Works to part with the amazing Dominick Correy to serve as my Pasadena and Altadena Field Deputy. Dominick is a proud PHS and Pomona grad, knows just about everyone and has hit the ground running in a very positive and earnest manner. His enthusiasm just brings a smile to my face. Darla Dyson will be staying on to handle local political matters and Talin Mangioglou will be running my Glendale office as the District Director. Stay tuned for details of our open house once we settled in to our Glendale office.

With no time to waste, our team is putting together a strong policy agenda that puts education first, asks for more funding for cancer treatment, helps many students who need our support and brings more transparency and accountability to the political process. In the coming months, I'll be sharing specifics as each issue moves forward.

I was also very honored to join a strong contingent of local Planned Parenthood acti-

vists who travelled to Sacramento for the "pink out" rally on the steps of the State Capitol. And, I was pleased to have invited Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon to Pasadena to join me in supporting our amazing and strong Women's march on the steps of Pasadena City Hall on Saturday. It was quite an honor for us to be the only men to speak at the Pasadena march, which was over 1000 strong. It was an event that showcased grassroots activism at its best with many ACT members in leadership and in the crowd. Our local organizers did an outstanding job getting the word out and bringing together a terrific slate of activists.

On the family front, I've been able to see a bunch of Bella's soccer games for her undefeated JV high school team. She is making me smile every day as I watch her grow into a terrific young person. I'm very proud of her and Sofia which brings me back to the march and this moment in time. We all need to make a commitment to see that our activism continues long after the march to ensure that our values withstand the challenges and divisive rhetoric that began on January 20th.

— Anthony Portantino

Contact: <http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/contact>

**State Senator --
and Former
ACT Co-Chair**



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

I hope you are ready to make a difference in 2017! As we stay engaged in the national arena, I believe it is vital that we focus to make gains for our shared progressive values at the local and state level. This year, the legislature is prepared to exercise its full power to protect all Californians that may be adversely affected by the new administration's potentially divisive policies. At the same time, I am resolute, now more than ever, to build upon our successes –growing our economy, protecting our environment, strengthening our infrastructure and supporting working families.

Since my last update, Speaker Anthony Rendon appointed Chair of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy. I am thankful to be in a position where I can make a big impact to set forward-thinking energy policy for California. Serving nearly 24 years on the Pasadena City Council, with responsibility over the city's Water and Power Company, provided me with a strong foundation and understanding of the utility industry and the need to be smart and thoughtful as we plan our energy future.

January was a special month for me as we celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In Pasadena, I had the privilege of presenting the celebration message at the annual MLK Celebration Service hosted by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Pasadena (IMA). The IMA, a local fellowship group of more than thirty spiritual

leaders, has been hosting these celebrations since the first year after Dr. King's death in 1968. At the MLK Leadership Breakfast in Sacramento I shared my vision for the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC). This year, among its priorities, the CLBC will work to increase access to quality education, dismantle the school to prison pipeline, and bring environmental justice to neighborhoods that for decades have been dumping grounds for toxic materials.

Just a few weeks ago Governor Jerry Brown presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget. For the first time in four years, Brown projects a state deficit – 1.6 billion from declining revenue – that he proposes to offset with \$3.2 billion in budget solutions. I am most disappointed in the one million dollar one-time cut in funding for the renovation of the Pasadena Playhouse that already passed in last year's budget. The Playhouse has already committed funds they were promised to the renovation project and it is disingenuous of Governor Brown to take it away six months later.

As for my legislative agenda, I am proud to bring back my bill to establish the Student Transit Pass Program. This Program will provide low-cost, effective transportation options to budget conscious students, while providing local transportation agencies with a statistically proven source of new riders. This bill will save money for students, reduce our carbon footprint, and energize urban transportation infrastructure.

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

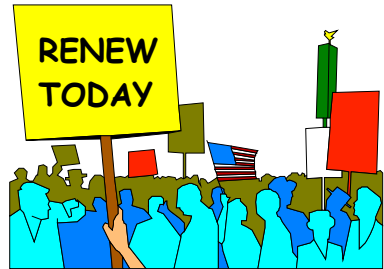
-- Chris Holden

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

Membership Renewal Time is Here

Watch for your ACT/ADC renewal letter in about 2 weeks and please reply as soon as you can. (Dues have stayed the same again this year and you know how much we need your continued support!) Or you may use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

If you have any questions about your membership please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 795-5255 or Email to jon_fuhrman@charter.net.



ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

\$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)

\$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

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

Jan Feb

Calendar

- January 31 Affordable Housing Candidate
Tuesday Forum at the All Saints Church
7 p.m.
- February 3 Progressive Discussion Group
Friday at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S.
9 a.m. Lake Ave., Pasa. Also 2/17, 3/3.
- February 9 ACT and ADC endorsement
ballots due.
- February 9 ACT Steering Committee and
Thursday ADC Meeting at the home of
7 p.m. Marilee Marshall and Bruce
Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave.,
Pasadena. Kristin Maschka to
speak. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting
follows at 7:30 p.m.
- February 23 United Demo Headquarters
Thursday Planning meeting, 7 p.m.
- March 7 Local Elections for Pasadena
Council and PUSD Board seats.



February *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for the February *Phoenix* will be Sunday evening, February 12th. Please submit your *Phoenix* items to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net by that date.



ACT's Webpage

Check ACT's webpage www.ACTpasadena.org for special items, links and photos, as well as the current on-line edition of *The Phoenix* (in color and often with items that couldn't be fitted into the print edition.)

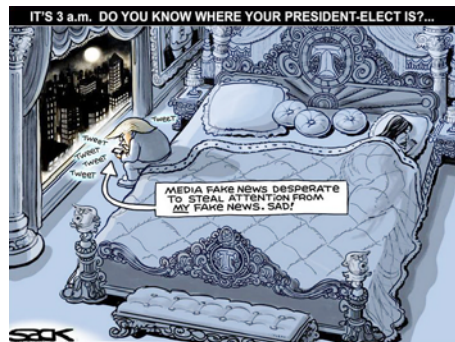
Contact website manager Bruce Wright with suggestions at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



Community Candidates Forum: Is It Getting Too Expensive To Live in Pasadena?

ACT is one of twelve community organization hosting a Candidates Forum on Affordable Housing on Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m. in the All Saints Church Forum. Council member Candidates for City Council Districts 3, 5 and 7 will discuss their views on affordable housing. John Kennedy from District 3; Victor Gordo, Aida Morales, and Krystal Lopez Padley from District 5, and Phil Hosp, Alejandro Menchaca, Sheena Tahilramani, Bryan Witt, and Andy Wilson from District 7 will be in attendance. Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater, Executive Director of Friends in Deed, will serve as moderator.

The Forum is co-hosted by Affordable Housing Services, All Saints Church, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), Faith Community Coalition, Friends in Deed, Greater Pasadena Affordable Housing Group (GPAHG), Housing Works, Pasadena Tenants Union, Pasadenans organizing for Progress (POP), Union Station Homeless Services, and the Office for Urban Initiatives at Fuller Seminar.





UDH wraps up a highly successful year!

Despite the dismal outcome of the national election, local Democrats can be very proud of the performance of our United Democratic Headquarters. Under the superb leadership of Bill Hackett and his staff, the UDH mobilized more than 1500 volunteers, knocked on more than 15,000 doors and also made more than 150,000 phone calls to Democratic voters -- including tens of thousands into other states (especially Nevada).

UDH is run by a coalition of local Democratic clubs who work together to open a headquarters every two years. Typically, the presidential years, like this one, are much, much larger than the gubernatorial years. So the financial surplus from each presidential year is used to support a smaller UDH and staff in the following gubernatorial year.

After a slower than expected start, our campaign store sold \$150,000 worth of campaign merchandise this year, a strong performance. However, the growing cost of financial reporting for the store operation cut into our surplus quite a bit.

Therefore, our UDH Chair, Patty Horton, has proposed that we experiment with keeping a part-time fundraiser, as well as a part-time online communications specialist, on payroll between elections. The goal would be to maintain a strong presence and build an on-going fundraising base, *making* UDH less dependent on the highly-variable proceeds from a presidential campaign store every four years.

The UDH Steering Committee voted to try

this on an experimental basis through the end of March, at which point we will assess the results and the prospects before deciding whether to continue.

– Fred Register



ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

For March Elections



Endorsement Ballot Instructions

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

Who can vote? Year 2016 and 2017 members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. **If you have not renewed for 2017 you can do so on-line or enclose your renewal along with your ballot.** Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

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

Ballot rules No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorse-

ment elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you wish to vote.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, **February 9th**. Further endorsement election information can be found in this *Phoenix* on page 6.

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

Endorsement Requirements

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

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

| Vote for one | Voter: #1 | #2 | #3 |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Candidate X..... | X | | |
| Candidate Y..... | | X | |
| No Endorsement..... | | | X |

This is actually a double ballot, one for ACT and one for the Arroyo Democratic Club. Following each candidate's name, the first set of check boxes are for ACT voters and the second set are for ADC voters.

Arroyo Democratic Club ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

For March Elections

Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that only Democratic candidates have boxes for vote check marks.

ACT and ADC Endorsement Ballot

Note: The Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC) can endorse only Democrats; several candidates who are not registered as Democrats are therefore ineligible for endorsement by the ADC. ACT, however, is a non-partisan organization and may therefore endorse any candidate. ACT members are identified by an “*” following their name.

Pasadena City Council District 5:

**Research Committee recommends endorsing Victor Gordo (6 - 3 - 1).
Steering Committee recommends endorsing Victor Gordo (13 - 3 - 1).**

| Vote for one | ACT Voter: #1 | #2 | #3 | ADC Voter: #1 | #2 | #3 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Victor Gordo | | | | | | |
| Aida Morales..... | | | | | | |
| Krystal Lopez Padley | | | | | | |
| No Endorsement..... | | | | | | |

Pasadena City Council District 7:

**Research Committee recommends endorsing Andy Wilson (5 - 4 - 0).
Steering Committee recommends endorsing Andy Wilson (12 - 3 - 2).**

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|-------|--|--|
| Phil Hosp *..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Alejandro Menchaca ..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Sheena Tahilramani..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Andy Wilson * ..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Bryan Witt *..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| No Endorsement..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |

Pasadena Unified School District 1:

**Research Committee recommends endorsing Kimberly Kenne (9 - 1 - 0).
Steering Committee recommends endorsing Kimberly Kenne (16 - 0 - 1).**

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|-------|--|--|
| Kimberly Kenne *..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Rita Miller..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| No Endorsement..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |

Pasadena Unified School District 3:

**Research Committee recommends endorsing Michelle Richardson-Bailey (10 - 0 - 0).
Steering Committee recommends endorsing Michelle Richardson-Bailey (18 - 0 - 0).**

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|-------|--|--|
| Adrienne Ann Muller * ..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Michelle Richardson-Bailey ..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| No Endorsement..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |

Pasadena Unified School District 5:

**Research Committee recommends endorsing Elizabeth Pomeroy (8 - 1 - 1).
Steering Committee recommends endorsing Elizabeth Pomeroy (16 - 2 - 0).**

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|-------|--|--|
| Matthew Baron..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| Elizabeth Pomeroy * ..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |
| No Endorsement..... |  |  |  | ..... |  |  |