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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

New Date for ACT's 40th Anniversary Celebration!

Due to some unanticipated conflicts, the 40th Anniversary Fundraiser has been postponed until the third week in September. The event will be held at the home of Bill and Claire Bogaard, and ACT will be honoring members who made key contributions during each of our four decades.

Watch the June and July issues of the Phoenix for more details. If you would like to be involved in the planning and preparation for this fundraising event, please contact Anne Wolf at her EMail: annie2away@yahoo.com

The event has been rescheduled to the last weekend in September, to allow us to maximize attendance of local and state political leaders.

We apologize for the change in plans which happened shortly after the last Phoenix was mailed out.

2013 Steering Committee Calendar

The ACT Steering Committee and the Arroyo Democratic Club meet on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month in rotation. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

This is the 2013 Steering Committee meeting schedule with the presiding Co-Chair for each meeting:

Wednesday, June 5 -- Wendy Soltes

Thursday, July 11 – WS (Summer Potluck)

Tuesday, August 6 – WS

Wednesday, September 4 – WS

Thursday, October 3 – Anthony Portantino

Wednesday, November 6 – AP (the election falls on our regular meeting date, hence change)

Thursday, December 5 – AP (Annual Holiday Potluck)

All members are welcome and urged to attend Steering Committee meetings. Check for meeting locations in the *Phoenix* Calendar and our website www.ACTPasadena.org.



In Memoriam

Margaret Solum Lauritsen Leighton

We sadly note the death of Marge Leighton on April 6 at age 91. Marge was born in Minneapolis and came to California at 18. She served in the Women's Army Corp in India and China during WWII and afterward studied sociology and demographics under the GI Bill while raising her children. She founded Pasadena Urban Research Consultants with two others. In 1979 it became the nonprofit Women at Work, which has provided career and job support to women (and men) in our area for 34 years. She was a longtime ACT member, a member of the Urban Coalition, Pasadena's CETA Manpower Council and the Commission on the Aging as well as serving on the Board of the Pasadena LWV. She was an environmentalist, patron of the Arts and a world traveler.



Chuck Hains (your editor) remembers his first introduction into politics at a very young age when his neighbor Marge Lauritsen had a bumper sticker that read "Joe Must Go."

We extend our sympathy to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They have suggested that any memorial donations be sent to Women at Work.



Joseph L. Wyatt, Jr.

We are saddened by the death of Joe Wyatt on April 15 at 89. The ebullient, witty, and bow-tied Joe grew up in the Midwest and on the East Coast. He served in the US Air Force in Europe in WWII, and then graduated from Northwestern University and Harvard Law School. He practiced law in



California beginning in 1950 and was still going to work each day up to his death. He specialized in trust and estate planning and taxation and was the author of four volumes on Trust Administration and Taxation. He served on the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees, the California State Personnel Board, the Board of Administration of CALPers, LACERA, and the anti-poverty agencies of Pasadena and Los Angeles. He was the consummate Democrat - as California delegate to the national conventions of '56, '60, '64 and '68, counsel to the California delegations of '72, '76, '80, '84, '88 and '92. In addition he was parliamentarian for many state conventions and local party events. He and Marge are charter members of ACT.

We extend deepest sympathy to Marge and the Wyatt family. They suggest that memorial donations may be made to the Pasadena Educational Foundation, 351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, CA 91109.



Donald E. Coles

We are sorry to note the death of Donald Coles on May 2 at age 89. Donald, erudite scientist, Dodger fan, and father of four - all National Merit Scholars, was Professor of Aeronautics, Emeritus, at CalTech. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota and served in the US Army in Europe in WWII. He came to CalTech for graduate work, earning a MS in '48 and a Ph.D. in '53, and stayed his entire research career. He was an expert on the properties of turbulent flow and the dynamics of rotating fluids. His made pioneering contributions toward our understanding in his area and developed novel experimental methods. His work has had many practical applications in



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Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



THE ARMENIANS

One Sunday morning not long ago I was late for an appointment. So, on my way to the appointment, I dashed over to McDonald's on Lake Avenue to grab an "Egg McMuffin" and a cup of coffee. While waiting in line to be served, there were several conversations going on and each conversation was in a different language. Most major languages of the world can be heard right here in the good ole USA and very much so in California. America may well be the most diverse country in the world. We are a land of immigrants. Even American Indians came to America across the Siberian Straits. Many immigrants came fleeing sheriffs. Others came fleeing bishops. They wanted political and religious freedom. Africans, of course, are a different story. They came in shackles and chains and were sold on the slave markets along the East Coast. The entire colony of Georgia was populated by British prisoners released in the custody of General Oglethorpe. Yes, people from all over the world came to America. Several racial groups came because of racial prejudice.

At any rate, my McDonald's experience started me to thinking about the Armenian Genocide and the commemoration of that event. On April 24, Pasadena joined with many cities all over America in a ceremony presided over by Mayor Bill Bogaard commemorating *Armenian Martyrs Day* or *The Day of the Armenian Genocide*. From 1915-18 the Ottoman Turks systematically went about killing one million five hundred thousand Armenians. Many Armenians fled to Lebanon, Russia, Iraq, Iran, & the United States. It was a great tragedy approximating the later larger Jewish Holocaust.

In recent years, because of the unrest and persecution of Armenians in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Russia, thousands of Armenians migrated to America. Today, Glendale, with over 60,000 Armenians has the largest percentage of Armenians of any city in America. Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Francisco also have quite a number of Armenians. There are approximately 500,000 Armenians in California and 1,400,000 in America. There are a number of Armenian elected officials in California. Among them locally are Paul Krekorian, Los Angeles City Council; George Deukmajian, former Governor of California; Dr. Armen Sarafian former President of Pasadena City College; and Bill Parparian, a former Pasadena Mayor. In recent years Chris Chahinian has successfully organized several political organizations.

From the earliest days of Pasadena there have been Armenians in Pasadena. Today there are at least 10,000. Among other institutions there is a fully accredited Armenian high school in Pasadena (operated by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)). St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church on Colorado Boulevard also operates an elementary school.

Some years ago there was quite a nice market on the corner of Colorado Blvd. and Bonnie St. that was owned by a Gertmenian family. Today there are a number of Armenian stores located largely on Washington Boulevard. The oldest Armenian business in our area is Pashgian Brothers Rugs established in 1889. They are the oldest and one of the largest dealers in oriental rugs on the West Coast. Also, there are several Armenian Churches in the local area.

Nellie and I bank at the Citi Bank office on the corner of Lake and Del Mar. Nearly all the tellers are young attractive Armenians. The Armenian immigrants take great pride in

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Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, May 14.

Governor Brown today released the "May Revise", his proposed budget for the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year updated to reflect the actual revenues and expenditures through April and changes in economic conditions since December. This is what everyone in Sacramento, and cities and schools around the state, had been waiting for.

Frankly, it's a bit disheartening. One the one hand, the state has taken in \$4.5 billion more than it had forecast (hooray!!). But on the other hand, the Governor and his budget staff view that as nearly entirely one-time money (Booo!!). Further, they've actually reduced the income forecast for next year, leading to more constricted school budgets, and making it even more difficult for the Governor to get his budget reforms -- particularly the school funding reforms -- accepted by the Legislature.

So what's the logic behind all this? Last January, the state swept in \$4 billion more than anticipated, mostly in estimated tax payments. The big debate centered on how much of this windfall was either one-time money, or money arriving early, as opposed to a recurring increase in revenue. Did it represent income that was shifted from the 2013 calendar year into 2012, to take advantage of lower federal tax rates, or perhaps money that would have shown up in April but arrived in state coffers earlier than expected? Part of that was answered this month -- April income tax revenues were just barely short of expectation, so the money didn't just arrive early. Now the question is how much was one-time revenue, generated by stock or property sales in 2012 timed to beat the increases in federal tax rates? The Governor and his economists in the Dept. of Finance, apparently, believe that nearly all of it is a one-time gain. The Governor suggests using most of those funds to "catch up" on deferred payments to schools (money the schools were promised, have already spent, and sometimes had to borrow or dig into reserves to manage the cash flow) but a small portion will be used as one-time payments to cover investments in the new Common Core curriculum; this could mean up to \$3 million for Pasadena Unified, to cover professional development, textbooks, instructional planning and other one-time needs.

More perplexing, though, is the Governor's reduction in revenue anticipated for the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year, particularly their projection that funds from personal income taxes will drop by nearly \$1 billion. The bases for that are the macro-economic impacts from federal policies. When the state's original budget was developed, the finance folks assumed that the 2% social security tax "holiday" would be continued, but Congress allowed it to expire. Further, they assumed that the now-famous sequester would not actually take effect. Both

those Congressional actions impact California, and that led the Finance Dept. to cut in half -- from 4.3% down to 2.2% -- the projected growth in personal income in the state. With less growth comes less income taxes, and hence the reduction by \$1 billion in forecasted income.

Yet, this seems at odds with all the directly observable evidence of a booming economy (even leaving the stock market aside). One of the simplest indicators to track is the unemployment rate. Last fall (as the Governor's original budget was being developed), the consensus estimates of economists and the Federal Reserve was that the unemployment rate would still be in the 7.6% - 7.9% range by the end of 2013. By February, as things seemed to be picking up, those estimates improved to the 7.4 - 7.7% range. But by the end of April, the rate had already fallen to 7.5%. Moreover, weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance have fallen to levels not seen since 2007, as the recession was just starting. My guess is that the May unemployment rate will

likely drop at least to 7.4%, and possibly even 7.3%. Within California, the State Controller's monthly numbers show the California economy recovering faster than expected, with vehicle registrations up 25% from 2011 to 2012, median home prices up 25% year over year, and employment up by 200,000 jobs year over year.

Are the Governor's folks being exceptionally, and unnecessarily, conservative? You may recall that two years ago, May and June were good months for revenues, bringing in nearly \$1 billion more than anticipated. Based on that, the Legislature estimated additional revenues for the forthcoming year and balanced the budget based on those anticipated revenues. The only problem was that those extra

revenues never showed up, and we got burdened with both an extra \$4 billion deficit and lots of criticism about balancing budgets based on phantom numbers. So caution is surely warranted. Yet, the impact this has on local districts is real and dramatic. Moreover, it dramatically complicates the Governor's efforts to convince the Legislature to adopt his signal reform this year -- changes to local school financing.

The Governor has proposed what is actually a remarkably progressive reform to our complex system of school financing. The current system mixes a base level allocation per student

with a bewildering variety of "categorical" funds, monies dedicated to specific needs or uses (like vocational ed or English-language learners) that, to some degree, reflect the additional needs of poor or English-language learning students.

The Governor proposes to do away with nearly all the categorical grants, rolling them into an increased base allocation, and then supplementing that up to 35% based upon the number of

students who are foster children, or English-language learners, or qualify for free or reduced lunches (whose families are at or near the poverty line). But the most controversial element of his proposal is a second, additional supplement to those districts in which more than 50% of the students fall in that foster child - English learner - free or reduced lunch category, reasoning that a substantial concentration of needy students imposed even greater costs upon districts. These "concentration" funds would be allocated on a sliding scale based upon the percentage of students in excess of 50%. His measure also attempts to remedy historical problems with the current system, under which needier, inner-city districts had lower core per-student



funding but got extra categorical funds, while suburban and rural districts ended up with higher core per-student funding and less categorical money. In the last few years, as categorical funding was particularly hard hit, it was the neediest districts that got hit most heavily.

However insightful and progressive the Governor's proposal may be, it is generating substantial opposition from districts that did not hit the 50% mark to qualify for that extra "concentration" supplement -- both those like San Marino and La Canada, which have virtually no students of need, and those with significant -- but less than 50% -- numbers of needy students, even if particular schools in the district exceeded the 50% threshold. Many Democratic legislators are in somewhat of a bind. Our own State Senator Carol Liu, who chairs the Senate Education Committee and thus has a critically important role in this debate, faces near unanimous opposition to the plan from Superintendents within her district; PUSD is the only district supporting the plan.

However, perhaps in recognition of this challenge, the Governor reworked his plan a bit, using a three-year rolling average to calculate the number of needy students, allowing districts to count any given student as an English-language learner for no more than seven years, and requiring counties to audit District's calculations of the number of needy students. More importantly, though, was a guarantee that no district would end up with less money next year than this year, and that the new system would be phased in over 7 years. In this next year, the state would dedicate about \$1.9 billion moving toward the new formula.

It's not easy to calculate how increased base funding coupled with decreased categorical funding will impact individual districts. PUSD's best guess is that they may end up

with \$6 - \$9 million more under the Governor's new budget than under this year's budget, in addition to the one-time payment of around \$3 million for the new Common Core curriculum. However, the Legislature may modify in part or in whole the Governor's proposal. Perhaps the recent changes he added will mitigate opposition to the new system he is proposing; but any opposition notwithstanding, the Governor is absolutely dedicated to pushing his new proposal through the Legislature. He seems clearly to be communicating that he will veto any budget not in conformance with his proposal, and he may well have at least the support of 1/3 of at least one of the Legislature's chambers, so he could deadlock the process if he doesn't get what he wants. Interestingly, the Governor appears to view this as a fundamental civil rights issue -- the current system really does discriminate against students of color and students who have the greatest needs. Moreover, his system would dramatically simplify the administration of educational funding, and perhaps save local districts some not inconsiderable overhead.

So the Governor is on the side of the angels on this one, and Democratic legislators in particular may find themselves in a tricky spot if they outright oppose the Governor (who is said to have a long memory). Seems to me that most legislators would find there is more to be gained by supporting the Governor on this one than by opposing him.

Here at home, our own Pasadena Unified School District continues to face challenges at the Board level. The Board deadlocked, 3 to 3, on choosing a President. Even though that position has extremely limited powers beyond those of any single Board member, it does carry symbolic weight. The split calls into question how the Board will choose a 7th, and potentially tie-breaking, member. Thirty-

eight applicants submitted their names for the open seat -- is there a sudden, acute outbreak of a highly contagious psychiatric illness among Pasadenans?

The Board had planned to interview applicants in early June, but with 38 contenders, there will have to be a winnowing process of some sort. Just deciding on that process could itself twist the Board in knots. Perhaps the most curious aspect of the continuing tension on the Board is that, on most issues, there really are not substantive disagreements among Board members. There is, in general, broad agreement on the general direction of the District and the key spending priorities. With the prospect of some additional funding from the state that may make the last set of budget cuts unnecessary, the Board will likely have a less difficult time of finalizing a budget and agreeing on major initiatives for next year.

--Jon Fuhrman



Donald Coles, continued from page 2

science and space. He was a fellow of a number of prestigious scientific groups (and a member of ACT) and was honored with the Donald Coles lecture in Aerospace in 2011. He worked on his book on Turbulent Shear Flow, now very near completion, until his death.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Ellen and the Coles family.



Inman Moore, continued from page 3

their work ethic and their ability to speak English. Fran Evans, a cousin of mine, was a second language teacher at Glendale College for many years. A large number of her students were Armenian immigrants eagerly learning the language of their new homeland.

All of this is by way of saying, "Thank you Armenians for your contributions to America." We live in a country of great diversity. We live in a country where Africans, American Indians, Anglo-Saxons, Asians, Caucasians, Filipinos, Jews, Koreans, Latinos, Pacific Islanders, and, yes, Armenians, all live with one another in harmony. Well, most of the time! We still have much work to do, but we start by appreciating the fact that our diversity is really what makes us a great nation, firmly believing that all men and women are created equal with liberty and justice for all.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We are heading into the summer with some good news on the economic front. The State Tax Board reports that personal income tax collections are running well ahead of expectations. That's welcome news for the state budget and for California's six million public schoolchildren because under California's budget formula, much of the windfall should go to schools.

On the Legislative front, I am hopeful that my foreclosure prevention bill will be approved soon in the Assembly. While the number of foreclosures filings has dropped dramatically, there are still many California homeowners who need help.

AB 132 Foreclosure Prevention – Cal Home: would help struggling homeowners by waiving the penalties on early withdrawals from retirement accounts when the funds are used to help stabilize mortgage payments. Eligible homeowners could avoid state tax penalties on

up to \$6,000 taken from their IRA when they use them to pay their mortgage.

I also appreciate the support from seniors, retail pharmacies, women's groups and many others who have rallied round my measure to provide patient choice in pharmacy health benefits.

AB 299 Mail Order Pharmacies: targets mail-order prescription mandates by prohibiting any mail-order pharmacy from entering into contracts with health insurance companies when the insured are required to purchase their medications from a mail-order pharmacy.

David Lazarus at the LA Times has been writing about this problem for several months and recently reported on our bill. Read the story here: (link to LATimes.com/business April 26, 2013)

It was standing room only at our "First 100 Days" Town Hall in April. I was especially happy to see so many of my ACT friends who turned out for this important exchange of ideas.

I'm hoping to see more of you as we head into our first summer break. I plan to spend time in the district and look forward to seeing you at my summer block party in August.

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.



Wanted! Pics of you on your vacation ... Please send your bright, clear photos to Chuck at Hains2@SBCGlobal.net. Note that he does not require that you take a copy of our publication around the world or on the trail with you as some publications we could mention did.

From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

The Governor issued his May Revise Budget on May 14th. It will be the focus of legislative hearings and intense discussion for the next six weeks. The projected \$2.8 billion in revenues above what the state expected to receive during tax season will be directed to schools. In addition, the Governor has withdrawn his plan to move all adult education to community colleges. He has also modified his proposal to immediately scoop up expected county health care savings attributable to ACA implementation.

While there is much I expect the legislature to agree with in the Governor's Budget, we are still at odds over his proposed Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). He has added some accountability measures to his original January proposal, but is still wedded to providing additional funding to schools serving low-income populations through both per student supplemental grants and a concentration factor (funds for districts serving populations 50% where or more are low-income).

Besides our contention that such a major change in the way schools are funded should be subject to policy committee review with ample time for stakeholder input, rather than through the truncated budget process, we also believe that the base grants for all students in all schools needs to be increased. I am authoring SB 69, the Senate's proposed alternative to the Governor's proposal. This measure is

now working its way through the legislative process. The Assembly is also working on an alternative measure.

Public school funding represents the largest portion of the California state budget at nearly 40% of the General Fund. Both the Governor and Senate agree that current funding for schools is inequitably distributed, not tied to student needs and outcomes, controlled too much by the state vs. local government, and accompanied by overly burdensome and obtuse reporting requirements. The inequities are primarily the result of the current general purpose funding system that was created decades ago in response to Proposition 13.

Over time, the state has created more than 60 categorical programs with specified funding limited to each program. Each program has its own accounting and reporting requirements, many of which are not indicators of outcomes. Categorical program funding allocations have been frozen in recent years due to the state's fiscal condition. The Governor's LCFF proposal suggests a more flexible funding model, controlled by local school boards and county school superintendents, rather than the State. The May Revise adds accountability measures to his January proposal.

Under the Governor's LCFF, per student base grants would be given to each school. Districts would receive a per pupil supplemental grant for any student who is an English language learner, low income, and/or a foster child. The grants are intended to help address the unique needs of these school children.

SB 69 embraces the Governor's fundamental approach of allocating more money to districts serving more challenging student populations and strengthens the Governor's accountability measures. The bill uses the supplemental grant to address the needs of more challenging students but eliminates the concentration factor and instead, increases the base grant

for all schools. SB 69 also seeks to ensure that high school students have access to high quality college and career preparation programs. We look forward to vigorous deliberations in the coming weeks. I'll keep you posted.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend!

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



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Mike and Carol Babcock, Pasadena
Robert Akers Martin, La Canada
Gretchen Mendes, Pasadena
Councilmember Margaret McAustin,
Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Jacquelynne Cannon-Jones, Pasadena
Paul Hunt & Gina Frierman-Hunt,
Sierra Madre
Lara Larramendi, Monrovia
Marylois Nevins, Pasadena
Dick Smoak & Ferol Mennen, Altadena

Special Thanks to Patrons

Anita Pemstein, Pasadena
Dianne Philiposian & Thomas Seifert,
Pasadena

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Betty Sandford, Monrovia

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Ken Chawkins, Pasadena
Betty Sandford, Monrovia

Beyond the water's edge

Coastal Commission should be applauded for rejecting the Navy's bid to conduct high-intensity sonar tests

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



Once in a while, something really cool happens. And when good things occur, we need to recognize, celebrate and reinforce them.

The cause for celebration this time?

On March 8, all 12 voting members of the California Coastal Commission rejected the US Navy's plan for an increased use of high-intensity sonar and underwater explosives for training exercises off the coasts of Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

The reason for the commission's rejection of the Navy's plan?

The increased use of such sonar and underwater explosions will further threaten the lives of whales and other marine mammals, many of which are already endangered due to whaling and other human activities.

The California Coastal Commission was created by a voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20), and it was later made permanent by the state Legislature's adoption of the California Coastal Act of '76. Citizens at the time were rightfully alarmed that private development was cutting off the public's access to the 1,100 miles of California's magnificent coastline, and so they acted. The mission of the Coastal Commission, according to its Web site, is to "Protect, conserve, restore and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations."

The commission has authority over offshore oil and gas development, and it also has authority over federal activities that may have adverse effects on the coast and the ocean waters within the state's three-mile jurisdiction. ⇐

Even the Navy, which wants to conduct its high-intensity sonar and explosive tests off the Southern California coast from next January through January 2019, estimates its exercises could kill as many as 130 marine mammals and cause hearing loss in 1,600 others, according to a recent report in the Los

Angeles Times.

Marine mammals such as cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises and their kin) are highly acoustical, intelligent and beautiful creatures that depend upon sound for vital life functions, such as communication, navigation and feeding. Loss of hearing for a cetacean is effectively a death sentence. Moreover, according to the Times, the Navy's figures on the harm its activities will cause to marine mammals are gross underestimates.

It's not as if the Coastal Commission has made no attempt to accommodate the Navy's rather dubious need to test high-intensity sonar and detonate underwater explosions off the Southern California coast. The commission's staff has put forward several constructive proposals that would allow the Navy to proceed with its plans while also minimizing the harm it would wreak on cetaceans and other marine mammals. These proposals include requiring the Navy to create safety zones that would guarantee no high-intensity sonar activity near marine sanctuaries and in other coastal areas that experience high concentrations of Blue, Fin, and Gray Whale populations during seasonal migration periods.

In the past, the Navy has aggressively pursued its intransigence on this issue multiple times and in different ways. For starters, it has always maintained it does not need the commission's approval for its off-shore training — only that it is required by law to confer with the coastal panel and its staff.

Furthermore, in 2007 and 2009, the Navy simply ignored the commission's recommendations (that were very similar to the current proposals) and proceeded anyway with its training plans. In 2008, the commission sued the Navy over the matter, which led to a preliminary injunction. However, then-President George W. Bush gave an exemption to the Navy's training, and later the US Supreme Court overruled the lower court's decision.

...The US Navy is no different than any other bully. But our courageous California Coastal Commission is standing up to them once again, and maybe this time it will prevail.

The commission's recent rejection of the Navy's plans is by no means the end of this struggle. ... In the meantime, those of us who agree with the commission need to thank its members and let them know they have our full support.

To do this, visit whaleanddolphinwatch.com.

**From
43rd District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

**Reflections on California's Constitution
and How to Protect Rights Therein**

The month of June has always played an historic role in the development of legal equality and recognition for LGBT people. Many people credit June 28, 1969, the night of the Stonewall Riots, as the beginning of the modern LGBT civil rights movement, and June 1970, saw the first gay-pride marches in New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Thirty years and hundreds of pride marches later, President Clinton declared June of 2000 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. And in June 2003, the United States Supreme Court handed down its opinion in the case of Lawrence vs. Texas, which outlawed anti-sodomy laws and officially "legalized gay."

This June is the ten year anniversary of Lawrence vs. Texas, and it is looking like another landmark month in the fight for LGBT equality, as the US Supreme Court will issue decisions on the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8, a discriminatory ballot initiative that placed a ban on same-sex marriage in California's Constitution.

I believe that LGBT people are deserving of full and equal rights, and I'm tired of seeing the California Constitution used to support discrimination and bigotry. I look forward to the day when bullying and discrimination against LGBT people is a thing of the past, but until then I believe we should protect our Constitution from having discrimination per-

manently written into it.

In the last fifty years, small groups of highly organized individuals have used the initiative amendment process to eliminate the rights of Californians. The trend of abuse goes back as far as 1964, when a small majority of voters amended the constitution to protect racist landlords and real-estate agents who refused to rent or sell to non-white people.

That's why I've introduced ACA 6, a measure to protect our Constitution from outside manipulation by requiring a 55% vote on future initiative amendments. If an idea is important enough to justify its inclusion in the Constitution, it only seems logical that at least 55% of Californians should agree to it.

Proposition 8 was hugely divisive and passed by the narrowest of margins, yet it took away rights for so many people. It's time we take an honest look at the inconsistencies in ways we govern. It simply doesn't make sense to require a 2/3 vote for a tax increase but not require a similar consensus on issues and principles as fundamental and important as marriage.

Mike Gatto is a father and the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. He represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and La Cañada Flintridge, the communities of La Crescenta and Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Atwater Village, and portions of the Hollywood Hills and East Hollywood. E-mail Mike at: assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov, or call (818) 558-3043.



ACTpasadena.org

Check ACT's webpage, www.ACTpasadena.org, for the online version. It usually is available soon after the mailed version arrives. **It's in color** and it may have interesting items that didn't fit in the mailed version.

Red Check Reminder - 2013 Membership Renewal

A red check on your address label on this Phoenix reminds you that we have not yet received your 2013 ACT and/or ADC dues. Please use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074 ASAP. Or renew online at <http://www.actpasadena.org/>. If you have any questions about your membership contact jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626-795-5255.

P.S. Thanks to the folks in 160 households who have already renewed and the 28 new households.



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



Calendar

- May 17
Friday
9 a.m. Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.
- June 5
Wednesday
7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee and ADC Meeting at the home of Jeanne and Fred Register, 2345 Midlothian Dr., Altadena. Program: Jack Scott. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- June 7 Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 5/17.

- June 14
Friday
10 a.m. San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club Meeting & Potluck Fundraiser at the home of Gloria Reynolds, 1931 Oakwood St., Pasadena. \$10 per person.
- June 9
Sun. Eve June Phoenix deadline. Send items to Hains27@SBCGlobal.net.
- June 21 Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 5/17.
- Sept
3rd week **ACT 40th Anniversary Fund-raiser!**

The Phoenix Deadline

The June *Phoenix* deadline will be **Sunday, June 9**. Send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *ThePhoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, June 13. (Volunteer mailers please check with Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 for the location.)



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