



The Official Publication of ACT

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

Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Volume 40

Number 6

June, 2012

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Annual Summer Potluck Dinner and ACT & ADC Meetings



Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.

at the home of

Bobbie and Henry Moon

1961 Mar Vista Avenue, Altadena



You are invited to our traditional Summer Potluck Dinner and the July meeting of ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club. Come for dinner and socializing at 6:30 p.m. (The meeting will start at about 8 p.m.)

Potluck assignments are:

A-G – Salad, vegetable

H-M – Dessert, fruit

N-Z – Main dish



Please provide enough for about six people and bring your own serving utensils. Beverages, plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils will be provided. Come and bring a friend!

Friday Morning Discussion Group Has a New Location and a New Time

The Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on the first and third Fridays at **CoCo's Bakery Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena** (west side of Lake, below Union) at **9 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc. or not. For more information call Inman Moore at 626-795-2201.

Please Send Your Email Address to Jon
We are attempting to collect Email addresses for all ACT and ADC members. Please send yours to Jon_Fuhrman@charter.net.

Oratory Contest at the Foothills Club July 4th Picnic

Hi all:

We are looking for speakers for the annual July 4 Political Picnic Oratory Contest sponsored by the Democrats of Pasadena Foothills Club. The Oratory Contest is limited to eight speakers. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and may speak on any topic they choose. The speakers will be judged, and prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. The Picnic is Wednesday, July 4, 1-3 pm at the home of Diana Peterson-More, 330 Markham Place, Pasadena. Tickets to the Picnic are \$25.00 and may be bought at the door.

If you are interested in the Oratory Contest, please call or email me. We will take the first eight callers. The Oratory Contest is a long standing tradition and is always interesting and informative. I hope you will consider being one of our speakers.

In addition to the Oratory Contest, the picnic will include a Chili Cook-off Contest and all entrants will take home a prize. Please contact Karen Wingard at 626-792-4465 or by email at kwingard@pacbell.net.

Inman Moore, Chair, Oratory Contest
Home: 626-795-2201
Cell: 310-339-8711
Email: in-man@pacbell.net

July Opening for United Democratic Headquarters

A July soft opening of the **Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters** (UDH) is in the works. We've found a great S. Lake location – **519 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena**. It's the former Smith and Hawken store location, and it's huge. Cross your fingers and get ready to work. For updates check up at www.PasadenaDemocrats.com.

ACT Member Jeanette Mann to be Honored by Pasadena NAACP

Pasadena City College Trustee, Dr. Jeanette Mann, long time ACT member, has been informed by Joe Brown, President of the Pasadena NAACP, that she will be honored at this year's Annual Dinner. This is a significant event that attracts 400 guests. The dinner this year will be at the Pasadena Hilton on September 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM. The Master of Ceremonies will be Chief Phillip L. Sanchez of the Pasadena Police Department.

At the dinner scholarships are awarded to deserving high school graduating students. Over the years these student have been accepted to UC Berkeley (Go Bears), Stanford (Hiss), Spellman, Cal State Los Angeles, Loyola University and PCC.

Jeanette has been PCC Board President, ACT Steering Co-Chair, and Research Committee Co-Chair. She is also a co-founder of the All Saints Foster Care Project that has gained recognition for its recruitment of volunteers to help foster children and has co-chaired the Policy Committee that has influenced State and Federal Legislation.

Jeanette's favorite accomplishment is being a grandmother to three delightful children. One, Lilly Mann, lives in Canada and they talk and play regularly on Skype. When Lilly was three she asked her Daddy why he can't let Grandma out of this box (the computer monitor) to play with her.

We congratulate Jeanette for this honor and thank her for her many years of community service.

-- Ralph Hurtado



NOTE: There will be no July 2012 *Phoenix*. The *Phoenix* is published eleven times per year. August will be the next issue.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Among our coterie of friends is a very loving couple we have known for many years. We first got acquainted with them through our daughter, Pat, in 1985 when she worked with them at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. They are both registered nurses. Then, in 1990, they moved to San Francisco. They both have administrative jobs in the nursing profession and both are still working.

It is difficult to measure the love they have given to so many people. They have been especially good friends to our youngest daughter, Pat, who is an RN (and now has Parkinson's) and to our son, Robert, who also lives in San Francisco. Their kindness towards Pat has known no bounds. Love is a key word with them. I cannot imagine a more caring couple.

They have two sons. Bry is a graduate of the University of Santa Cruz, and has a Masters from San Francisco State. He and his wife, Carly, live in Boston where Bry is a school teacher. Nicholas, 23, lives at home and is a student at San Francisco State University from which he will graduate in December.

As a couple they have now been together for 35 years. They started living together in 1977. Then, in 2008, they were officially married in San Francisco. They would have married sooner, you see, but they could not legally. For Candy and Mary are lesbians. They lived those many years as domestic partners. Then in 2008 a window of opportunity opened in San Francisco for just a short period, allowing gays and lesbians to marry, and Mary and Candy jumped at it. The courts have upheld

their marriage and they remain officially married.

They have had their children since infancy. Mary is the birth mother of Bry, and Candy is the birth mother of Nicholas. Both were born through the use of official medical procedures.

Candy and Mary's experience is duplicated all over America by multiplied thousands of gay and lesbian couples. Couples loving one another, raising children, pursuing a profession, and dealing with the heartaches and joys of family life just like all other families. They face the same problems and joys that straight couples face but with the added problem of being viewed by some, and by some government bodies, as second class citizens.

Let me tell you there is nothing second class about Candy and Mary's relationship. They are a first class act. Their lives are a tribute to the human race. My figurative hat is off to them and all the couples in America, both gay and straight, who are working for a better day tomorrow. We in America are taking our own good sweet time about it, but we are gradually coming around to see that we humans are all in the same boat, a giant Ark floating on the seas of the Universe. Isn't it about time we realize the close ties that bind all human beings?

-- Inman



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Laura Hogensen, Milwaukee, WI
James Kuo, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Betty Ann & Bruce Jansson, Pasadena
Albin and Harriet Koch, Pasadena

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, June 19.

It may be hard to believe, but two weeks after the election there are still over 330,000 ballots yet to be counted. Los Angeles County alone has 75,000 absentee ballots, and 48,000 provisional ballots, not yet processed. And the statewide turnout was rather modest -- only about 30%. Normally, no one is much interested in these late additions, but this time Prop. 29 -- the tobacco tax -- hangs in the balance, trailing by a mere 17,000 votes. My guess is that it will fail, but the margin will be less than half a percent.

Although the tobacco tax seems headed for defeat, voters did approve a raft of local taxes up and down the state -- 55 out of 87 measures were approved. That includes 15 out of 19 tax measures that needed only a majority vote to win, 18 out of 34 parcel taxes that needed a

2/3 vote to win, and 23 out of 34 school bonds that need 55% majorities to pass. School parcel taxes fared particularly well; 9 out of 13 passed, and even the 4 that failed all got between 62% and 65% support (falling short of the magic 2/3 threshold for parcel taxes). These tax and bond measures were scattered throughout the state, north and south, in both affluent and more modest communities.

So it appears that even with a small turnout, and a modest overrepresentation of Republicans, voters are particularly willing to support additional taxes for schools. This obviously is of keen interest to both the Governor and Molly Munger, and it correlates well with poll results from both camps suggesting that education is at the top of voters' priority lists. With the November turnout likely to be considerably greater, and significantly more Democratic, perhaps the two initiatives do indeed have a chance at the polls in November.

Both the Governor and the Legislature are counting on that, because they have already factored in that additional revenue to help balance next year's budget. They've gotten significant criticism from some Sacramento pundits for claiming the budget is balanced without the "smoke and mirrors" of past years, but that criticism is mostly (but not entirely) unjustified. The Governor and Legislature do use revenue predictions to balance the budget, but so has every single budget ever drafted; it's impossible to know ahead of time what next year's revenues will be. In fact, the Governor trimmed his revenue estimates in the "May revise", the budget update prepared in May as the final basis for next year's numbers. The State Controller recently reported that the actual revenues received in May were just slightly ahead of the Governor's predictions. What wasn't reported was that those figures were \$800 million ahead of the January predictions. So although we were getting consistently grim news earlier this year, as

each month's actual numbers fell well short of the January predictions, that trend has finally turned around. Even with those new estimates, though, the news is pretty grim. Without either the Governor's initiative or the Munger initiative, we'll be falling drastically short on revenues next year, leading the Governor to offer solutions as drastic as reducing the school year by another 3 weeks.

Some additional support for these initiatives may have come from the national rating agencies recently. They completed a review of California's budget process and our apparent structural deficit, and they concluded that we don't have a "spending" problem, but in fact have a "revenue" problem. That is, spending has indeed gone down over the last few years, but our revenue has plummeted even more quickly. So we're not, as the Republicans love to claim, simply spending too much; our revenue is temporarily depressed by our poor economy, and when the economy fully rebounds so too will our revenues. Until then, however, we're in a pickle.

While the tobacco tax was razor close, our local elections were not. ACT members Congressman Adam Schiff and Senator Carol Liu, along with Congresswoman Judy Chu, all had decisive wins and will likely prevail in November as well. ACT member and Pasadena City Councilmember Chris Holden held a comfortable first place in our local Assembly race. Republican Donna Lowe narrowly won second place, edging out the more moderate Republican Ed Colton. Surprisingly, Victoria Rusnak came in dead last, and a pretty consistent last place across the entire district. Early on, Rusnak looked like she might pull out a major upset. She had bombarded the district with early direct mail, introducing

herself as a centrist with business experience. And she started in mid-April, well before Holden or Mike Cacciotti began their mail efforts. Rusnak was able to do that because she raised substantial sums from auto dealerships around the Southland, and she put nearly a quarter million of her own money into the campaign.

But timing and volume, while important, are not the only qualities necessary in a direct mail campaign. You need a message, and Rusnak's pieces were remarkably shallow. She argued, in essence, that as an independent businesswoman, she'd be able to solve

Sacramento's problems, yet she never as much as hinted what positions she would take. Yes, we need to do something about education, but she never said what she proposed to do. While her pieces had good pictures and clean graphics, they were devoid of any real content, and the voters seemed to notice.

That made her particularly vulnerable when independent groups, including the African-



American caucus in the Legislature, pointed out that she only recently registered as a Democrat, that she failed to vote in most recent elections, that she gave money to Republican candidates, and that she was embroiled in a Ponzi-scheme scandal in Washington State. Those hit pieces came late in the campaign, so it's not surprising that Rusnak did better in the absentee voting, but it wasn't that much better. Even among early absentee voters, Holden apparently had a dominant lead. In part, at least, that suggests that voters are wary of new faces that appear suddenly on the scene, asking for our faith and our votes. Holden, of course, has been a Pasadena Councilmember since the 1980's, and whether one liked or disliked his policy positions, he

was a comfortable, well-known and credible candidate to most Democrats.

Democrat Holden will face off against Republican (and Tea Party advocate) Donna Lowe in a traditional pairing in November. Most other local races will similarly see a Democrat running against a Republican, suggesting that our new "top two" primary system had little impact. In fact, in the entire state, there seem to be relatively few districts where one could argue the new system had a notable impact. In one of those districts, incumbent Democratic Congressman Brad Sherman beat incumbent Democrat Howard Berman, but both of them outdistanced any Republican competitor. So Sherman and Berman will fight once again in November, consuming untold millions of dollars that might be better spent winning swing districts. It remains to be seen if either will appeal particularly to Republican voters or moderate their stances, or if the Republicans in that district will simply be irrelevant (as they typically were in all past Congressional elections).

One other notable example is the 31st Congressional District, covering parts of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. This newly drawn district is 49% Latino; Obama carried the district by 16% and Jerry Brown won it by 7%. It was seen as one of the most likely districts which Democrats could steal away from Republicans. On the Republican side, incumbent Congressman Gary Miller was facing off against State Senator Bob Dutton, both pretty staunch conservatives. On the Democratic side, there were four candidates, with Pete Aguilar, the Mayor of Redlands, the leading contender. However, internecine fighting among the Democrats was severe enough that Aguilar was denied the formal endorsement of the party. He ended up finishing two thousand votes behind the two Republicans, so Miller and Dutton will face off in November and no Democrat will be on the

ballot. Had even one of the four Democrats not run, Aguilar might have made it to the November ballot, and Democrats might well have won the seat. Needless to say, this was not welcome news for Minority Leader Pelosi in her efforts to win back the House.

This suggests that the key strategy for operating under the new "top two" rules will not be appealing to centrist voters or voters in the other party; instead, it will emphasize the need for party discipline and a "pre-primary" selection process, in which party leaders and activists agree upon one candidate and avoid splitting their own party's vote. That is decidedly not what reformers had hoped for, but it's not unusual that the best laid plans go awry when confronted with reality.

-- Jon Fuhrman



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

Christopher & Yumiko Sutton, Pasa.

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

Fred & Jeanne Register, Altadena

ACT Civil Rights Program a Success

ACT's panel discussion and movie premiere event, "The Memphis 13: Sparking a New Civil Rights Dialogue in Pasadena" on June 7 was a great success by any measure. More than 100 people (many parents of PUSD students from the days of PUSD court-ordered desegregation were seen) attended and found the movie thought provoking, touching and informative. The "Memphis 13" were 13 five and six-year-olds who, in 1956, were the first African-American students to enter Memphis' formerly all white schools. The movie shows them then, and interviews them and some of their parents now. Some of them flourished; some of them withdrew; all were profoundly affected.

Panelists were Daniel Kiel, director of the movie; Cameron Turner, PUSD graduate and a 2nd grader in 1970 at the start of the "Pasadena Plan" (now a journalist and radio commentator); Al Lowe, former PUSD Board Member (wise and articulate as always); and current PUSD parent and Occidental College professor, Peter Drier. Led by moderator Carolyn Carlburg (former PUSD counsel), they compared Pasadena and Memphis desegregation, the initial results, where the two school districts are today, and the future of public education. We thank them all. We also thank the ACT members who put the program together: John McLean (a lifelong friend of Daniel Kiel), who first thought of bringing the movie here; George VanAlstine, also a former PUSD Board member; and Ralph Hurtado.

The following brief desegregation histories were provided by John McLean (Memphis) and George VanAlstine (Pasadena).

Memphis History

From the time of their creation just after the Civil War through *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the Memphis City Schools were segregated by race

to comply with both state and local law. Facing inaction several years following *Brown*, the local NAACP initiated a lawsuit, *Northcross v. Board of Education of Memphis City Schools*. It was this suit that led to the events featured in *The Memphis 13*.

Following the entrance of the 13 students to formerly white schools, minimal desegregation continued through the 1960s until a period of increased level of confrontation later that decade. That confrontation ultimately resulted in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis in 1968. Facing continued resistance into the 1970s, the court ordered the busing of nearly 40,000 students to increase desegregation. The intended increase did not occur; rather, at the start of the following school year the district had 20,000 fewer white students. Students left for the suburban Shelby County Schools or to a sizable network of private schools and the exodus of white families continued throughout the following decades.

As in many communities, although legal separation of students by race has long been eliminated from Memphis City Schools, very few MCS students have ever experienced substantially integrated schools in the decades since *Brown*. Currently, the Memphis City Schools serve over 100,000 students, nearly 90% of whom are African American. However, in 2010, the MCS Board voted to dissolve its charter and merge with the suburban school system (54% white), triggering a transition process to be completed with a single countywide school district in the fall of 2013. As this chapter of the community's history unfolds, the echoes of school desegregation continue to impact the future of education in Memphis.

Pasadena History

In January of 1970, Pasadena became the first non-Southern city ordered by a Federal Court to desegregate its public schools under the 1954 Brown Act. The basis for the order was that the school district had been assigning some white students to schools that were a distance away from their homes to avoid placing them in racial minority schools nearby. The judge gave the district 27 days to come up with a plan for all its schools that would assure that no school would have a "majority of any minority students."

This was the beginning of nearly a decade of political chaos around the school board. "Stop Forced Busing!" was the theme of elections that put control

of the district into the hands of educational fundamentalists who tried to turn back the clock on progressive aspects of classroom teaching and to erode the influence of school employee unions. A network of activists arose who continually opposed the board's more radical decisions. ACT, this evening's sponsoring organization, was allied with the NAACP, El Centro de Accion, local labor unions and church groups in working to elect a more enlightened board, finally winning a majority of the seats in March of 1975.

The integration of the Pasadena schools clearly resulted in considerable "white flight," some of it by families moving from the community, some by families enrolling their children in private schools. With only about 14% "White" among today's district enrollment, the no "majority of any minority" rule of the Court would be impossible to implement. On the other hand, it can be argued that the elimination of segregated schools has resulted in more open housing patterns, so that geographical areas are more likely to be naturally integrated.



Recommended Reading

The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame, authored by ACT member Peter Drier, is due out this month. It is described as a witty history of 20th century progressive leaders and movements that changed history, and demonstrates that "we all stand on the shoulders of earlier generations of organizers, activists, writers, artists and progressive politicians who challenged the status quo of their day." Sounds like required reading for ACT & ADC members.

-- The Editors

Drier is the E. P. Clapp distinguished Professor of Politics and chair of the Urban & Environmental Policy Department at Occidental College. He writes frequently for the Los Angeles Times, the Nation, American Prospect, and the Huffington Post, and is the co-author of The Next Los Angeles, Place Matters, and Regions That Work.

2012 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.

Below is the meeting calendar for the remainder of 2012. Please mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome at ACT/ADC meetings.

Wednesday, July 11 (Summer potluck meeting at the Moon's house, 1961 Mar Vista, Altadena, 6:30 p.m.)

Thursday, August 2

Tuesday, September 4

Wednesday, October 3

Thursday, November 1

Tuesday, December 4 (Holiday potluck meeting)



Thank you Letter from UDH



Dear ACT Members:

Thank you for your contribution of \$2,660 for the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters. Your donation will enable us to open our Democratic grassroots operation this July. Our Democratic community activists will have a headquarters where they can work together to win elections for all Democrats in our area.

Again, thank you for understanding how important it is to financially support our local Democratic voter outreach. I look forward to seeing you at our United Democratic Headquarters.

Sincerely, Celina Lew, Finance Chair
Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



**Greetings from
Sacramento!**

Election Day is behind us and Chris Holden won a decisive victory in a very hotly contested “open” primary. A big congratulation to Chris - well done! I encourage all Democrats to unite behind Chris for a November victory. I’m sure that the Republicans will be uniting behind Donna Lowe and we need to heal and move forward, as November will be a passionate campaign nationally and locally. Michael Cacciotti and Victoria Rusnak brought their voices, talents and convictions to the campaign and deserve our respect and appreciation. Anyone who takes the step to put their name on a ballot for all the right reasons should be commended. Now, we need to elect Chris Holden and hold this seat in the Assembly.

What an amazing Father’s Day I had on Sunday - Sofia graduated from UC Santa Barbara. It was a terrific day. Jeff Greenfield gave a very thought-provoking commencement address that turned all the usual commencement cliché’s upside down. One part of the speech, on pursuing one’s dreams, was quite funny. He cautioned students “to not follow all of their dreams, because some dreams just might be illegal.”

At the very beginning of the commencement, the Dean of UCSB brought up the state budget cuts to higher education. It seems that even at commencement the continued impact of the state budget crisis takes front and center on everyone’s minds. I’m hopeful that Governor Brown’s and other’s focus on reven-

ue and cuts provides a path to bring our budget back into balance.

On the legislative front, I had breakfast with our very own Jack Scott last week. Jack is very excited about the work of the student success task force for community colleges. Jack and Senators Liu and Lowenthal have been working on a very important higher education bill to bring the focus on student success at California’s community colleges. I’m very pleased to be supporting this bill in the Assembly. I attended the PCC graduation on Friday - proud parents and terrific students were beaming. They and our future students certainly deserve the enactment of the fine work of Chancellor Scott.

In the district, Pasadena gets ready to host the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles for the annual Gold Award ceremony. Talented young women are coming to Pasadena from all over Los Angeles County for this terrific day of recognition. I haven’t done the math, but I would wager that the 44th Assembly District has the most Gold Award Recipients.

HIV Testing Day is just around the corner. This year we’ll be in Old Pasadena on Mercantile Place (between Raymond and Fair Oaks) on Saturday, June 23 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Last year we publically tested over 60 folks. Our goal is to take the stigma out of HIV testing and make it become a part of routine health care. There are way too many folks who just don’t know their HIV status and consequently infect someone else. I’m passionate about this issue, please support by coming to get tested. A painless cheek swab takes only twenty minutes to know your results.

On the family front, Bella is now a fifth grader. Oh my. We’re all heading back to New Jersey in July to spend some time with my mom. She walked 35 steps last week and the doctors have successfully treated the blood clot

in her lung. Thank you for everyone who continues to wish her well.

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

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



From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update June 2012

This has been an eventful June. With June 1st the last day for bills to pass out of their first house, several of my bills moved on to the Assembly including Assembly Member Portantino's and my bill, SB 1089, to increase safety and provide state regulation at military-style youth "boot camps." We introduced SB 1089 after a video showed physical and verbal abuse in 2011 at a boot camp in Pasadena. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and will be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 26.

On June 15, the Legislature passed the main budget and seven trailer bills and sent them to the Governor. This year's budget again included massive cuts to all areas of government, while avoiding the severest cuts to those Californians, especially the newly-unemployed, who have suffered most in the recession.

The budget met Governor Brown's requirements for 1) a balanced budget for this fiscal

year; 2) a balanced budget for next year, and the year after that; and 3) a budget that projects a surplus by 2016. It contains a reserve of approximately \$500 million in the coming Fiscal Year (FY) and is projected to remain balanced for the next four fiscal years, with a projected operating surplus of more than \$2 billion in FY 2015-16. The budget also avoids additional borrowing beyond that proposed by the Governor.

Legislative Democrats continue to support the Governor's efforts to achieve voter-approved revenue that allows the state to maintain its investment in K-14 education and public safety programs. But, if voters do not approve the November ballot measure, the budget's automatic trigger cuts will be activated.

As of this writing, there are matters still to be worked out between legislative leadership and the Governor as the Democrats make every effort to reduce the impacts of the budget cuts on middle class families, and the elderly, poor and disabled. We are particularly concerned with cuts to IHSS, CalWorks and childcare. The total budget package will be completed before the end of June.

Campaign News. We are now half way through the election year. It was very gratifying to win the State Senate primary in my new District 25. Though my eight percent margin was reassuring and the other Democrat was eliminated from the field, I don't plan to take anything for granted and appreciate your continuing support. You can learn more about my campaign at www.carolliu.com. Click on the Twitter and Facebook links to follow my day-to-day activities.

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

**From
43th District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from Sacramento!

Last year, my constituent Mark Stambler was shut down by the Los Angeles Department of Environmental Health for selling homemade bread to a local cheese shop. It wasn't for health violations -- he was shut down because he didn't bake his bread in fancy (and expensive) commercial ovens. This action taken against Mark runs counter to the spirit of artisan food making and entrepreneurship that strengthens our community. So I introduced the California Homemade Food Act which would remove unnecessary red tape so that homemade bakers and other producers of safe food products can continue to bake and supplement their incomes.

The California Homemade Food Act is consistent with recent changes in the laws of 32 other states. Under the Homemade Food Act, foods available for sale would include everyday items such as breads, tortillas, jams, jellies, and cookies.

The legislation establishes a two-tier system of operations based upon the point of sale or trade. Homemade bakers opting to sell directly to the consumer would be subject to registration with the local health department and the completion of a food handler's course. Producers opting to sell through a retail outlet, such as the neighborhood coffee shop, would be subject to inspections by the local health department. Both would have labels declaring their products "homemade" and have traceable information.

Our farmer's markets and street fairs are

flourishing in California. They bring a feeling of community in a modern, impersonal world. If we can promote these interpersonal relationships at a time when people are struggling to supplement their family incomes, by removing unnecessary red tape, then we've accomplished something important for our neighborhoods and small businesses.

Hearty treats created in the kitchens of our community make their way to a growing number of local bakeries and farmer's markets. Let's keep this wonderful traditional alive and available for everyone.

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



Thank You from State Senator Carol Liu

Executive Director, ACT

Dear Jon,

Please express my most humble thanks to all the members of ACT. I am so pleased to have your endorsement for my 2012 candidacy for the 25th Senate District! Please also extend my thanks for the generous \$1,000 campaign contribution.

I am proud of what I have been able to do with your help in the state legislature over the years. Together we have accomplished a great deal, but there is much more to be done. That is why your continued support and assistance is invaluable.

Our relationship means so much to me as I continue to work on the issues that matter most to my current 21st Senate District and to the new 25th Senate District.

With your help, I will proudly carry your endorsement with me to victory in the election.

Sincerely,

Carol
Senator Carol Liu

Nuclear deals with the devil?

US could learn from Japanese example in reducing nuclear energy dependency

Fourth in a series on the performance of California utilities

By [John Grula](#) reprinted from the Pasadena Weekly

Southern California Edison (SCE), the investor-owned, for-profit utility that provides electricity to 14 million people in Southern, Central and Coastal California, can't win for losing. Only two months after SCE put in a dismal performance during and after the severe windstorm that struck the San Gabriel Valley on the night of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, a performance so bad it has led to an investigation of SCE by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), disaster struck again. On Jan. 31, alarms warned the control room of SCE's San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant that a radiation leak was occurring in one of the nearly 39,000 newly installed tubes that carry radioactive water in the plant's steam generators.

San Onofre, which is located on beachfront property near San Clemente, is one of two nuclear power generating stations in California, the other being Diablo Canyon near San Luis Obispo. Pasadena is about 70 miles from San Onofre, but 8.5 million people in Orange and San Diego Counties live within 50 miles of the plant and would be in the greatest danger if a serious accident were to occur at San Onofre. Given its age (more than 30 years old) and location next to the ocean in earthquake country, the possibility of a disaster cannot be easily dismissed.

The discovery of the radiation leaks at San Onofre have led to an unparalleled shutdown of the plant and several months of intense investigations by SCE itself and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to determine the extent and cause of the leaks. By mid-May, about 1,300 tubes had been taken out of service because of unexpected wear. The wear is dangerous, because tube ruptures could release large amounts of radioactivity. In an extreme case, ruptures could also lead to a breakdown in the cooling system for the plant's nuclear reactors, a recipe for the meltdown of its nuclear fuel.

Nuclear fuel meltdowns occurred in March 2011 at



Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant, and huge amounts of radioactivity were released. On April 4 of this year, the LA Times reported that radioactive iodine from the Fukushima disaster has been detected in giant kelp growing along our coast from Laguna Beach to as far north as Santa Cruz. This clearly demonstrates the widespread distribution of the massive radioactive leak from the Fukushima plant.

The NRC has forbidden Edison from restarting San Onofre until it submits a detailed plan for preventing the excessive wear on the plant's tubes. When this will happen and when or if San Onofre will fire up again is anybody's guess. The problems could be very difficult and expensive to fix. Several experts have suggested there is a fundamental flaw in the design of the tubes and their support structures, according to a story in the May 17 LA Times. And SCE's headaches may go well beyond the technical and financial. Within the last several weeks, US Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) has demanded documentation from SCE and the NRC to see whether Edison fully informed the NRC about changes in the design of its new generators, including the flawed tubes and their support structures.

Losing the electricity that San Onofre generates — enough to power up to 1.4 million homes — won't go unnoticed. SCE is already warning its customers that rolling blackouts may occur this summer during heat waves if homes and businesses do not sufficiently reduce their electricity usage. SCE customers in closest proximity to San Onofre will be most vulnerable to the occurrence of rolling blackouts, but customers in the San Gabriel Valley (such as those living or working in Altadena, South Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, and other communities) will also be vulnerable.

What about Pasadena Water & Power (PWP) customers? The good news is PWP does not receive any of its "imported" electricity from either San Onofre or Diablo Canyon. However, because PWP is part of the statewide electricity grid controlled by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), PWP must take part in rolling blackouts if CAISO decides they are necessary. So, PWP customers could still be adversely affected by the shutdown of San Onofre.

Perhaps you're wondering if PWP receives any of its electricity directly from a nuclear source. The answer is yes. Under the terms of a multiyear contract, in 2011 PWP purchased 6 percent of its electricity from the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Facility near Phoenix. In the aftermath of the calamity at

Fukushima and the ongoing problems at San Onofre, is this an arrangement PWP might want to reconsider?

Because of the trauma caused by Fukushima, Japan switched off its last operating nuclear reactor on May 5, leaving the country entirely without nuclear power. It is not clear when or if any of Japan's 50 functional reactors will be switched on again, and this is a nation that once relied on nuclear power for 30 percent of its electricity needs. How is Japan going to cope with this situation? To a great extent, it will do so by implementing a drastic conservation program that will include minimal use of air conditioning and the turning off of all unnecessary lights. Japan has become a living laboratory that will test the feasibility of such a program.

The US derives about 19 percent of its electricity from nuclear sources. If Japan is successful in eliminating nuclear power, perhaps we can eventually do the same.

John Grula, PhD, is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.



New national survey indicates Obama has opened up a double digit lead

Excerpted from [CNN Political Editor Paul Steinhauser](#)

A new national survey indicates President Barack Obama has opened up a double digit lead over Republican challenger Mitt Romney in the race for the White House, an advantage for Obama that no other major poll released this month has found.

According to a Bloomberg National Poll released Wednesday, 53% of people likely to vote in the November presidential election say they support the president, with 40% saying they back Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and presumptive GOP nominee.

The survey indicates Obama has a 13-point lead over Romney even though those questioned gave him low marks on his handling of the economy and the deficit. Six in ten said the nation is headed down the wrong track.

According to the poll, by a 55%-36% margin, likely voters view Romney as more out of touch with average Americans than Obama. And only 39% have a favorable view of Romney, with 48% saying they see him in a negative light. Fifty-five percent say they have a favorable opinion of the president, with 36% saying they view him in an unfavorable way.

The Bloomberg poll was conducted June 15-18, with 1,002 adults nationwide, including 734 likely voters, questioned by telephone. The survey's sampling error for questions only of likely voters is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

The Bloomberg horse race numbers are very different than most of the other national polls released over the past month, which indicated the race was tied or showed Obama with a slight advantage.

A new CNN Poll of Polls, which averages the three latest national horserace surveys, puts Obama at 48% and Romney at 43%. The three surveys included in the CNN Poll of Polls are Bloomberg (June 15-18), Gallup Daily Tracking Poll (June 12-18) and Reuters/Ipsos (June 7-11). The CNN Poll of Polls does not have a sampling error.



June 15th, "The Worst Day of Mitt Romney's Life"

Excerpted from eXtinaFollow, DAILY KOS

This is how ... Friday, June 15th was characterized by columnist Mark Shields on the PBS Newshour. He offered one of the best, concise summaries of how Romney got thoroughly pwned by President Obama with his decision to stop deportations of some young illegal immigrants.

In responding, Mitt Romney was slow off the mark, equivocal. With this decision, President Obama paints Romney into an uncomfortable corner where he has no moves. He made Romney squirm and put him squarely on the defensive.

In the timing of the announcement he concluded that it put Mitt Romney into the proverbial no-win situation, with no good choices or counter argument.

[from an interview with] Shields and Gerson on the Politics of Immigration, Watergate on PBS.

Judy Woodruff asked Mark Shields what the President's decision to give children of illegal immigrants 'a break' meant, politically speaking.

Mark Shields:

"But, very bluntly, this is the worst day of Mitt Romney's life, as the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party. Being president means that you are at a negative end when there's bad job numbers. But being president when you can take an affirmative action that makes your opponent squirm, even though it is an action

that is totally consistent with where you have been in a policy sense -- and this for Mitt Romney is a character issue, because in 2008, 2012, he ran to the hard right of John McCain, of Rudy Giuliani, of Mike Huckabee there 2008, and of Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry in 2012 on the immigration.

"He embraced the Arizona -- controversial Arizona state law. He said he would veto the DREAM Act. And they're looking at the fastest growing constituency in the country. And he really is scrambling now to get back.

"What does Mitt Romney do? Does he reject the president's action? Does he promise to repeal it? Does he promise to honor it? Does he support legal challenges against it? He -- I thought he was terribly slow off the mark today. His answer was equivocal."

Mitt Romney's slow response to Obama's announcement should cast doubt on his ability to respond to a crisis in a timely fashion.

"It reminded you of the 3:00 in the morning phone call. What does a president do? Is he going to have to poll his consultants when that happens? I just think this is really dangerous, dangerous territory. And the White House effectively changed the entire terms of the debate and the narrative, where they have been on the defensive and losing, and put Romney I think squarely on the defensive, where he is squirming."

Does this complicate the issue for Mitt Romney? Instead of a highly anticipated first non-Fox interview this weekend where Romney would have had free rein to vaguely ramble about whatever he chose, unchallenged by the marshmallow known as Bob Schieffer, his advisers are now no doubt scrambling to prepare answers to the questions they know he will be forced to answer.

"I mean, Romney has never really been held accountable for his -- you know, his position -- creative changing of his positions. And this is one where he is on the record. Now, what does he do at this point? I mean, he -- they did it at a perfect time. He's making his first non-FOX News news appearance this weekend on Bob Schieffer's "Face the Nation."

You know that that is -- on CBS -- he is going to be asked about it. So, it's going to be kept alive all weekend. And it's going to be well, Gov. Romney, you said this. You didn't say that. Where do you stand?"

And on the importance of forcing the Republicans to argue process rather than policy, where they are reduced to squawking about the President acting like a dictator and subverting the Constitution:

"It's a change in procedure, and how he's doing it, rather -- acting through the executive branch, rather than legislatively. I think any time when you are reduced to arguing process, which is what the Republicans basically did today, you are on the losing side of the argument. They don't want to argue substance here.

And Mitt Romney has to decide who is his new best friend? Is it Jan Brewer, the governor of Arizona, or is it Marco Rubio, the senator from Florida? He's really -- I think he's in a bind and it's not going to go away."

For Mitt Romney, it was a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.



House Republican Budget Would Raise Taxes for Middle Class, Cut Them for Millionaires

Excerpted from Pat Garofalo, [ThinkProgress](#)

According to a study prepared by the congressional Joint Economic Committee and verified by independent experts, the House Republican budget authorized by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) would raise taxes on families making less than \$200,000, even while it gives millionaires a tax cut:

So although households earning \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year would save about \$7,000 from the lower tax rates in the GOP plan, those savings would be swamped by eliminating major deductions, according to the report by the Democratically controlled congressional Joint Economic Committee.

The net result: Married couples in that income range would pay an additional \$2,700 annually to the Internal Revenue Service, on top of the tax increases that are scheduled to hit every American household when the George W. Bush-era cuts expire at the end of the year.

Households earning more than \$1 million a year, meanwhile, could see a net tax cut of about \$300,000 annually.

The 2012 Judy Boggs Memorial Internships

ACT is soliciting applications and nominations for the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship. ACT is one of the oldest progressive grassroots political organizations in Southern California. In memory of its long-time executive director, Judy Boggs, **ACT will award stipends of up to \$3,000 to two outstanding students to intern at the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters during the 2012 November election cycle.**

Preference will be given to students in good standing at a local college, university or graduate school, although recent graduates may also be considered. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in good government and electoral politics; possess a commitment to progressive issues and political grassroots participation; and be able to commit @20 hours a week to working in the United Democratic Headquarters.

The goals of the program are: to give interns experience in all aspects of a local campaign; to provide an opportunity to meet and work with candidates and elected officials; and to develop potential future leaders in local politics. Please submit a letter of application or nomination along with a resume by eMail to: fred.register@charter.net -- or by fax to: 626-791-5410

Any questions call: Fred Register at 626-791-5345. Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Interviews with finalists will be held the following ten days. The Internship period is from August 13, 2012 to November 9, 2012.



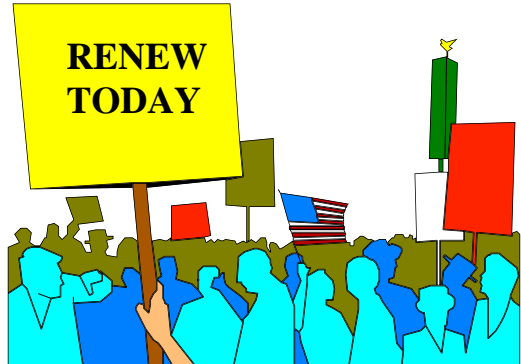
Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| July 4
Wednesday
1-3 p.m. | Foothills Democratic Club Picnic, Oratory Contest, and Chili Cook-off at the home of Diana Peterson-More, 330 Markham Pl, Pasadena. \$25 per person. |
| July 6
Friday
9 to 10 a.m. | Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for information at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays. NOTE NEW PLACE & TIME. |
| July 11
Wednesday
6:30 p.m. | ACT/ADC Meeting and Summer Potluck at the home of Bobbie & Henry Moon, 1961 Mar Vista Avenue, Altadena. Potluck and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m.; meeting follows at about 8 p.m. |
| July 20
Friday | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 7/6.) |
| July 1 | Pasadena Area Democratic Headquarters soft opening. See www.PasadenaDemocrats.com for information. |
| August 1
Wednesday | Application deadline for Judy Boggs Internships. See details in this <i>Phoenix</i> . |
| August 2
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT Steering and ADC Meeting. See www.ACTPasadena.org for location. |
| Aug 3
Friday | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 7/6.) |

The Red Check Means It's Time to Renew

A red check (✓) on your address label on this *Phoenix* reminds you that we haven't yet received your renewal check for ACT and/or ADC for 2012! Please take the time to renew right now. Remember you can renew online at www.actpasadena.org/ - or - mail your check to ACT and/or ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074.

Our grateful thanks go to all the ACT and ADC members who have already renewed or joined for 2012. Your support is vital to both organizations.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

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

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	ZIP