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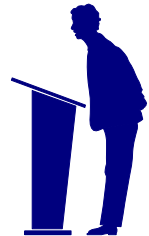
CANDIDATES' FORUM -- for City Council and School Board Candidates

Thursday, January 27, 2011, starting at 7:00 pm

Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E Holly St. (Holly & Raymond) Pasadena



All candidates for contested seats are invited: City Council Districts 1, 4, and 6; and PUSD Seats 4 and 6. Candidates will present opening statements, field questions from the audience, and then give concluding statements. John Buchanan, Sierra Madre Councilperson, will moderate.



The Forum will be taped by Pasadena Community Network (PCN) to be telecast at later times on the Arroyo Channel, Charter Channel 32.

The Forum is co-sponsored by ACT*, the Arroyo Democratic Club*, the Senior Advocacy Council of Pasadena, AARP-California, and the Pasadena Senior Center. Everyone is welcome. Please come and bring a friend. NOTE: Parking is available in the Marriott Public Structure on the west side of Raymond (first 90 minutes free)

*Members, please stay after the Forum for a brief General Membership meeting. We need to conduct some business including electing officers for 2011.

Is it 2011 Already?

Yes! And 2011 ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club dues are due! Technology makes renewing your ACT and/or ADC memberships incredibly easy. Just go to ACTPasadena.org and follow the steps.

Of course you can use the membership renewal coupon printed here and mail it in with your check, if you choose. Either way, know that ACT and ADC need and appreciate your continued membership and involvement.

Thanks and Happy New Year to all members.

Research Committee Reorg

As I mentioned in the last Phoenix, we are reorganizing the Research Committee. Each level of government will have its own Co-Chair. George Van Alstine has agreed to head the PUSD elections; John McLean, the City Elections; Roberta Martínez, the PCC elections; Susan Kane the Federal Elections (which will be very interesting because of the new Congressional lines that will be in effect in the next go round.)

We have a new member, Garrett Schneider, who is interested in the State Propositions and will provide the leadership for the impending Governor Brown propositions expected in June. Another new member is being approached to head the State Assembly, State Senate and Statewide offices. My role will be to assist everyone and coordinate the team. I will also take responsibility for County issues. As Gilda Radner said, "We are a club not a gang".

Thanks, Ralph Hurtado

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Robert Glenn White

We are sorry to note the death of ACT Charter member **Robert Glenn White** on December 15 in Northern California. Bob, who was 81, served on the Pasadena City Council (then called the Pasadena Board of City Directors) beginning in 1971. He was Pasadena mayor from 1977-1979.

Bob earned degrees in China area studies and worked for the State Department as a Chinese language interpreter and foreign documents officer from 1954-1961. Later he earned a law degree from UC Berkeley.

In Pasadena he was president of the local ACLU chapter and served on the Pasadena Planning Commission. He moved to Colorado

in the 1980s and more recently to Lafayette, California. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy, and is survived by his four daughters.

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Say "Yes" to the Perfect Gift

Delight your friends and loved ones with a wonderful one-size-fits-all ACT membership. For the special price of just \$20, you can provide that certain someone with hours of political pleasure:

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P. S. Valentine's Day is coming soon. Make it memorable.

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Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Excerpted from Steve Lopez' LA Times column 12/27/10.

...It would be nice if those who led the charge to war were as militant about treating injured soldiers as they were about delivering tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans...

...an estimated 20% of all vets will suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, but only 40% of those afflicted will seek help. Crunch those numbers and it means roughly 250,000 vets who served in Iraq & Afghanistan will go untreated. And that will translate into ... fractured families, lost jobs and more homeless...

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from Sacramento!

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many ACT members at my annual Holiday Open House at the Armory Center. We collected nearly 400 terrific books to donate to elementary school libraries in the 44th AD. There was a great variety of children's novels, readers and work books. Some of the books even piqued my interest. There was one written by two professional football players and another written by Jay Leno about his Italian-American family. A big thank you for your generosity.

It was exciting and inspiring to listen to Governor Jerry Brown as he took the oath of office in Sacramento on the 3rd of January. He promises strong leadership – something that has been lacking in California's statehouse. It's not going to be easy balancing the budget as all of the gimmicks and accounting tricks have been used up. It's time for some long term thinking and pragmatic decision-making. We must get our budget under control - not just for the next six months, which has been our pattern for the past three years, but for the next decade and beyond. I believe that Governor Brown is up to the task.

You may have heard me discuss "pay as you go" budgeting - I'm bringing it back and I've already let the policy leadership in my caucus know that it's coming. Stay tuned, as you might see me rattle some more cages as I endeavor to change the California constitution to bring fiscal discipline and priorities to Sacramento.

I have again introduced a bill that brings accountability and oversight to our three segments of Higher Education. It makes sense to me to set goals, benchmarks and standards for the Community College, Cal State and UC systems. For the past two years, this bill has stalled in the State Senate, but I am hoping to get it out this year. This accountability framework had its genesis with our own Jack Scott and I'm proud to be continuing his legacy.

I will also be reintroducing my bills to force law enforcement to process rape kits in a timely manner and to update breast cancer insurance coverage. Both bills were vetoed by our prior Governor. A third bill that I am reintroducing was also vetoed by Schwarzenegger; it's aimed at helping California's most needy students to secure more federal financial aid.

It was great to have Sofia home for the holiday. She headed back to UCSB on the same day that we went back to session. Bella is starting softball. It was fun to hear about her first sliding clinic exploits. My mother is staying with us as we continue to deal with my brother's affairs in the wake of his death. I am especially thankful for the well wishes that have been extended to my family and me. Your warmth and prayers have been appreciated by my entire family.

-- Anthony Portantino

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/>



Political Quotes:

Democracy is being allowed to vote for the candidate you dislike least.

-- Robert Byrne

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, Jan. 10.

Gov. Jerry Brown continues to live up to his campaign pledges to tackle the state's budget crisis head-on, with no equivocation or half-measures. His budget plan, released this morning, does just that. In a stunning display either of political bravery or naiveté, he proposes a June state-wide ballot measure to extend the temporary increases in personal income and sales taxes, and in vehicle license fees, for a full five years, which matches the more pessimistic private sector projections on how long it will take for California fully to recover from the recession. He coupled that with depressingly substantial cuts in the safety net -- welfare, social services and health care. Further, state employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements would see an 8 - 10% cut in salaries (and those covered by collective bargaining should anticipate some

excruciatingly tough bargaining ahead).

But he went even farther, proposing a radical devolution of responsibilities down to local governments. He did combine that with new revenue sources -- his budget dedicates the increases in sales tax and vehicle license taxes directly to local governments. Further, he proposes to abolish redevelopment agencies, so the property tax revenues sequestered by those agencies would now revert to local governments as well (as would, presumably, the bonded indebtedness those agencies were supporting).

Notably, although the University of California and State University systems will collectively lose \$1 billion in funding, K - 12 districts were spared; Brown argued that the K-12 system had taken the brunt of the reductions in the past few years, and thus should be exempted this time around.

These budget proposals mesh tightly with the Governor's rhetoric during the campaign and with the hints he's been dropping as he prepared to assume office. He is deadly serious about not "kicking the can down the road." This plan, with the draconian cuts and a full 5 year continuation of the current tax levels, should actually bring the state into equilibrium -- that is, in five years, the revenue, albeit from lower tax levels, should nonetheless match actual expenses and fund a modest reserve for future downturns. At that point, as the economy grows and our income grows, the state can decide which parts of the safety net to enhance or resurrect.

The key, of course, is whether this is politically feasible. The Governor is asking the Legislature to approve the budget in March, well before the proposed June election, which in itself would be a remarkable achievement. The voters did approve Prop. 25, so now only a simple majority vote is needed to enact a budget. The Governor is sure to win that, with

Democrats largely supportive of his package, notwithstanding the grim cuts in social services.

But the Governor still needs a 2/3 vote to approve the extension of the higher rates on income and sales taxes and vehicle license fees. His proposal makes several concessions to Republican demands already: cutting back his own staff, cutting employee salaries, cutting social welfare expenditures, devolving responsibility down to local governments and thereby reducing the scope of the state government. But even though it doesn't actually increase taxes (it just continues the current tax levels for another 5 years, instead of returning to 2008 levels), and it lets voters make the final decision, and it dedicates most of the additional revenue to local government (instead of Sacramento), it is still seen by most Republicans as a tax increase; and for many of them, that means dead on arrival.

So the Governor needs three Republicans in the Senate, and two in the Assembly, to get that revenue measure on a June ballot.

In the Senate, it's complicated by the recent death of Jenny Oropeza from the 28th District in the Long Beach area. A special election has already been called for February 15th. If a Democrat receives an outright majority in the special election (a distinct possibility, since former Assemblymember Ted Lieu is running and this district is heavily Democratic), then there would be 25 Democrats, and the Governor would need only 2 more Republicans.

But who might those two be? In 2009, when the Senate Minority Leader agreed to support Governor Schwarzenegger's budget compromise, with a tax increase, the caucus revolted and elected a new leader. Now, with a Demo-

cratic Governor, it's tough to imagine that their leadership would agree to any deal. So the Governor will be left to try to pick off two lone Republicans despite intense pressure to hang tough with the caucus. Logically, the Governor should look for legislators who will be termed out in 2012, and thus have nothing to lose, or perhaps who were just re-elected, and thus similarly are immune to political pressure (although, as in the case of Anthony Adams, the threat of a recall petition always looms over their heads). Unfortunately, three of the four Republicans who will be termed out in 2012 are the Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Caucus Chair -- not likely prospects

to jump ship. One centrist Republican, Abel Maldonado, was appointed to be Lieutenant Governor by Schwarzenegger, but then lost the November election to Gavin Newsom. So Gov. Brown may have a strong Lt. Governor now, but he's left with slim pickings in the Senate.

It's pretty much the same in the Assembly. Virtually every Republican that showed a hair's breath of flexibility has been

purged, termed out, or otherwise intimidated. The Governor can threaten to go the initiative route, and let it be known that his initiative would be substantially less to the Republicans' liking, and he'll certainly be able to rally broad support from newspapers and mainstream media. Right now, though, it seems unlikely the Republican fortress will crack.

The only other hope -- that the economy would start picking up steam and revenue growth would help offset the deficit -- seems not to be happening, or at least not quickly enough to make a difference. December figures were disappointing -- corporate tax revenues were \$500 million less than projected, with other revenues basically on target, though the state



is still \$1 billion over projections fiscal year-to-date. There had been signs, in October and November, of a significant uptick in revenues. But that seems not to be panning out, although the January receipts (which include estimated tax payments from individuals) could make a big difference.

So it looks like we'll be watching a high-stakes poker game in early March, with the fate of the state hanging in the balance. My money is still on Jerry to pull a rabbit out of his hat, but it will take some fancy footwork indeed.

Locally, City and School elections are starting to heat up. In District 4, with 5 candidates running, two have already come by my house, precinct walking in the area, and lawn signs abound. Jill Fosselman had an early lead, with a slew of signs on Orange Grove Ave. in particular (a particularly well-traveled transit route), but both Khatchik (Chris) Chahinian and Gene Masuda now have signs throughout the district. Masuda probably has the most signs, but there are reports that volunteers simply put up in yards without homeowners' permission. Masuda has a strong list of supporters from when he ran four years ago, but many of those folks may now be supporting other candidates. Both Masuda and Fosselman are Republicans, but Masuda has long been a member and leader of the local Republican club, so he should have been the odds-on favorite for their endorsement. Word has it, however, that the club chose not to endorse anyone, perhaps a sign of strength for Fosselman. Further, the Tea Party folks chose not to endorse Masuda -- perhaps his aggressive support for Measure CC, and his willingness to consider other assistance for the schools, put him outside their comfort zone. So Masuda, who should logically have been the likely top vote getter (though perhaps not a majority), now seems caught in a tough, and somewhat unpredictable, three-way race that

may well come down to who has the strongest absentee voter operation and the strongest ground game.

In District 6, the Tea Party folks showed no similar hesitation, choosing Carolyn Naber as one the six candidates they were endorsing in the San Gabriel Valley. Naber, however, was, at least publicly, not pleased, asserting she is "fiercely non-partisan" and commenting to the Star-News that the Tea Party's style of partisan politics has "poisoned" City Hall. Nonetheless, the endorsement tends to validate the general assessment of her stances as highly conservative, rigidly anti-tax, and unsympathetic to the schools.

Another Tea Party choice is Sean Baggett, one of three candidates for PUSD Seat 6, where incumbent Tom Selinske is running for re-election. (Baggett's comments to the Star-News, attacking PUSD for laying off nearly 200 teachers but not a single administrator, were flat-out wrong, but we'll talk about that in another column.) The third candidate in that race, Gaylaird Christopher, apparently already has some support on the PUSD Board -- Scott Phelps circulated a nomination petition on Christopher's behalf, and it was signed by Scott, Ramon Miramontes, and Kim Kenne (although Kim also signed one of Tom Selinske's petitions). Interestingly, Christopher told ACT's Research Committee that he switched seats (having originally taken papers out for Seat 4) because, if he really wanted to make a difference, he thought he should run against an incumbent.

Selinske is clearly facing a tough run, with the far right attacking him for wasting money while Miramontes attempts to rally parts of the Northwest against him in an attempt to gain a voting majority on the PUSD Board. Selinske, as an incumbent, bears the brunt of dissatisfaction with school closures (and even averted school closures) as well as teacher lay-

offs and service reductions. That PUSD shows gains on state tests that outpace both the state and county averages, despite these resource constraints, and that graduation rates are increasing and over half our elementary schools score above 800 seem to get lost in the public discussion. Only the ugly news seems to stick, and reverberate endlessly. So if you have some time to give, Selinske's campaign is a good place to volunteer -- this will be a critical race, perhaps determining control of the PUSD Board, and Selinske is clearly one of the good guys.

-- Jon Fuhrman

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44th AD Democratic News



California Democrats met on January 8 and 9 to choose their representatives to the State Convention as well as representatives to the California Democratic Party Executive Board.

The 44th AD Democrats, meeting in South Pasadena, elected the following six women and six men to represent them at the 2011 and 2012 Democratic State Conventions: Teresa Lamb Simpson, Joanne Wendler, Julianne Hines, Venita Strange, Ruby De Vera, Dana Runge, Tim Wendler, Chris Holden, Stephan Early, Simon Bouie, Al Strange, and Philip Iglauer.

The 44th AD elected Chris Holden to be their Executive Board Representative.

Check out CADEM.org for details about other Assembly District elections.

Congratulations, all.

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Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Richard Moon & Junie Hildebrandt, Altadena
Jacque Robinson, Pasadena

ACT RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Elections January 2011 Report for The Phoenix

The Research Committee held interviews in December for the March 2011 City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Elections. The ACT Research report was presented to the Steering Committee on January 5th, 2011. This summary is provided for the January ACT Phoenix.

Note: All the candidates for a given race were asked the same set of questions (one for school board and one for city council). One of the questions we asked each candidate related to the General Plan, specifically, what was their opinion about including an 8th general principle. This principle has been advocated by Invest in PUSD Kids and the Pasadena Education Foundation, and is summarized as "The City has a responsibility to support the public schools."

City Council District 1: Jacque Robinson and James Smith

Jacque Robinson is running for re-election. Born and raised in District 1, Jacque is a graduate of Pasadena public schools and U.C. Berkeley, and has worked as a labor community organizer. She expressed "one term is not long enough to accomplish her goals", and specifically mentioned the approval and implementation of the General Plan as a key focus. She supports the 8th guiding principle and supported Measure CC. She acknowledged the fiscal restraints the City is under, but believes we should revisit the Bad Weather Shelter defunding, and she expressed her support for affordable housing at Heritage Square. Jacque referred to the situation in the City of Bell as "unfortunate", and believes that the key for Pasadena to avoid this is for council members to relate to constituents. She

agrees with the statements made by Pasadena Police regarding immigration status (namely that the PPD policy should not be inquiring about anyone's legal status unless it is a matter of national security). Her campaign consultant is Steve Belhumeur (SB Strategies), and she estimates the need to raise \$30K. Lastly, when asked about the City of Santa Monica recently approved tax which in part benefits schools, she expressed support for the notion, although she wants to be careful about new taxes in this economic climate.

James Smith, an educator and Arts advocate, has used the Arts to benefit school-age children via his Pasadena ArtWorks Academy. His interests broadened beyond Arts to community safety, education and affordable housing, as well as teen mentoring at John Muir H.S. His community participation motivated his interest in running for City Council. Smith was born and raised in Pasadena, attended Pasadena public schools and LA County High School for the Arts, and NYU's Tisch School for the Arts. He was somewhat familiar with the General Plan, and was glad to see development moving east from the Central District, but concerned about the schools not being a part of the GP. He also felt Arts and Culture should be more present. He said he "absolutely agreed" with the 8th guiding principle, although he was not initially familiar with the term. He feels the housing element is a tragedy – taking too long to get approved and then not truly addressing affordable housing. He was familiar with the extend of the homeless situation in Pasadena. He agreed that the City of Bell situation was a travesty, and believes that door-knocking, being accessible and a role model are important qualities to avoid this situation. He expressed deep affinity for the recently passed Santa Monica tax, and feels that the partnership between the City and the PUSD is the "biggest part of his platform". He believes the City must take ini-

tiative to support the PUSD. He has a campaign mgr (Justin Daly) and estimated that \$45K would be needed to run a traditional campaign, although he seemed to favor a focus on walking the district. His supporters include Ramon Miramontes.

During the discussion, all committee members felt positively toward Mr. Smith and his candidacy, however, the committee felt Jacque was the more experienced, knowledgeable candidate. One especially noteworthy item was Jacque's leadership in establishing the Apprenticeship Preparation Program, a partnership between Joint Vision 20/20, and the Flintridge Community Foundation, with instructors from PCC. This program is preparing young adults for apprenticeships and leads to higher paying jobs.

The Research Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Jacque Robinson 12-0-0. (12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions).

The Steering Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Jacque Robinson 27-0-0.

**City Council District 4:
Chris Chahinian, Jill Fosselman, Gene Masuda, Ranil Perera and Allen Shay**

This is an open seat to replace Steve Haderlein.

Chris Chahinian is a small business owner with three children who attend PUSD. He said he is running as a Democrat, and he has voted regularly in local elections. He has participated in the General Plan update and supports the 8th guiding principle. He believes that education is the most important element in a community. He added "a good education creates good jobs, good families and a good community." Chris supported Measure CC and believes the city should seek a real partnership with PUSD to find new resources, such as

an increase in Rose Bowl game ticket prices. He supports growth in moderation. Chris addressed the question on homeless and foreclosures by telling a story about his efforts to find housing for a family of five living in a car in Victory Park. (He went to great personal lengths and was able to find them a place to live). He said there are 1100 homeless people in Pasadena, and believes the number should be zero. He remarked "this should be the city's number one priority, but we care more about the Rose Bowl than people." He believes the city should fund the Bad Weather Shelter. Chris does not see Pasadena in a comparable situation to the City of Bell. He thinks we have a good city manager and the City Council members did not run for big money but to improve the city. Chris was generally aware of the proposal to remove 1.6 million cubic yards of sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam. He wouldn't spend any money on this project but would spend it on schools. He believes that trees, traffic, and open space are secondary to schools. He supports the Pasadena Police Department's policy on immigration and values diversity. Laura Lee Chen is his campaign manager; Lonnee Hamilton is his media consultant. He has been endorsed by Chris Holden, the AFL/CIO and IBEW. He believes he will be able to unite the Armenian community.

Jill Fosselman was born, raised and attended public schools in South Pasadena. She has lived in Pasadena for 13 years and voted regularly in local elections. She said she is a fiscal conservative and socially liberal Republican. Jill is running to give a voice to East Pasadena. Jill has a Master's degree in public policy and has held line and staff positions with the cities of Pasadena and Santa Clarita. She retired from the position of Assistant to the City Manager of Santa Clarita when her son was born and now works as a management consultant. Her son attends Chandler School.

Jill has served on the General Plan Update Committee as an appointee of the Mayor. She thinks the process was better—but not perfect -- and that it has rebuilt trust between the community and city staff. To implement the General Plan, she believes the city must align it with budgeting. Jill absolutely supports the 8th guiding principle, although she is not comfortable with a sales tax dedicated to the public schools. She does support joint use agreements such as a library tax to support PUSD libraries. Jill serves on the Boards of Union Stations and 5 Acres and is aware of the increased demand for services for the homeless. She thinks the City needs to partner more with the non-profit community.

Jill does not see the situation in Pasadena as comparable to that in Bell. She thinks her budget and management experience will be helpful in addressing issues of salaries, pension and contracts. Jill generally approves of the Devil's Gate Dam project but thinks that there should have been an EIR because there was no emergency that would justify waiving it. She also thinks that smaller steps could have been taken which would not have wiped out trees and habitats. She is comfortable with the Police Department's current policy on immigration and values diversity. Jill does not have a campaign manager. Fred Register is her Strategist; Megan Hamilton is her Treasurer. She does not have any group endorsements but has support from many individuals including Claire Bogaard, Emily Stork and Geoffrey Baum.

Gene Masuda has a degree from Cal State LA. He inherited an employment agency which he ran for twelve years before selling it. Gene has a passion for the city and the district. His long history of service includes serving on the Boards of the Levitt Pavilion, Boys and Girls Club, and Pasadena Education Foundation. He is the Co-President of the UN

Association and President of Eaton Blanche NA. He is running to keep neighborhoods great and to preserve the quality of life in the neighborhoods. He has voted regularly in local elections. Gene has been very involved with the General Plan update. He is concerned about growth in East Pasadena and believes city staff is minimizing traffic and density issues. He supports the 8th principle. He would support a sales tax dedicated to the school. Gene supported Measure CC. His wife is a retired school teacher from Santa Monica and his son went through PUSD schools and is now a student at PCC. Gene saw homelessness as a neighborhood problem. He stated that homeless people come to Pasadena because of the services offered here. They then come through the neighborhoods, go through recycle bins, stay along the Wash, start fires and break into houses. He advises people in his association to call the police. Gene believes that the way to keep a situation from developing in Pasadena comparable to that in Bell is for council members to be honest, accessible and to reach out to residents. As citizens we have to be involved. He is concerned about unfunded pension liabilities and raised the issue of defined contributions vs. defined benefits. Gene was “not really up on” the Devil’s Gate Dam issue. He strongly agrees with the Police Department’s policy on immigration and values diversity. Gene has a treasurer but no campaign manager. Martin Truitt is his campaign consultant. He has “about 1000” supporters from District residents, neighborhood associations, and Supervisor Antonovich.

Ranil Perera was unable to attend the interview but was represented by Pilar Grant. Ranil is a computer systems engineer, and is married with two children. He has voted regularly in local elections. Ranil volunteers at the Bad Weather Shelter and is a Scout Master. He wants to talk to people and hear

their concerns. He is concerned about increasing crime in his neighborhood. He is also concerned about closing schools, declining property values, and about helping those whose homes have been foreclosed. Ranil has not been involved in the General Plan update. Regarding the situation in Bell, Ranil is running as a common man. He is running for office for the people not for personal gain. He supports the Police Department’s policy on immigration and believes in equal rights for everybody. He will run his campaign on a shoe string budget and did not have endorsements at this time.

Allen Shay is the 8th of 12 children from a single parent household. He attended public schools and is the only member of his family to receive a graduate degree. He has been a real estate broker since 1996. He has set up a non-profit to give scholarships for four-year colleges. Allen has voted “periodically” in local elections. He has followed the General Plan “to an extent.” He believes there needs to be balance between open space and growth. He serves on the Government Affairs Committee of the Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors. He was unaware of the 8th principle but supported Measure CC. He would find it difficult to support a new tax, but said it might be possible to make an exception for education. The proposal would have to be transparent and the people would have to be convinced that the money would be used well. Allen thinks the city should reconsider its role in terms of foreclosures and homelessness. He believes there are innovative ways to keep people in their home and address homelessness. Allen does not think Pasadena, which he believes is a model city, will have the same problems as the city of Bell. Allen grew up near Devil’s Gate Dam. He believes that we do need to have an effective flood control system but questions if this project is the best way to spend city money. Allen supports the Police Department’s policy on immigration.

Allen is being supported by Mangoli and Mangoli, one of whom, a former three-term mayor of Monterey Park, is his campaign manager. Joe Brown is one of his consultants. He is also supported by Juanita DeVaughn, Eddie Newman, Juanita Tillman and a number of local property owners.

The Research Committee voted 4-7-0 to recommend endorsing Jill Fosselman. Motion did not pass. Then the Research committee voted 7-4-0 to recommend endorsing Chris Chahinian. Motion passed.

The Steering Committee voted 8-14-4 to recommend endorsing Chris Chahinian. Motion did not pass. Then the Steering committee voted 15-9-2 to recommend endorsing Jill Fosselman. Motion passed.

City Council District 6: Carolyn Naber and Steve Madison

Carolyn Naber is a former VP of Marketing in the computer field. She is Past President of the West Pasadena Residents Association, and a former board member of the Linda Vista/Annandale Association. She is a former member of the Old Pasadena Parking Commission and Pasadena Transportation Advisory Commission. She is now on the Planning Commission and the General Plan Update Advisory Committee. Carolyn is active in the Arroyo Seco Foundation. She says she is "fiercely nonpartisan" and does not want the endorsement of the Tea Party nor of ACT. Her issues are zoning, traffic, and protection of quality of life. She has no position on the 8th guiding principle. She was not familiar with the Bad Weather Shelter. She voted for Measure TT but against CC because she said the latter did not include adequate oversight and required a special election, which she thinks was a waste of money. She says she is running her own campaign. Martin Truitt is assisting her. During the interview she asked for an apology

from Jon Fuhrman for his characterization of her in the November Phoenix as "a well-known local anti-growth activist who is also a very conservative Republican and is said to be the anointed Tea Party candidate in [the 6th] District." Carolyn did not tell us of any endorsements, but as you know from The Phoenix, she has been endorsed by City Councilmember Terry Tornek.

Steve Madison is running for his fourth term on the City Council. He has previously served as Vice Mayor, and currently serves as chair of the Economic Development and Technology Committee and Public Safety Committee. He is on the boards of the Pasadena Center Operating Company, Bob Hope Airport Authority and Pasadena's Youth and Violence Development Task Force. Steve is a graduate of USC Law School. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1987 to 1996, and then went into private law practice. He is a member of West Pasadena Residents Association and the Linda Vista/Annandale Association. Steve says he is a strong proponent of the 8th guiding principle but believes sustainability needs to be added as part of this principle. Steve stated that former PEF Executive Director Joan Favre is going to be working full-time for him on educational issues. Fred Register is his campaign consultant. Steve indicated strong support for Union Station and the Bad Weather Shelter. He advocates publication of municipal salaries, vigorous oversight of salaries pensions and contracts. Endorsed by Mayor Bill Bogaard, Sheriff Lee Baca, Kim Bonner, Andrea and John Van de Kamp, Congressman Adam Schiff, State Senator Carol Liu, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, former wife Connie Holguin, and many others.

In Steve Madison's concluding remarks, he mentioned he had been representing, on a pro bono basis, the Steelworkers Oldtimers Foundation ("SOF"), a 60 year old non-profit organ-

ization that provides services like dial-a-ride. Steve wanted to clarify that last summer, after the issues regarding the City of Bell officials were publicized, he agreed to assist the SOF Board of Directors in their efforts to prevent the scandal from damaging the Foundations good name or affecting its charitable work. This is because the SOF's previous director was the corrupt former Bell Mayor George Cole. George Cole has been replaced as the Foundations Executive Director and the SOF is not the subject of any charges or investigations.

The Research Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Steve Madison 14-1-0.

The Steering Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Steve Madison 25-1-0.

Mayor Bill Bogaard and District 2 City Council Representative Margaret McAustin are unopposed in the March election.

Pasadena Unified School District Seat 4: Kim Kenne and Gene Stevenson

Kim Kenne is a consultant with the PUSD working with the Technology Department of the District. She has actively served as a volunteer in numerous ways at the school, district, community and state level. She is a graduate of Georgetown University. She has served as a member of the original steering committee of PEN (Pasadena Education Network), is a graduate of Pasadena Neighborhood Leadership Institute and Leadership Pasadena and co-chaired the education committee of the Altadena Town Council.

Kim believes that if PUSD elections became District elections, she would still need to focus on the needs of the current students. When

asked about parental involvement, Kim felt that parents need to feel welcome and the School District must help parents learn how to advocate for their children. Regarding school closures, Kim pointed out that small schools lack resources, and consolidation allows for that money to be better spent. Future school closures discussions should first consider where the students are located. She was not sure at this time if performance should be a criteria. In response to our direct question "Do you support Superintendent Diaz?", she offered a qualified "Yes, at this time". She supported Measure CC, but not heavily, as she felt she needed more details on where the money was being spent. She believes that the District must examine the effectiveness of the money spent. Kim agrees with the 8th guiding principle, and the concept of the City of Santa Monica's tax in support of their schools. She is cognizant of the business community's concerns that "kids don't have the skills we need them to have."

Catherine St. Larsen is the campaign Treasurer. Kim is still looking for a campaign manager at the time of our interview. She estimates raising \$30K, but also expected to provide self-funding. Scott Phelps has endorsed her. She summarized by emphasizing her belief in data-driven decision making, plus her site council experience which links budgets and academics, and feels she would like to bring more of that planning cycle to the district level. Lastly, she believes that PUSD parents represent an untapped resource.

Gene Stevenson is a PUSD parent (with four children graduating from Muir High School), a longtime Altadena resident and former Pasadena City Department administrator. He holds an MBA and MSW (Masters in Social Work). His background includes 22 years of service in the United States Army, retired military. He previously served as the Director of Community Services where he directed Pas-

adena's Parks and Recreation facilities. Most recently he served as CFO of a health organization in Miami, Florida.

He entered the race right before the filing deadline because he was urged to run by Northwest Community leaders who had been supporting Robert Jenkins prior to his decision to drop out. He was a candidate in 2006 who believes that races should be contested. He believes District elections are irrelevant and the interest of PUSD should be the predominant interest of School Board members. Regarding parent involvement, Gene asserted that "it's not the District that has the power, it's the parents that have the power." One of his ideas is to link Arts education together with Math and Science. Regarding school closures, he thought it was an "unfortunate outcome, but times and resources change and in the end, the decisions have to be made that best serve the district. Regarding future closings, he would try to have the best possible analysis, "utilizing demographics, attendance, and he would ask the District to give him good research and good data." To improve the perception of the PUSD, he recommends improving communication, reaching out to the community and "hearing what people have to say". He presently supports Superintendent Diaz. But reflecting upon the recent School Board meeting, Gene felt that the Superintendent should show stronger leadership. He supported measure CC and rallied his neighbors. His campaign manager is Clarence Sawyer and he is looking for a Treasurer. He believes the campaign can be run for \$10K. He summarized by saying he wants to bring effective leadership to the District. His supporters include Joe Brown, Joe Hopkins and Pam Powell.

The Research Committee voted to recommend "no endorsement" in PUSD Seat 4 race by a vote of 7-2-0.

The Steering Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Gene Stevenson 14-8-2.

Pasadena Unified School District Seat 6: Tom Selinske, Sean Baggett, and Gay-laird Christopher

Sean Baggett is a High School Teacher/Administrator, with Masters degrees in Multicultural Education and Administration. He says he has been employed by the San Diego County public schools in Special Education and Physical Education for the past ten years. He also said that he was "on the faculty at Caltech." (The Research committee looked into this claim, and he appears to be involved as a "strength and conditioning coach" for the track team, and thinks it is quite a stretch for this to be considered "faculty".) He plans to send his pre-K daughter to Hamilton Elementary in the fall. He serves as a consultant to Solidaridad Enrichment Action and The Aptus Group. The committee found his answers to specific questions about his roles in these various organizations to be unclear. He is running because he believes the Board needs a cultural shift from "sitting" to "active" involvement in the schools. Rather than looking to the administration for information, Board members need to get their information from the community and use it to direct the administration. He is running because he believes the current Board "lacks credentialed educators" and the expertise they would bring. Their expectations of students are too low. He is involved in "Fathers in the Classroom," and he feels that parental involvement is too often left to mothers. Sean indicated that he has a campaign manager and treasurer, and that he believes it would take \$40-60K to win the election. He was reluctant to discuss endorsements at this time, but he specifically said Ramon Miramontes had not recruited him (as has been reported). He claims to have the IBEW endorsement.

Gaylaird Christopher is a professional architect with 30 years of specializing in designing schools. His three children, now grown, attended public schools in Riverside. In his professional capacity, he has encountered some creative solutions to problems in other school districts that may solve some of the issues being faced by the PUSD. He wanted to run for School Board because he has “a passion for public education.” He is concerned about the high percentage of children in the PUSD are who attend private schools. He believes that many of the District’s financial problems can be solved by attracting these private schools families back. He has been a volunteer in the All Saints Church Muir Mentoring program, trying to help young people get up to speed in their studies. He feels that those who volunteered in this program were treated poorly by the District administrators, so that the majority dropped out. Regarding school closures, Gaylaird stated that he was opposed to closing any schools at all. He believes there are creative ways of keeping even small schools open. Two strategies he mentioned are attracting private school children back and moving elementary schools to a K-through-8th configuration. Gaylaird has a campaign manager who will probably also serve as his treasurer. He has no endorsements to date, and he has no estimate as to how much money it would take to win the election.

Tom Selinske is a local business owner who is running for his third term on the Board. Tom has served as both Board President and Vice-President. He was on the Board of the Pasadena Educational Foundation for 15 years before his election. His daughter is a freshman at PHS. Tom took leadership in shaping and trying to pass Measure CC, working many hours on phone banks and precinct-walking. He believes that among his major accomplishments are the reorganization of the central office and the improvement of test

scores in difficult times. He was sorry to have to vote to close two schools and would like to avoid more closures. Tom believes he provides a calming influence on the Board, which often seems contentious and polarized. He has been a consistent supporter of Superintendent Diaz, while some other Board members have been in more of an attack posture toward his administration. Tom has already revived his previous campaign committee. He has a campaign consultant, manager and treasurer, and believes it will take about \$35,000 to win the election. He named as endorsers Sid Tyler, Steve Madison, Chris Holden, George Brumder and Joan Favvre.

All three candidates said they voted for Measure CC, and they all expressed support for Superintendent Diaz. Each of them would be willing to advocate a special tax to carry the PUSD through these hard times, but only if the climate was right for passage.

The Research Committee discussed the three candidates in depth. The committee felt that the solutions offered by Gaylaird Christopher have already been tried by the District. Committee members were bothered by Sean Baggett’s unclear answers to questions about his employment history and his motivation for running, not to mention his overly casual attire. Tom Selinske seems to the committee to be worthy of re-election based on his solid record over the past eight years. His continuance on the Board seems especially important at a time of transition in other Board seats

The Research Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Tom Selinske 12-0-0

The Steering Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Tom Selinske 24-0-0

Renatta Cooper is unopposed in the March election (PUSD Seat 2).



**From
Congressman
Adam B. Schiff...**



WASHINGTON UPDATE

● **New START Ratified by Congress**

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the Senate ratified the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and on Friday, Dec. 24, the lower house of Russia's parliament gave preliminary approval to the New START. The vote sets the stage for likely approval of the Treaty in 2011 – an important step to bolster our nation's security.

The nuclear-arms pact between the U.S. and Russia, which builds on decades of work by Democratic and Republican presidents, limits the number of nuclear warheads to 1,550. Additionally, the treaty allows a return of monitoring and verification, which is crucial to the continued maintenance of strategic cooperation between the two nuclear superpowers and gives a degree of assurance to our national security policymakers that no satellite can match. Finally, the passage of this legislation is an acknowledgement that Congress can work together to find sensible solutions to our common challenges.

● **President Repeals "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"**

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the President repealed the Armed Forces' policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' which banned the military from asking about service members' sexual orientation, but required the discharge of those who are openly gay. The House voted to repeal the policy on Wednesday, Dec. 15, and the Senate

followed suit on Saturday, Dec. 18. The legislation will ensure a fair opportunity for all Americans to serve their country without denying who they are. With members of the Armed Forces on battlefields in two different theatres, we cannot afford to discriminate against any patriotic American wishing to serve, and he was pleased to see the President sign the important bill into law.

● **Congress Passes, President Signs Tax Package into Law**

On Thursday, Dec. 16, the House approved legislation to extend expiring income tax cuts for all Americans for two years, renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed for an additional 13 months, grant a one-year reduction in Social Security taxes and set the estate tax at 35 percent for a deceased person's estate valued at up to \$5 million for individuals or \$10 million for families for the next two years. The President signed the legislation into law on Friday, Dec. 17.

I voted for an amendment to the bill that would have set the estate tax at the 2009 level, and prevented adding another \$23 billion to the national debt in favor of only 6,600 estates. Regrettably, the amendment failed. However, I voted in favor of final passage of the bill to ensure middle class families would not face tax increases during the recession and those still looking for work would be able to obtain unemployment insurance.

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I look forward to providing you with another Congressional update in ACT's next Phoenix Newsletter.

-- Congressman Adam Schiff

Congressman Adam Schiff represents the 29th Congressional District of California, including Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City. He can be reached at (626) 304-2727 or by Email at: www.house.gov/schiff.

From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

A new year, a new Governor, and another budget. A week after he was sworn into office, Governor Jerry Brown presented his proposed budget to tackle the projected \$25 billion budget deficit we now face. His hope is to find common ground with both parties to pass a budget addressing current year shortfalls and adopt the 2011-2012 budget by March of this year. This will be a major feat on the heels of last year's budget which was passed 115 days after the June 15th deadline. Republicans have already said they will not vote to place a measure on the ballot that would extend for five more years, taxes adopted two years ago to make up some revenue shortfall.

His proposed budget projects a \$25.4 billion deficit and proposes \$26.4 billion solutions as follows:

- \$12.5 billion – expenditure reductions (47% of total)
- \$12.0 billion – revenues (46% of total)
- \$1.9 billion – other (7% of total)

The Governor's budget proposes significant cuts to social services programs and higher education, and maintains K-12 at its current level. It assumes passage of two ballot measures: (1) a constitutional amendment to continue existing taxes for 5 years (personal income tax surcharge and dependent credit reduction dedicated to education at the state level and 0.5 VLF and 1% sales tax dedicated

to realignment); and (2) Amend Proposition 10 to sweep reserves and redirect half of money to pay for children services at the state level ongoing (approximately \$200 million ongoing).

The VLF and sales tax extension would fund realignment of public safety and social services from state government to local government including fire protection, juvenile justice, court security, mental health, and child welfare. So far our local electeds have told us they are willing to take on full responsibility for these services if full funding to deliver them is provided.

Democratic Legislative leaders are committed to the March budget adoption timeframe. The Senate Budget Committee, on which I sit, began hearings to consider the Governor's budget three days after he presented it to the Legislature. Time will tell if we can find common ground with our colleagues and put California on the road to fiscal and economic recovery.

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.



Study Confirms That Fox News Makes You Stupid

Excerpted from: News Corpse / By Mark Howard
12/15/10

A new survey of American voters shows that Fox News viewers are significantly more misinformed than consumers of news from other sources.

Yet another study has been released proving that watching Fox News is detrimental to your intelligence. World Public Opinion, a project managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland, conducted a survey of American voters that shows that Fox News viewers are significantly more misinformed than consumers of news from other sources. What's more, the study shows that greater exposure to Fox News increases misinformation.

So the more you watch, the less you know. Or to be precise, the more you think you know that is actually false. This study corroborates a previous PIPA study that focused on the Iraq war with similar results. And there was an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll that demonstrated the break with reality on the part of Fox viewers with regard to health care. The body of evidence that Fox News is nothing but a propaganda machine dedicated to lies is growing by the day.

In eight of the nine questions below, Fox News placed first in the percentage of those who were misinformed (they placed second in the question on TARP). That's a pretty high batting average for journalistic fraud. Here is a list of what Fox News viewers believe that just ain't so:

- 91 percent believe the stimulus legislation lost jobs
- 72 percent believe the health reform law will increase the deficit

- 72 percent believe the economy is getting worse
- 60 percent believe climate change is not occurring
- 49 percent believe income taxes have gone up
- 63 percent believe the stimulus legislation did not include any tax cuts
- 56 percent believe Obama initiated the GM/Chrysler bailout
- 38 percent believe that most Republicans opposed TARP
- 63 percent believe Obama was not born in the U.S. (or that it is unclear)

The conclusion is inescapable. Fox News is deliberately misinforming its viewers and it is doing so for a reason. Every issue above is one in which the Republican Party had a vested interest. The GOP benefited from the ignorance that Fox News helped to proliferate. The results were apparent in the election last month as voters based their decisions on demonstrably false information fed to them by Fox News.

By the way, the rest of the media was not blameless. CNN and the broadcast network news operations fared only slightly better in many cases. Even MSNBC, which had the best record of accurately informing viewers, has a ways to go before it can brag about it.

The conclusions in this study need to be disseminated as broadly as possible. Fox's competitors need to report these results and produce ad campaigns featuring them. Newspapers and magazines need to publish the study across the country. This is big news and it is critical that the nation be advised that a major news enterprise is poisoning their minds.

This is not an isolated review of Fox's performance. It has been corroborated time and time again. The fact that Fox News is so blatantly

dishonest, and the effects of that dishonesty have become ingrained in an electorate that has been purposefully deceived, needs to be made known to every American. Our democracy cannot function if voters are making choices based on lies. We have the evidence that Fox is tilting the scales and we must now make certain its corporate owners do not get away with it.

Mark Howard is an artist and author and the publisher of News Corpse.



Guest View: How are heroes made?

By Hannah Naiditch, excerpted from
the Pasadena Star News 12/19/2010

There are heroes everywhere. During times of crisis, there seems to be a need for heroes, and never is the need greater than during times of war.

Right now our troops dominate the news. They are heroes when they leave for battle. There are heroes when they return. Others are singled out for exceptional bravery, and they are rewarded with stars, ribbons and medals.

Some return in coffins.

What makes a hero, anyhow?

Should somebody be celebrated as a hero just because he had the bad luck to be at the wrong place at the wrong time and died? Is dying a requirement?

CNN has its own heroes and it regularly has breaks in its programs to show respect. In case you feel left out, it urges viewers to nominate their own heroes. Many people do this at this time, the end of the year.

Most people are decent human beings, and bravery and courage are hard to define or to predict. That explains why a man out of the

crowd jumped onto the track to push another man out of the way of an oncoming train or to pull others out of burning cars that could explode any moment. All these people are instant heroes; they risked their own lives to save others.

What qualities turn men into heroes? Researchers found that while some are the tough, macho types, others are the quiet, often gentle types that carry out heroic acts. There are heroes with physical courage and those with moral courage. Many so-called heroes do not follow the definition. Maybe heroism is in the eyes of the beholder.

There is an interesting category of heroes who broke the law or who were controversial figures before being recognized as heroes.

In 1872, Susan Anthony, during a time when women could not vote, walked up to the ballot box and voted. She was arrested and was called an anarchist.

There was Rosa Parks who broke the law by refusing to give up her seat to a white man and go to the back of the bus. She inspired the beginning of the civil rights movement.

There was RAND researcher Daniel Ellsberg, who joined the Defense Department in 1964. In 1967, while employed at RAND, he leaked the classified Pentagon Papers, which revealed the secret doubts the planners of the Vietnam War had. They knew that the war was lost, but they waited for the right moment to make it politically feasible to get out, in order to save face. It caused many unnecessary deaths. Ellsberg felt the American people had a right to know. In 1971 he sent the Pentagon Papers to The New York Times. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the government's attempts to stop publication and the Pentagon Papers were published. To some, Ellsberg became a hero, while others looked at him as a traitor. There was the controversial figure of Martin Luther King Jr., a hero to some, a dan-



gerous man to others. Most people liked his inspirational "I Have a Dream" speech, but King went beyond his famous speech. He was a democratic socialist and he accused our nation of waging an imperial war in Vietnam. He considered the United States to be the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today. J. Edgar Hoover considered King to be a racial agitator with communist leanings and a national security risk. The FBI kept a secret file on him, and they carried out an illegal war of harassment on King.

Finally there was the late Howard Zinn, one of our heroes, a member of the "Greatest Generation" who joined the "good war" of World War II. Zinn exclaimed, "I don't want to honor military heroism - that conceals too much death and suffering. I want to honor those who all these years have opposed the horror of war."

Hannah Naiditch is an Altadena resident and is the author of "Memoirs of a Hitler Refugee: Activism and Issues Define My Life," available on Amazon.com.



Calendar

Jan 17 Monday	Observation of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
Jan 21 Friday 8-9 a.m.	Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1 st & 3 rd Fridays.

Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the February *Phoenix* is Sunday, February 6. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. We will prep *The Phoenix* for mailing on Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers please verify time with Ellen Coles, 626-798-2024.)



P. O. Box 40074
Pasadena, California
91114-7074

Jan 27 Thursday 7 p.m.	Candidate Forum at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St., Pasadena. A brief General Membership meeting follows the Forum.
Feb 3 Thursday 7 p.m.	ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting. All members welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Neal Wrightson will both host and chair the meeting at 1633 Mar Vista Ave., Pasadena 91104 (626 797-6280)
Feb 4 & 18 Friday	Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 1/21.)