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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

**Pasadena Area  
UNITED DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS**



**invites you to attend**

**OKTOBERFEST**

**Our Annual Event**

Sunday, October 21, 2012, 2 - 4 PM

at the home of

*Bob & Linda Angel at Hillmont House*

Pasadena's first Queen Anne Victorian Home  
939 North Hill Avenue Pasadena, California  
(park on street -- observe street signs)



\$35 per person



*traditional food & drink, music, friends & fun*

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**Oktoberfest!** still needs sponsors. Please sponsor **United Democratic Headquarters' big fundraising event of the year.** Levels are \$125, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Call UDH at 626 796-2262 to sign on now.



## Friday Morning Discussion Group

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

Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. For additional details check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or [in-man@pacbell.net](mailto:in-man@pacbell.net).



## Steering Committee Calendar

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

Check [www.ACTPasadena.org](http://www.ACTPasadena.org) for meeting locations.

The next Steering Committee meeting is on Thursday, November 8, at the home of Jeanette Mann, 2195 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena 91104, (Program: Assemblyman Anthony Portantino with a year-end wrap-up).

Then Tuesday, December 4 (Holiday potluck meeting at Bobbie and Henry Moon's home. Program: election analysis)

## Daily sustenance for political junkies!

As the days dwindle down to a close election, many of us will be desperately seeking a daily fix of political news, gossip and commentary. If you share this sad addiction, here are a few blogs/websites that may help keep you going:

### **fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com**

Statistician Nate Silver gives a wonkish daily take on polling, historical trends, political fundamentals and the realities of the electoral college.

**electoral-vote.com** Speaking of the electoral college, this site not only keeps a running tally of polling in every state, it does the same for every contested Senate race.

**www.politico.com** There are many sites that cater to the inside-the-beltway crowd. Politico is one of the most widely read and influential. Another is Taegan Goddard's **politicalwire.com**.

**www.dailykos.com** If you like to get your political news in the company of your fellow progressives, you can't do better than Daily Kos. Many fun features, including the Daily Kos Election Polling Wrap.

**www.realeclearpolitics.com** If you like knowing how the other half thinks, Real Clear Politics may be for you. No hiding the conservative slant, but a wide selection of opinion/news pieces each day. Plus probably the most closely followed moving average of national (and swing state) polls.

-- Fred Register



## Presidential Debate Calendar

October 16, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Debate

October 22, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Debate

## Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



### My Conversation with Tenjin

I live just a block from Caltech, the greatest university in the world according to a recent article, and, from time to time, I take walks through the campus. They have a wonderful little garden on the south end of the quad that, for many years, was called Dabney Garden. It has recently been renamed Garden of the Associates, but I will forever think of it as Dabney Garden. It has a number of old Olive Trees and various kinds of shrubbery, plus benches to sit on, relax and meditate. But the dominant feature of the garden is a half-ton bronze statue of Tenjin, a 9<sup>th</sup> Century Japanese patron of scholars and writers, mounted "side saddle" on a water buffalo and reading a book. The statue is a gift of Dr. Edwin Schneider in September of 1967. What a great gift!

I have often sat on the bench near Tenjin and carried on a conversation with him about how things are and ought to be. I recently asked him about the present status of America. He sighed and said, "Fear." "What do you mean," I said. He replied, "America's 2012 budget is over \$1 trillion dollars on military, homeland security, and other military expenditures, and there is talk of increasing military spending. All of this is because of fear. Fear that some other country might get stronger, even though America spends more on military and security than all the other nations of the world put together. Fear from the rich that someone is going to take all their money. Fear from the middle class that they are about to be wiped out. Fear from the poor that they might not have a place to live and no food on the table tomorrow. Fear that someone will go crazy and drop an atomic bomb."

I said, "But Tenjin those things could happen.

The rich might lose their money, the middle-class might be wiped out, and the poor might starve, and someone might drop a bomb at any time."

"Yes, they might," said Tenjin. "But you don't solve the problem with fear. You had a famous president many years ago who said, 'There is nothing to fear but fear itself.' You solve problems by looking them straight in the eye and optimistically working for an answer. And the answers are not by trying to live in the past, but by working together to face the future unafraid.

You Americans had a TV show years ago called Star Trek. Their motto was, 'To boldly go where no man has gone before.'

You need to realize that your problems are not solved by fleeing to the past. It is a point of no return. The answers are found in working together. By realizing that good government is really all of you doing things together that you cannot do alone.

By knowing that you are your brother's keeper. By realizing that success is not measured by how much money you have, but by being an individual that contributes to the well being of all humankind as: teachers, ministers, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, house wives or house husbands, social workers, restaurant and hotel workers, social workers, bankers, dentists, artists, musicians, politicians, etc. All of your society should optimistically work together. Don't fear the future. Rather, face the future unafraid. Be optimistic!"

I thought for a few moments and began to realize that Tenjin was on to something very valuable. I have a friend, Dr. Terry Paulson, who has written a book entitled, *The Optimism Advantage*. While he is a member of a different political party, I thought for a few moments and began to realize that Tenjin was

**Continued on page nine**

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, October 7.

**T**hirty days to go. For a while, it started to look like a blowout, with the President racking up relatively huge leads in Ohio, Florida, Virginia and other swing states. Then the first debate brought us back down to earth. Yet, even with that boost, Gov. Romney has picked up a few points in most polls but not brought the President down. So the President is keeping his lead, and Gov. Romney's surge may even be starting to fade.

The President was certainly the beneficiary of an incredibly strong September. The convention speeches, especially former President Clinton's, both roused the faithful and convinced the hesitant. The faithful responded by putting their money where their hearts were; during the convention week alone, the Obama campaign took in 700,000 donations. For the month overall, donations totaled \$181 million -

- an amazing figure that easily outpaced every other month. Year to date, there have been over 10 million individual donations. It's a stunning display of grass-roots power. In September, for example, there were 567,000 first-time donors, 1.8 million donors overall, of whom 98% gave less than \$250. Thus, the overwhelming majority of funds are coming from small donors, mostly generated by those (somewhat annoying) e-mails that constantly clutter your in-box. It may be hard to imagine, but they seem to work, especially when the President fires up grass-roots enthusiasm.

This huge fundraising haul has helped the President dominate the airwaves in critical swing states. One of the interesting anomalies of the campaign has been that the President polls better in swing states than in the country as a whole. You would think it would be the other way around, given that the swing states are all somewhat traditional Republican territory. Clearly, though, the campaign's constant advertising in the swing states has given the President a significant edge. Having spent a weekend in Nevada recently, I can testify to the almost mind-numbing proliferation of political ads; just while watching the news for an hour, the political ads had virtually squeezed out all the "normal" commercial advertising, and the President's ads ran much more frequently (and seemed to be better both in substance and style) than Gov. Romney's ads. And as intense as the ads have been so far, each side will be ramping up in these last 30 days.

So, time for predictions once again. In August, I predicted the President would win every state he won in 2008 with the exception of Indiana, but would carry both Missouri and Arizona. Right now, Missouri, in particular, and Arizona and North Carolina are looking dicey. Nonetheless, I'll stay with my prediction, and call 368 electoral votes for the President. In the Senate, I'm predicting Dems will

pick up 4 seats; I think Democrats hold all their current seats except for Nebraska, and win 5 seats (Maine, with independent Angus King deciding to caucus with the Democrats; Massachusetts; Indiana; Nevada; and Arizona). That means Democrats would have to win every single toss-up seat, but that's what I'm going with. The House is a tougher read. While I think it's still possible to win back the House, it certainly looks more likely that we'll pick up 15 - 20 seats, falling just a bit short of retaking control. My guess is on the high end of that range, between 18 and 20 seats. For all you other prognosticators out there, e-mail me ([jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net)) your guesses -- we'll post all predictions (and predictors, either true names or aliases) on our web site for your enjoyment.

As you're watching events unfold on Election night, there may be some early indicators of how things could turn out. Indiana and Kentucky polls close at 7:00 pm EST, among the earliest in the nation. While both should be safely in Gov. Romney's column, Indiana has a critical Senate race. Long-time incumbent Richard Lugar was ousted in the Republican primary by Tea Party favorite Richard Mourdock; he is opposed by Congressman Joe Donnelly, a traditional blue-dog Democrat and former county sheriff. Democrats usually trail in Indiana until the votes from Gary and Indianapolis come in late in the evening. If Mourdock is leading by less than 50,000 votes after the first 2 or 3 hours, or less than 100,000 votes by 9:00 pm our time, then Democrats are probably in good shape. If he's ahead by more than 200,000 votes by 9:00 pm our time, then the Reps will be having a good night.

Virginia also closes their polls at 7:00 pm EST. As a battleground state with a key Senate race to boot, Virginia could be a second key



indicator. The President carried the state by 200,000 votes in 2008, and polling has so far suggested about a 5% edge (roughly the same as in 2008). So look for the President, and Democrat Senate candidate Tim Kaine, to take early but consistent leads in the voting. A lead of over 100,000 votes would probably seal the deal; conversely, if they fall behind by 100,000 votes or more, it's a sign of a grim night for the Dems.

Lastly, for an early indication of what will happen in the House of Representatives, watch New Hampshire. The last of their polls doesn't close until 8:00 pm EST.

The President carried the state by 54% - 45% in 2008; polls this year show the race to be tighter, though Obama still has had a consistent lead. But the two House seats are the real point of interest here. Democrats won both in 2008, then Republicans took both back in 2010. If Democrats don't at least win the Second District, defeating incumbent Charlie Bass, then it will likely be a grim night for House Democrats. On the other hand, if Democrats take both seats, defeating both Bass

and incumbent Frank Guinta, then we have a shot at taking back the House.

With all this focus on tactics and specific seats, it's easy to overlook the substance underlying the campaign. While it seems obvious to most of us that the President has the stronger arguments, Gov. Romney's campaign has been relatively successful at dodging the details that, often, don't quite add up, or at tossing out sound-bite zingers that are partly true, but basically misleading. Perhaps the most deadly of these is on Medicare, where he argues that the President is taking \$716 billion out of Medicare, to the detriment of seniors, and that he, Gov. Romney, would put that money back into the system.

The whole issue of how to ensure the survival of Medicare is complex, but at its core, it really gets to the fundamental difference between the Democratic and Republican world views.

To address the specific charge, it is true that President Obama has proposed to reduce spending on Medicare by \$716 billion. But he's not cutting the services provided by Medicare by \$716 billion. One of the keys to Obamacare is that, by implementing "best practices" in the system as a whole, by improving the quality of care, Democrats believe we can provide all the services that seniors now expect and receive, but do so for \$716 billion less (over a 30 year period) than we are spending now. That's the critical distinction that Romney glosses over (and that the President really hasn't effectively explained). The whole point of having the 15-member board of appointed experts is to define best practices and spread them through the system, thereby reducing overall cost. For example, hospital patients often have to come back to the hospital; these "re-hospitalizations" are a significant cost factor for the system. But "best practices" -- from simply washing hands constantly so as to avoid infections, to using checklists in surgery to prevent errors, to ensuring proper prescriptions for patients going home -- can significantly reduce those re-hospitalizations. One way to ensure that hospitals all across the country adopt these best practices is to penalize them, financially, for "avoidable" re-hospitalizations. That's how, according to the Democratic theory, we can provide the same or better service, and ensure equal or better outcomes for patients, while spending less money.

The Republicans argue that they don't want a 15-person appointed board in Washington dictating how people's mothers get treated. In fact, though, doctors around the country aren't necessarily up to date on the latest research or

know the latest data on which drugs are most effective for which kinds of cancer. Local doctors and hospitals do, in fact, need help and guidance. Insurance companies routinely request second opinions. So setting guidelines and standards and expectations for outcomes is really not so radical (and it's exactly what Republicans are demanding we do for our schools).

Aside, though, from this specific argument, the basic Republican thrust on Medicare is a shift from what they would call "entitlement" to "personal responsibility". In a way, it's similar to their efforts to privatize Social Security. Both Social Security and Medicare are like a "defined benefit" pension plan: participants make contributions, but they are guaranteed a certain outcome (a defined amount of pension dollars, or a guarantee of medical services) regardless of the actual cost. So if your lifetime Social Security benefits exceed the value of your tax contributions (with interest), or if your medical expenses exceed the value of your Medicare taxes, co-payments and deductibles, then the government is on the hook for the difference.

Republicans want to shift to the "defined contribution" construct: participants make contributions, and they get benefits paid for by those contributions, but no more. If they need more money to live on, or if their medical costs exceed their voucher amount, participants are on the hook for the difference -- they must assume "personal responsibility" for the difference, rather than relying on the government.

This, to me, is the essence of the different philosophies: do we accept a collective responsibility for those in need; or do we have a system where citizens are, ultimately, on their own, with the fortunate ones well off and those unfortunate ones turning to non-governmental sources for help, or coping on their own without the help. Yet the entire insurance

industry, a bastion of Republicanism, is based on the collective responsibility philosophy, and no Republican candidate has ever suggested that there's anything amiss with that industry.

So we'll watch with interest in the forthcoming debates whether President Obama and Vice-President Biden can tie down Gov. Romney or Congressman Ryan and force them to confront the internal inconsistencies or lack of specificity in their proposals. There certainly seems to be lots of opportunity for that.

-- Jon Fuhrman



### Recap of the ACT and ADC Endorsements for the Nov 6 Election

These are the **candidate endorsements** made by ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club members (last March). They each received at least 89% of the ACT and ADC votes.

President	Barack Obama
U S Senate	Dianne Feinstein
27 <sup>th</sup> CD	Judy Chu
28 <sup>th</sup> CD	Adam Schiff
State Senate 25 <sup>th</sup> SD	Carol Liu
Assembly 41 <sup>st</sup> AD	Chris Holden

The Research Committee and the Steering Committee made the following **recommendations on the Propositions** in the August Phoenix.

- Prop 30 (Gov. Brown's initiative)  
 Research recommends Yes (8-2-2)  
 Steering recommends Yes (14-0-1)
- Prop 31 (2-year budget cycle)  
 Research recommends No (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends No (13-0-1)
- Prop 32 (Limit union political influence)  
 Research recommends No (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends No (15-0-0)

- Prop 33 (Auto insurance)  
 Research recommends No (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends No (14-0-1)

- Prop 34 (End death penalty)  
 Research recommends Yes (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends Yes (15-0-0)

- Prop 35 (Human trafficking)  
 Research recommends No (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends No (14-0-1)

- Prop 36 (3 strikes reform)  
 Research recommends Yes (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends Yes (15-0-0)

- Prop 37 (Labeling of genetically engineered foods)  
 Research recommends Yes (9-2-1)  
 Steering recommends No (11-3-1)

- Prop 38 (Molly Munger initiative)  
 Research recommends No (8-2-2)  
 Steering recommends Yes (8-4-3)

- Prop 39 (Tax treatment for multi-state businesses)  
 Research recommends Yes (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends Yes (14-0-1)

- Prop 40 (Referendum on CA State Senate redistricting plan)  
 Research recommends Yes (12-0-0)  
 Steering recommends Yes (15-0-0)



### L A County Measure J

At the October 4 Steering Committee meeting, the Steering Committee briefly considered Measure J which would extend the 2008 Measure R ½% sales tax for transportation. Some members thought we should not be considering it at all without prior notice and more information. Opponents were concerned about what it might mean for the 710/210 freeway

connection. Some thought it should be for public transportation only and not freeways. Supporters wanted to speed up the construction of the Gold Line extension to Claremont. The vote was 10 for; 8 against; no abstentions.

Following is an article submitted by Gloria Ohland via Neil Wrightson:

### Measure J

Measure J, which would speed up the construction of seven public transportation and eight highway improvement projects across LA County, is literally a good deal: Measure J does not raise taxes but instead extends a half-cent 30-year sales tax for transportation that voters approved in 2008 for another 30 years, from 2039 to 2069. This longer revenue stream would allow LA Metro to finance the accelerated construction of these projects now, at a time when the cost of financing and of construction is at an all-time low, and when the federal government has just created the low-interest TIFIA loan program for transportation projects (rate is 2.75%).

Accelerating construction now, when unemployment in the county is still painfully high (11 percent), would also be a good deal because this will accelerate the creation of 250,000 jobs, according to the private, nonprofit LA County Economic Development Corporation. While many of these jobs would be in the transportation and construction sectors, jobs would also be created in professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance, and in retail.

Moreover, the construction jobs would be good jobs: \$25 billion of transportation construction work is covered by project labor agreements, which mean that all projects will be built using skilled labor trained in joint labor-management apprenticeship programs, and that contracts will be subject to all the protections and benefits associated with a middle-class livelihood.

It is as if voters would be providing LA County with its own economic stimulus program, as the increased buying power from all those paychecks ripples out through the economy, also boosting local tax revenues. Construction of these 15 projects would begin within five years and completed within 13. For more information on these projects and on Measure J go to [www.measurej.org](http://www.measurej.org).

Measure J also provides an additional 30 years of funding for bus and rail service – 20 percent of the revenue goes to transit operations -- helping to ensure that fares stay low and guarding against service cuts. And it provides another 30 years of funding to cities and unincorporated parts of LA County to use for the transportation projects of their choosing, including fixing potholes, safety improvements, signal synchronization, street and sidewalk repair and local transit service – 15 percent of revenues go to local projects.

Moreover, Measure J allows the “flexing” of funds from highway to transit or vice versa, in any given subregion such as the San Gabriel Valley with a two-thirds vote of the LA Metro board.

In sum, there’s not much to dislike about Measure J because it would provide jobs, stimulate the local economy, help fund bus and rail service as well as local projects, help alleviate traffic congestion, and provide LA County residents with more transportation choices to get where they need to go.



### View an Expanded Phoenix

A few days after you receive your *Phoenix* in the mail, check the ACT webpage, [www.ACT-pasadena.org](http://www.ACT-pasadena.org), for the expanded version. It will have articles and additional items that Chuck Hains couldn’t fit in the mailed version **and it’s in color!**



NOTE: If you haven't been visiting [ACTpasadena.org](http://ACTpasadena.org), you should be. Bruce Wright is keeping it updated with photos, links, and other items of interest.



**Wanted!**

Pics of you on your vacation or staycation. We want to know what you've been doing. Send your bright, clear photos to Chuck at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). Remember that Chuck doesn't require that you take a copy of our publication around the world with you as some publications we could mention did. Instead, he will generously put a copy of the *Phoenix* in your hands through the magic of technology. Thank you, Chuck!



**Ramblings, Continued from page three**

was on to something very valuable. I have a friend, Dr. Terry Paulson, who has written a book entitled, *The Optimism Advantage*. While he is a member of a different political party, he is an example of someone who knows how very much we need to work together for a better world, and he believes that optimism empowers us to achieve very positive results.

So, I thanked Tenjin for his wisdom and went out of the garden resolved in my own way to work together for progress for the whole human race.



**Send Email Addresses to Jon**

We need email addresses for all ACT and ADC members. Please send yours to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net). Many thanks.

**Our Judy Boggs Interns**



Our hard-working Judy Boggs interns, Anthony Reyes, Alex Acuna, and Allysa Scheyer, take time out for a photo at United Democratic Headquarters.



**GOTV at United Demo. Headquarters**

Your help is urgently needed to get out the vote during the days leading up to November 6! Especially needed are phoners. But all kinds of other volunteer help is called for too: selling UDH merchandise, data entry, some walking, running errands, etc., etc.

Please help all you can. For information call 626 -796-2262 (79OBAMA) or go to the UDH website, [www.PasadenaDemocrats.com](http://www.PasadenaDemocrats.com).

UDH is at 519 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena with parking in the back off Hudson Street.



**The Phoenix Deadline**

*The Phoenix* deadline is usually the Sunday after the monthly Steering Committee meeting.

The deadline for the November *Phoenix* will be **Sunday, November 11**. Please send items to [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at Chuck and Lina's home, 1391 La Solana Drive, Alta. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify.)

**From  
44th District  
Assemblymember  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear Friends:

It's been an amazing couple of weeks. I finished my sixth and final Assembly legislative session. Our district is in the midst of the 710 issue where I was happy to ignite the call to end the tunnel option with my August letter to the Director of Caltrans. In that letter, I demanded that this incredibly flawed process that promotes the tunnel at all costs - with good government practices and common sense thrown out the window - come to an end. There has been a broad coalition of folks coming together to raise public awareness about the 710 like never before.

It's also that time of year when so many of our terrific non-profits have been celebrating events and milestones. The Frostig Center turned 60 and Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley held a super event at a time when education and women's health issues have never been more under siege.

On a personal note, I squeezed in a trip back East to see my mom and accompany her to a doctor's appointment. It's been tough to watch her slow down in the last two months, as her recent progress was undermined by a fall in the rehab hospital. But, Bella's soccer team has been playing very well - she scored a goal last Saturday!

On the legislative front, I was very pleased that Governor Brown signed a number of my bills. In the wake of the devastation that recent windstorms caused to our region, Gov. Brown signed AB 1650, which forces investor-owned utilities to regularly update and public-

ly review their disaster plans. Once again, I took on the gun advocacy lobby by ending the practice of openly carrying rifles and shotguns on Main Street, California through the signing of AB 1527. And, more young women will have access to mammograms through the passage of AB 137. My office was also excited about the Governor's signature on AB 1956, helping young women trafficked into prostitution to have tattoos removed, which were forced on them. I was also very happy that my continued effort to reform Sacramento was well received by the Governor with his signature on AB 2068, which ends the perk of essentially free vanity license plates for legislators. There is no reason that the public should pay full price for personalized license plates while legislators don't.

It has been an honor to have represented our district in Sacramento. In many ways, ACT was instrumental in helping me get there. One could argue that my political career started with a meeting at Shakers with Judy Boggs and Janice Laruccia. Did we laugh that night! Thank you ACT members for your warmth and for your support. Ellen and I have truly been blessed.

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/>



**Special Thanks to Our Patrons**

Joan and Jeffrey Palmer, Pasadena

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

Susan Heck, Pasadena

## Power down

**Repaired or not, the San Onofre nuclear plant remains a dangerous and expensive albatross around the neck of SCE**



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

*(Sixth in an ongoing series on the performance of California utilities)*

At the risk of engaging in vast understatement, it has not been a good year for Southern California Edison (SCE), the investor-owned, for-profit utility that serves 14 million customers in Southern, Central and Coastal California. This year, SCE's primary disaster involves its San Onofre nuclear power station, located about 70 miles southeast of Pasadena, near the coastal city of San Clemente.

San Onofre has been shut down since Jan. 31, when it was discovered radioactive steam was leaking from defective tubes carrying water in the plant's brand new steam generators, which are key components for the production of electricity. The radioactive leaks were discovered to have been caused by excessive and totally unexpected wear to a large fraction of the 9,727 U-shaped tubes inside each steam generator. Not only are the radioactive leaks from the tubes a major concern, but more serious leaks could drain protective cooling water from a reactor; if this were to happen, San Onofre could experience a serious nuclear meltdown similar to the triple meltdown that occurred in March 2011 at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan.

What's causing the excessive tube wear? On July 19, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) released a report that said Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the firm that designed and manufactured San Onofre's new steam generators, had employed faulty com-

puter models, which failed to accurately predict conditions inside the new steam generators. Furthermore, manufacturing flaws in the tubes contributed to excessive vibration between tubes and within their support structures, and this has caused considerable tube damage. Some critics, such as US Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), have questioned whether the new steam generator designs were adequately reviewed by the NRC and have also raised the possibility that SCE may not have fully informed the NRC about the new designs.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the NRC is still waiting for SCE to submit an analysis of San Onofre's problems and a restart plan for one of the plant's two reactors, Unit 2, by early October. After that, it will take at least several months for the NRC to review SCE's analysis and plans. If or when Unit 2 will fire-up again is anybody's guess. The second reactor, Unit 3, has even more tube damage than does Unit 2 and will probably require very extensive and costly repairs, so its restart date is even more uncertain.

Which brings us to the economics of this whole fiasco. The cost of the new steam generators, installed less than two years ago, was \$770 million, according to another report in the Times. If the generators need to be completely replaced, which seems likely, the price tag could be very similar. Who would foot the bill — SCE customers or the company's shareholders? So far, the California Public Utilities Commission hasn't made a decision about this. But, does it make economic sense to undertake highly expensive repairs on a plant whose operating license expires a mere 10 years from now? The fact that, in late August, SCE reduced its workforce at San Onofre from about 2,250 to 1,500 strongly suggests the company has already given up on making the needed repairs and restarting the twin reactors.

This is music to the ears of anti-nuclear acti-

vists, who have repeatedly called for the permanent closure of San Onofre. However, even if unfavorable economics dooms the plant and it is never restarted, what kind of radioactive mess will it leave behind?

Irvine City Councilman Larry Agran estimates that 4,000 tons of radioactive waste is stored at San Onofre, according to a report in the Orange County Register. This waste is comprised mainly of spent reactor fuel rods, which will continue generating massive amounts of heat for decades after they have been decommissioned. Because the radioactive rods are so physically hot, they are stored in temporary storage pools in which water is circulated to make sure the rods don't overheat, which could cause their casings to catch fire and release radiation into the atmosphere. This was one of the primary causes of the massive radioactive emissions from Fukushima last year.

In this regard, San Onofre is like every other nuclear power plant in our country. Because there is no permanent storage site for spent nuclear fuel in the US, many thousands of tons of it have been accumulating for decades at all of our nuclear plants. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, most of the pools designed for temporary storage have been "re-racked" to allow up to five times as much spent fuel to be placed into storage than the pools were originally designed to hold. As most of the pools are outside the primary containment barriers meant to prevent radiation release, they're more likely to release large amounts of radiation in the event of an accident, such as the one that occurred at Fukushima.

Whether or not San Onofre ever restarts, it will continue to be a colossal albatross around SCE's neck. Even worse, it will remain a serious danger to the public for many years to come.

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

## From 43th District Assemblymember Mike Gatto



Greetings from  
Sacramento!

### Film Tax Credit Helps Neighbors Get Back to Work

The film and television industries are an essential part of the California economy, especially in our neighborhoods. Thousands of people in my district are employed directly by these industries with thousands more working in related fields. In order to support this important economic engine, I co-authored a bill with my colleague, Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes, which extends the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program by an additional two years and \$200 million until July 1, 2017. I am happy to announce the governor signed the bill into law last month.

The original program was enacted in 2009 as part of a targeted effort to create jobs, increase production spending, and generate tax revenues for the State. Since the beginning of this program, it is estimated that \$728 million has been spent on local wages, to create an estimated 40,000 good jobs. An additional 172,000 individuals are estimated to have received daily employment as background extras. The tax credit can only be claimed after a film or television show has already been filmed, and an audit has taken place to prove that the expected jobs and economic development actually occurred in California. Thus far, the tax credits have resulted in almost four-billion dollars in economic activity statewide.

Putting people back to work is the most important thing we can do on the road to economic

recovery. Production projects that qualify for this tax credit will generate millions of dollars in wages and production expenditures, helping to keep and create thousands of middle-class jobs for Californians.

It is important that we make California competitive with other states in all industries. Film and television production are crucial to this area and to my constituents and neighbors. This legislation is for you.

If you have an idea for a law, or simply believe that the Legislature ought to change a law to make it more sensible, I'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at [assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov) or at 818-558-3043.

*Mike Gatto represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and parts of Montrose, La Crescenta, and Los Angeles, including Toluca Lake, Los Feliz, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village. He is the Chairman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. [www.asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://www.asm.ca.gov/gatto)*

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**From  
State Senator  
Carol Liu...**



**Sacramento Update**

**[Governor Signs  
More of Sen. Liu's Bills,  
Promises to Resolve Route 710](#)**

SACRAMENTO – Governor Jerry Brown signed bills authored by Sen Carol Liu to provide more revenue for local governments, help foster youth, and protect disabled patients in state-operated care centers as the 30-day period for signing '12 legislation came to a close.

Brown vetoed one of Sen. Liu's bills, which would have allowed the California Department of Transportation to sell properties that won't be needed for a State Route 710 extension, but wrote in his veto message that he "is committed to working with the author" to resolve this decades-long issue.

"Although I am disappointed in the veto, I look forward to working with the Governor's Office to finally deal with these state-owned homes," said Liu, D-La Canada Flintridge. "Everyone knows we will never build a freeway along this route, and the state needs to get out of the property management business."

Liu's SB 204 was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). The bill would have directed Caltrans to sell homes purchased more than 50 years ago for a planned Route 710 connector through Pasadena, South Pasadena, Los Angeles, and Alhambra. A recent State Auditor's Report showed the Department has consistently mismanaged the properties. In his veto message, Brown wrote that he considered the bill premature because an environmental report and Caltrans internal report are not finished. The veto message is at [leginfo.ca.gov](http://leginfo.ca.gov).

The Governor had until midnight September 30 to sign or veto legislation sent to him at the end of the legislative session in August. Brown signed a total of nine of Sen. Liu's bills sent to him during the year.

Brown also signed SB 1456, the Student Success Act, co-authored by Sen. Liu. This bill will improve graduation and transfer rates at California's 112 community colleges. The legislation directs critical support services to students beginning their community college educational experience to increase their prospects for success, including completing a two-year degree or transferring to a college or university. Other bills signed include:

**SB 954** gives cities or counties more chances

to collect revenues needed for local budgets. If a person or business wants to claim money from the state's Unclaimed Property Program – and that person or business owes money to a local government – the local government has the first right to collect the outstanding debt before property is released to the owner.

**SB 1319** makes changes to the Health and Safety and the Welfare and Institutions Codes relating to services for at-risk children and foster youth.

**SB 1051** requires the Department of State Hospitals and developmental centers within the Department of Developmental Services to report suspected abuse to designated agencies. This change will improve investigations at the state-run centers, which care for severely disabled persons. Liu, Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, earlier this year conducted a hearing that showed serious problems with criminal investigations by the state police force responsible for the centers.

**SB 1521** conforms state law with federal law to improve services for foster youth.

*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](http://www.senate.ca.gov/LIU).*



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



From Adam Schiff's  
Website

**Recent Jobs Report Shows  
Increase of 114,000 Jobs –  
Unemployment falls to 7.8%**

The September jobs report was released and showed signs that our economy is continuing to improve, but slowly. By adding 114,000 jobs in September, and revising the August jobs report from a weak increase of 96,000 jobs to a much stronger increase of 142,000 jobs, the unemployment rate dropped to 7.8%. The economy has now had 31 straight months of private sector job growth. Commenting on the report, Rep. Schiff said, "It is encouraging that our unemployment rate has dropped below 8% for the first time in almost four years, but too many people still remain out of work and there is much more to be done.

Unfortunately, the House Majority adjourned Congress without taking up important legislation to extend tax cuts for middle class families and to invest in manufacturing and green energy jobs here at home."

*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](http://www.house.gov/schiff).*

## Is There a Red Check on Your Address Label?

A red check (✓) on your address label on this Phoenix reminds you that we still haven't yet received your renewal check for ACT and/or ADC 2012! Please take the time to renew now. Hey, the year is almost over!

You can mail your check to ACT and/or ADC, P.O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074 – or - renew online at <http://www.actpasadena.org/>. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net) or 626-795-5255.



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Extra Contribution

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

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	ZIP
Email address	

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



**Calendar**

Oct 19 Friday 9 a.m. Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201.

Oct 21 Sunday 2-4 p.m. UDH Oktoberfest! Fundraiser at Hillmont, 939 N. Hill Ave., Pasadena.

Nov 2 Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 10/19.)

Nov 6 Tuesday Election Day. Vote and help get-out-the- vote at UDH, 519 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

Nov 8 Thursday 7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee and ADC Meeting at the home of Jeanette Mann, 2195 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena. Prog: Assemblyman Anthony Portantino. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Nov 9 Friday 10 a.m. SG Valley Democratic Women's Club Meeting at the Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa Street., Altadena. Program: Election analysis.

Nov 16 Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 10/19.)

