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Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters Celebrates Grand Opening

Let's Elect (and Re-elect) Good Democrats in November!!

Local Democrats joined elected officials for a rousing celebration of the grand opening of our Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) on Saturday, September 6. (We bet you were there and thanks for coming.) If you couldn't make the opening, no worries. There's plenty to be done - with your help. Sign up to volunteer for office work, phone banking, help with mailings, and more. And - as always - your financial support pays UDH bills and keeps it all going.

Our 603 N. Lake Avenue location at the SW corner of Lake Avenue and Earlham Street (just one door north of Kathleen's Restaurant) is easy to find and has plenty of parking (there are 3 dedicated parking spaces at the back door and access to more spaces in the adjoining lots, entered from Earlham or Lake.)



Photos courtesy of Al C. Strange



The dedicated staff: Campaign Coordinator, **Tom Dallas** and Volunteer Coordinator, **Ernesto Zumaya** have been on the job for nearly a month already. ACT's Judy Boggs Interns **Eleanor Green** and **Luis Antezana** are on board and working on all phases of UDH's activities while they learn about political campaigning first hand. The new UDH Fundraiser is **Elaine Cartas**. Our thanks to all. *Cont'd on page 2*

United Democratic Headquarters, *contd.*

Thanks also to **Bill Hackett**, our very able UDH Chair and to our UDH officers and committee members and volunteers as well.

About UDH

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October ACT Steering/ADC Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 7 p.m.

Our next meeting will be at the UDH, 603 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena. To celebrate Latino Heritage Month, ACT Steering Committee member Roberta Martinez is bringing us a special program and film. Please come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Our social time begins at 7 p.m.; the program and meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m.



A Look Back

Self-described grassroots Democratic activists, Jane and Tom Apostol, have written a reminiscence of the Adlai Stevenson Club of Altadena (later the Democratic Club of Altadena) from their memories and their personal archive of newsletters and clippings. "Grassroots Democratic Activism in Altadena, California in the Mid-Twentieth Century 1954 - 1976" appears in the Historical Society of Southern California's publication, Southern California Quarterly, Vol. 96, #3, Fall 2014, pp. 271-312.

Between them, Historian Jane and CalTech Mathematician Tom have authored a number of exceptional books. This article promises to be great reading.

Armenian Genocide Story Told at ACT September Meeting

ACT members at the September 4th meeting were impressed and touched by the story of the Armenian genocide as told by Dr. Kay Mouradian through her compelling documentary film, "My Mother's Voice." Dr. Mouradian's family was only 7 souls of the hundreds of thousands of Armenians forced out of their homes in Turkey in 1915, into the deserts of Syria, many dying along the way. Dr. Mouradian's mission is to increase awareness of the Genocide, especially in American public schools.



ACT Steering Committee to Discuss Calling for an Increase to Pasadena's Minimum Wage Ordinance

The ACT Issue Committee will present a proposal at the October 2 Steering Committee meeting calling on the City of Pasadena to raise its minimum wage and expand the existing ordinance to require all employers in the city to raise their minimum wage accordingly. The ordinance currently requires only contractors doing business with the municipal government to pay their employees a minimum of \$12.60 per hour. If the Steering Committee approves the Issues Committee proposal, it will be sent to ACT general membership for approval. All ACT members are invited to attend the October Steering Committee and provide input on this important issue.



Welcome New & Returning ACT Members:

Marcus Jones, Pasadena

Cesar Portillo, Pasadena



Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Two Brilliant Women

This week I cheerfully walked down to the Garden of Associates on the campus of Caltech and sat on the bench next to the bronze statue of Tenjin the famous 9th Century philosopher and scholar. He spoke up and said, “My, you seem to be in a good mood today. Did you win what you people call ‘The Lottery?’” “No Tenjin,” I replied. “I didn’t win the lottery, but I have just finished reading two very interesting books both authored by women. They are well worth the time to read them. Both women are active in the political life of the United States. One is a senator and the other is a former Secretary of State who retired sometime ago after serving for four years.

There are many similarities shared by these two women. They are both highly intelligent and highly educated. Both grew up attending the United Methodist Church. Both were outstanding high school students. Both did well in college and graduate school. Among other degrees both have law degrees. One grew up in semi-poverty. The other came from an upper middle class family. Both, for a time in their earlier years, were Republicans. Both switched and became Democrats. Both married and had children. Both had troubled marriages. One divorced her first husband, after having two children, and then remarried which continues today as a very successful marriage, and the other woman stuck it out with her one and only husband.

These two fascinating women have each written a book. I have just completed reading both of them, and I highly recommend them. They are quite different but both are about the successes and failures of this marvelous democratic country, the United States of

America. The two women are Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

The first of these two books is by Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. It is entitled, *A Fighting Chance* — and is semi biographical. It is the kind of book that when you start it you don’t want to put it down. It is so down to earth. One scene, written rather low key but packing a huge punch, is how she relates the end of her first marriage to Jim Warren. She married her high school boyfriend when she was 19. Jim thought he was getting a “stay at home” Mom who would take care of the children, cook the meals, wash the clothes, and generally support her husband’s career. In fact Elizabeth may have thought this was her role for a short time. But the call of advanced schooling and a career of her own took over. Her husband was a quiet man, but increasingly unhappy without spelling it out. One night at the kitchen table she looked at him and said, “Jim, are you unhappy?” Jim paused for a moment and replied, “Yes, I am unhappy.” Elizabeth followed up by saying, “Do you want a divorce?” He responded, “Yes, I do.” And that was that. So little and yet so much was said. She has kept Warren as her last name because of it being the last name of her two children.

Elizabeth followed her dream by becoming a university professor. Along the way she met Bruce Mann, a fellow professor. They fell in love and married in 1980. It has proven to be a very successful marriage. Both of them were professors at Harvard until Elizabeth was elected as a Senator from Massachusetts.

Because she grew up in poverty she has a remarkable compassion for the underdog and is dogged in her efforts to wipe out the special privileges that the wealthy sometimes appropriate for themselves. She has been at the forefront of legislation to protect one and all

Continued on page eight

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, September 9.

Now that Labor Day is gone, and Election Day is just 8 weeks away, the pollsters are seriously at work and the pundits are close behind. A raft of new polls generally have favored Republican candidates, and Nate Silver, who had reduced his forecast of a Republican takeover of the Senate from a 68% chance down to 52%, is now back up at 60%.

As cloudy and variable as the polling is, the one clear message is that there are a raft of very tight races out there. In North Carolina, the latest poll puts incumbent Democrat Kay Hagan one point behind her Republican challenger – well within the margin of error. In fact, of the 16 polls in North Carolina, dating back to January, 11 were within the 4 point margin of error. In Louisiana, every one of the last 6 polls have been within the 4 point margin of error, with the most recent poll by

the Rasmussen organization showing incumbent Mary Landrieu 3 points behind her Republican opponent (although the Rasmussen polls typically have shown a 3 – 4 point bias towards Republicans).

So look forward to a continued back and forth struggle, with Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina continuing to be neck and neck races. If Republicans want to win the Senate, they must win at least two of those three states.

At the same time, though, Alaska, Georgia and Kansas (yes, Kansas!) have suddenly turned into particularly intriguing races. Each has its own dynamics, but they share the fact that each has both a Senate and a Gubernatorial race, with the two races potentially reinforcing each other.

In Georgia, Jason Carter, President Carter's grandson and a State Senator in his own right, is opposing the Republican incumbent Governor Nathan Deal. Michelle Nunn, daughter of former Senator Sam Nunn who represented Georgia in the Senate for 24 years, is in a nip and tuck race for Senate; two of the three most recent polls put her ahead, but the most recent poll puts her behind (although it's an internet-based poll, which may be under representing minority voters). Carter was ahead but is now narrowly behind Governor Deal, although Deal continues to be dogged by charges that he interfered with an ethics investigation into his 2010 campaign. The key for both these campaigns could be boosting turnout among the minority community in Atlanta and Columbus, a task for which the two campaigns could coordinate their turnout efforts. My guess is that a huge effort will be made here, and I predict it will carry both Carter and Nunn into office.

In Alaska, everyone assumed the Senate race would be tough, given the Republican registration and Romney success in 2012. The Democratic incumbent, Nick Begich, trails by

2 points in the most recent Rasmussen poll (which typically has a Republican bias) but by 6 points in an internet poll. His opponent, Dan Sullivan, narrowly beat Tea Party favorite Joe Miller, but Sullivan is still pretty far out on the right wing of the party. In the Gubernatorial race, the Republican incumbent, Sean Parnell, had anticipated running against both a Democrat – Byron Mallot – and an independent candidate, Bill Walker. The Democrat wasn't really gaining much traction. But in a stunning move just last week, the Democrat withdrew from the race and agreed to join Walker's ticket as his Lt. Governor candidate. Walker dropped his membership in the Republican Party, and the Democratic Central Committee endorsed the Walker / Mallot ticket. Walker comes from the centrist / leftwing side of the Republican Party, and represents those traditional Republicans who have been feeling disenfranchised recently as the Tea Party elements have come to dominate the party.

Polls had put Parnell ahead of his two opponents, but if one

added the polling votes for Walker and Mallot, they would beat Parnell. Both Parnell and Sullivan represent the conservative side of the party, so Sen. Begich and the Walker / Mallot statehouse ticket may both benefit from a crossover vote from moderate Republicans. Adding to the equation are two ballot measures – one to increase the minimum wage, and one to legalize marijuana – which should amp up turnout particularly on the Democratic side, helping both our Gubernatorial and Senate candidates.

Finally, Kansas has suddenly become a center of interest. Incumbent Republican Pat Roberts, a conservative 3-term veteran conservative, narrowly survived a Tea Party challenge,



highlighted by charges that he doesn't really live in Kansas anymore and hardly ever returns to the state. After his primary, Roberts pretty much expected to coast to victory, despite (or perhaps because of) facing both a Democrat and a self-funded independent. So Roberts basically went on vacation and stopped campaigning, airing no TV ads even though the independent, Greg Orman, was running ads constantly.

The Democrat, Chad Taylor, was running well behind both Roberts and Orman. But last Tuesday, in a remarkably self-sacrificing decision, Taylor pulled out of the race and

asked that his name be dropped from the ballot. The latest poll now shows Orman one point ahead of Roberts, with Taylor still garnering 10% support, despite his withdrawal. The Republican Secretary of State has decided not to allow Taylor to pull his name off the ballot, but Taylor is challenging that in court. Even if his name remains on the ballot, by Election Day pretty much all the Democrats will know to vote for Orman, who

also just received endorsements from a slew of moderate Republicans.

At the same time, incumbent Rep. Governor Sam Brownback, an extreme uber-Tea Party type, is facing an unexpectedly tough race against Democrat Paul Davis. The most recent internet poll showed Brownback well ahead, but the most recent live-voter poll showed Davis well ahead. The fact that incumbent Republicans may lose their races, in solidly red Kansas, stems from the hard-core approach Brownback and his allies took over the last few years, purging moderate Republicans from the State Legislature and taking a very hard-core approach to cutting school funding to allow dramatic tax cuts, which led

to rulings from the State Supreme Court that the Kansas school system was being grossly underfunded. The traditional Bob Dole wing of the party was emasculated by the Tea Party folks, leading over 100 Republican politicians (including former State House Speakers, Senate Presidents, Lt. Governors, and a former state party Chair) to endorse Democrat Paul Davis.

Greg Orman has consistently refused to say which party he would caucus with in the Senate, expressing dissatisfaction with both Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, but his positions are far more centrist than the GOP caucus. After graduating from Princeton and spending a few years at McKinsey, he started several small businesses that became wildly successful. He's running as an entrepreneur who wants to bring common sense to Washington. My guess is that both Orman and Davis will win in Kansas, and the Reps will come up short in their effort to win the Senate.

Here in California, things are less exciting. The most recent polling predicts victories for the nearly the entire Democratic ticket – only Supt. Of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson is slightly behind his opponent Marshall Tuck (although a whopping 41% of the voters were undecided in that race, far more than in any other statewide race). Those results are somewhat of double-edged sword: it's good to be ahead, but it also adds to the complacency of Democratic voters state-wide, which could lead to lower turnouts and a more Republican electorate that most pollsters have been predicting. So these rosy predictions notwithstanding, we need to keep working to ensure a strong turnout on Election Day.

There are just a few ballot measures on the November ballot, none of which are terribly exciting. The one that might have stimulated the most interest on the left – an advisory vote asking for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the Citizens' United decision allow-

ing unlimited spending on campaigns – was taken off the ballot by a judge questioning the legality of advisory measures that have no force of law. The water bond, a \$7 billion bond for increased water storage, is perhaps the most important issue, particularly as we are in the midst of an historic drought. Also, a Constitutional Amendment would create a rainy day fund, generally a good idea, although it is somewhat muddled by the inclusion of a rule limiting the size of budgetary reserves local school districts can maintain, which seems like somewhat of a dumb idea, but perhaps not dumb enough to have voters reject the whole measure.

The first of the initiative measures is Prop. 45, which would require changes to health insurance premiums to be approved by the Insurance Commissioner. The Commissioner already must approve home and auto insurance rates, and that process seems to be working reasonably well. Covered California, the California exchange for Obamacare, believes there might be some conflicts between affordable care rules and this Proposition, but in general it seems harmless to me.

Prop. 46, by contrast, is a rather bald-faced effort to quadruple the limit on non-economic damages (also called pain and suffering awards) in medical malpractice cases. That may or may not be a good idea (the increased cap simply reflects inflation since it was first enacted in 1975), but the sponsors have tried to cloak the essence of the bill by including supposed drug testing for physicians and a requirement to check a state-wide database to prevent prescription abuse. It's hard to recall a more transparent effort to use seemingly apple-pie reforms (even though they are relatively toothless) to disguise a significant – and controversial – change to a statute in place since 1975 that seems to have been working well.

Prop. 47 is perhaps the most interesting, in

that it would classify as misdemeanors certain low-level crimes that prosecutors now have discretion to charge either as felonies or as misdemeanors. Further, some people convicted of such felonies could apply to have their sentences reduced to the misdemeanor level. Individuals previously convicted of violent crimes would be excluded from consideration under this measure. While the day to day impact of this measure would be modest (although welcomed in most cases), the really interesting impact is that the number of state prison inmates potentially eligible for reduced sentencing under this measure is apparently close to the number of inmates the Governor may be required to release under the Federal court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. This may be Gov. Brown's secret "get out of jail" card so he can avoid simply releasing 9,000 inmates and take the political heat that would inevitably result from such a process, however justifiable the results may have been.

Lastly, Prop. 48 is a referendum that seems numbingly dull, but disguises a key question: should Indian tribes be allowed to buy land off their reservation and build casinos on that land? This is the first instance where a tribe has bought land away from its reservation and sought to build a casino on that land. If this is allowed, it would seem that there are no limits on where Indian tribes could build casinos, which not surprisingly has raised all sorts of interesting opposition. Look for lots of money to be spent on this one, however dull and obscure it may seem.

Here in Pasadena we finally had some big news for our municipal elections next year. After 16 years, Bill Bogaard, Pasadena's first and only city-wide elected mayor is retiring. His tenure has defined an era of civility and relative tranquility in Pasadena politics, though a variety of issues are bubbling in the background. Perhaps most troubling of those is the relationship between Pasadena's police

force and the minority community. The City already negotiated a million-dollar settlement in the Kendrick McDade case, but now is withholding the independent report on the incident lest the report impinge on the privacy rights of the police officers involved. The City's reluctance to release even a redacted version of the report that purges any mention of the officers involved, their personal histories, or their personnel records seems both a remarkable stretch and an insult to the minority community. Pasadena has prided itself in recent years on its sensitivity to and inclusion of minority groups, but this issue, and continued examples of what some see as police misconduct, has been straining the relationships established over some decades.

These more volatile issues are now added to the traditional issues of growth and traffic, development and jobs, taxes and the fair use of the Rose Bowl as election issues. Councilmember Terry Tornek is already knee-deep in his Mayoral campaign, and he has the advantage that he is not up for re-election to the Council in 2015. Will Councilmember Madison take the plunge as well? Madison has to choose between running for Mayor or re-election to District 6 (or perhaps retirement, as he has served 16 years just like the Mayor).

But it is the School Board races that may be rocked by an unexpected issue – what to do about excess capacity in the School District. On Thursday, Sept. 11, the PUSD Board will have a study session to look at demographic trends within the district and to rationalize attendance boundaries that define neighborhood schools. Census data present rather incontrovertible evidence of the reduction in school age population within the PUSD service area (and in Southern California generally). From the year 2000 to 2010, the number of school age children dropped by 5,000, going from 32,000 to 28,000. That trend will continue through at least the year 2020. PUSD's

market share – the percentage of children going to public schools vs. charter, parochial or private schools – has remained relatively steady; at 55% or thereabouts, it is lower than our surrounding communities or the statewide average, but has been relatively consistent over the last 20 years.

The continuing decline in the overall school age population means that our school district has substantial excess capacity. The demographic consultants advising the District suggest that up to 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school could be closed.

These numbers could change a bit; the Celerity charter school, for instance, suddenly closed, and a good number of its 300 students will likely find their way into PUSD schools. But from a high level, the District can foresee significant, continuing overcapacity, and that excess of space carries with it a cost -- funds that could be spent on other academic priorities.

The Board is not likely to settle upon a direction at its study session on 9/11, but it will probably address the issue before the end of the year. The issue could well play a large part in PUSD elections. School closures were always a hot topic, but now, with sub-district elections and individual Board members “representing” schools within their district, the issue becomes even more complicated. Most observers recognize that Pasadena’s open-enrollment policy means students can attend any school in the district, and nearly half the elementary students attend a school other than their neighborhood school. This further complicates decisions, as do traditional loyalties to each of the high schools and middle schools.

So next year’s municipal elections may well be rather more exciting than usual.

-- Jon Fuhrman

Inman Moore, *continued from page three*

in the open marketplace. She was the principal player in the establishment of the *U. S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*. The name of her book comes from the fighting chance we should give the underdogs of America. When she was elected to the Senate she was known as one of the foremost bankruptcy lawyers in America and she is constantly working to avoid many of the bankruptcies forced on the poor and lower middle class.

Hillary Clinton’s book, *Hard Choices*, is a must read. It is a much bigger book than Warren’s, and will take some time to read. While there are many autobiographical articles, it is basically a diary of her four years as Secretary of State, and it is fascinating. She has rubbed shoulders with all the “high and mighty” of the world. The difficult task of working for peace can drive one to distraction and the choices are not easy.

Her covering of the Benghazi incident is remarkable. It is like a “whodunit” tale in the midst of other interesting events. Little remembered in the entire furor is that the commission appointed to arrive at what really happened came back with the opinion that the overriding passion of that evening in Benghazi was caused by a video put out by a Florida pastor belittling Mohammed. Everyone should read this segment of Hillary’s book.

Well, Tenjin, you have been very patient with me today and I thank you for it. Your country of Japan and our country have never had a woman leading the government. But that may be about to change in America. A most remarkable thing is happening. The two leading possibilities for the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate in 2016 are women. Neither one has announced and Senator Warren says she is definitely not running. But “definitely not” in politics can change overnight. Two women and which shall we

choose? I could enthusiastically vote for either one. However, if the election were tomorrow, my choice would be Senator Elizabeth Warren. But, then, another tomorrow may be a different story. Goodbye Tenjin until another day!"

-- Inman Moore



Reception/Fundraiser for Betty Yee for State Controller, Oct. 17

Please join us in sponsoring a wonderful garden reception in support of Hon. Betty Yee for State Controller. As you know, the length of time it took to declare Betty as our Democratic Primary Winner has severely condensed the election and fundraising time before the November general election. The great news is, Betty Yee is a terrific candidate with impressive financial credentials. However, she faces significant competition from a strong Republican challenger.

We need your financial help to secure Betty's important victory in November!!!! Please consider one of the following sponsorship levels and join us on October 17. Platinum \$4,000 - Gold \$2,500 - Silver \$1,000 - Bronze \$500 - Copper \$250 - Individual \$75

October 17th, 7-9 pm at the home of Lisa and David Boyd, 1510 Chelton Way, South Pasadena, CA 91030. Contact Lisa Boyd at 818-231-8883 or at nedohr2077@me.com.



ACT Coalition Building-Outreach Committee Report

Next meeting of the Coalition Building-Outreach Committee will be on Tuesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m., at John McClean's home, 244 E. Howard, Pasadena. The primary discussion will be on coalition-building on immigration and outreach to the Chinese-

American community with Pasadena immigration attorney Justin Lum our guest. Other agenda item will include coalition building on economic inequality and environmental issues, affordable housing, the 710 freeway, and police issues.

Affordable housing: Michelle White became a member of the Coalition-Building and Outreach Committee. She will be the Committee's point person in coalition building on affordable housing. Besides being the immediate past president of the Pasadena-Foothill Chapter of the ACLU and one of the organizers of the coalition on police oversight, Michelle is the Director of the not-for-profit Affordable Housing Services.

Economic inequality/increased minimum wage coalition and minimum wage issue: Mark Meier and Ed Washatka anticipate submitting a proposal for the expansion of the Pasadena minimum wage ordinance to all employers and an increase in its minimum wage to the Issues Committee and are interfacing with others interested in the issue.

Environmental coalition-building: Barbara Paul continues to reach out on environmental issues and to assess opportunities for coalition building on environmental issues, including opposition to fracking and support for the City's environmental strategic plan.

Police oversight: The July 22 debate on the Police Auditor proposal moderated by Anthony Portantino drew nearly 100 people for a spirited debate.

In light of the Ferguson debacle, the Committee discussed the **issue of militarization of police departments, including the Pasadena PD**. We're going to explore a discussion with Police Chief Sanchez on that subject at a Steering Comm. meeting and/or at the Progressive Discussion Group. We're ascertaining Chief Sanchez' willingness and availability.

ACT joins the suit against the City of Pasadena over non-disclosure of the McDade Shooting OIR report

For the second time in its 41 year history, ACT is going to court.

The Steering Committee on September 4 unanimously voted to authorize ACT to file suit to force the City to disclose the Office of Independent Review ("OIR") report on the Pasadena PD shooting of Kendric McDade.

When the OIR report was commissioned, both the OIR head Michael Gennaco and Police Chief Sanchez publicly promised transparency and public disclosure of the report. But after the City had paid more than a million dollars to settle the wrongful death lawsuit by McDade's heirs, City Manager Michael Beck began waffling and indicated only the recommendations would be released. Then on August 21, City attorney Michelle Bagneris invited the Pasadena Police Officers Association ("PPOA") to file suit to block the release, which the PPOA obligingly did.

ACT members Skip Hickambottom and Dale Gronemeier are representing ACT, the NAACP, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance ("IMA"), as well as McDade's mother and ACT member Kris Ockershauser in prosecuting the lawsuit. Their services are pro bono. ACT is contributing \$500 for court expenses.

The Steering Committee acted pursuant to §V-C of ACT's bylaws which authorizes the Steering Committee to make policy decision by a 3/4 vote "where time or other factors do not permit consultation with the General Membership."

The unanimous vote, of course, more than satisfied the requirements of §V-C.

The only other time that ACT participated in a lawsuit was 35 years ago when ACT joined

with the NAACP, the IMA, and 10 other community organizations to sue the City because its at-large election run-off system for City Council seats was racially-discriminatory and wealth-discriminatory. ACT member Dale Gronemeier was the lead attorney prosecuting that lawsuit under the aegis of the ACLU of Southern California.

-- Dale Gronemeier



Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month at 9 a.m. at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

Come join the discussion and the fun. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or Email inmanmoore3@gmail.com for additional information.



October Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the October *Phoenix* will be Sunday, October 5. Please send your items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. Mailing preparation will be Thursday, October 9 at Chuck Hains' house, 1391 La Solana Dr., Altadena at 7 p.m. **Mailers, please verify location and date with Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 before coming.**



Wanted! A Pic of you in a Special Place

Where did you go on your vacation? Please send your high-resolution picture to Chuck at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. There's no need to carry your Phoenix with you.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

It was a whirlwind final week of the 2014 legislative session culminating with seven of my bills being passed by the Legislature and on their way to Governor Brown. We accomplished a lot in the final days including passing legislation that would guarantee at least three days of paid sick leave to millions of California workers, passing the state's historic groundwater management regulations, and banning single-use plastic bags.

I joined Attorney General Kamala Harris in authoring a truancy bill to address chronic absenteeism in schools. I want to make sure we keep our kids in the classroom and out of the courtroom. I also worked with the League of California Cities and Assemblymembers Bonilla and Gomez in crafting legislation to help regulate massage businesses. City officials came to me saying their hands were tied when it came to regulating massage parlors, especially those thought to be fronts for prostitution. That bill and one I co-authored with Senator Holly Mitchell will help to stop the growing problem of human trafficking that has made California one of the primary targets of these criminal enterprises. I've been working on this legislation for two years ever since I learned that criminal gangs were preying on thousands of young girls and boys.

I am also very proud to report that Governor Brown has already signed my legislation calling on the State Board of Education to include the significance of President Barack Obama's election in the state's history and social

science standards for grades seven to twelve. The state's history-social science standards haven't been revised in nine years due largely to the state's fiscal crisis. The next review begins soon and adoption of instructional materials will not take place until the 2015-2016 school year.

In a year marked by scandal in the Legislature, lawmakers sent a package of wide-ranging political reform bills requiring more disclosure on who pays for public officials' trips, lowering the value of gifts those officials may receive and requiring politicians to file campaign finance statements more often. Other bills to change campaign fundraising rules and requiring political advertisements to display their top donors, stalled in the final hours of the session.

Governor Brown has until the end of September to sign or veto these measures. In the meantime, I will be visiting city and town councils throughout the district to give a further update on the legislative session. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Chris Holden

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



ACTpasadena.org

Check our new and updated web page and read ***ThePhoenix*** online at ACTpasadena.org. (The online version is usually available soon after the mailed version arrives.) The online ***Phoenix*** is in **color** and often has items that we didn't have room for in the print version.

The web-site manager Bruce Wright requests that you send your comments and suggestions to brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

**From
43rd District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

State's Sacred Sites Should Be Preserved

Like everything else, protecting cultural treasures requires conscious effort and persistent attention. But the feeling of satisfaction in knowing that you have helped preserve a historic cultural, political, or societal landmark can only be described as monumental. And let's face it; California struggles to preserve the last remnants of its pre-Columbian, Native American past. Recently, thieves stole carvings from an unprotected sacred site on the Volcanic Tableland, north of Bishop, and developers have sought to place everything from dumps to housing developments to granite mines near, or on top of, ancient sacred sites.

That's why I'm so proud to share with you that after nearly two years of advocacy and negotiation, my legislation to protect and preserve sacred Native American landmarks is headed to the Governor's desk. The legislation, AB 52, would ensure that tribes have a say in development projects that affect tribal sacred places and cultural resources, by strengthening the consultation standards with tribes under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Currently, tribes are not treated as coherent sovereign entities under CEQA, but instead as mere members of the public, even if wishing to express a unified opinion about a site which has been a unique part of the tribe's heritage for thousands of years. Efforts to reform CEQA, prevent abuse, and create uniformity

have stalled, in part, because of concerns by Native Americans that a streamlined CEQA would provide lesser protections for sacred sites.

Native peoples deserve protections for sites that are a part of their ancient heritage. Efforts to maintain them must be considered an essential activity in the preservation of our state's historic resources. If we don't do something to address this, future generations will wonder what happened to California's pre-Columbian heritage. By including tribes in the decision-making process, we will build better relations between cultures and can protect and preserve California's Native American heritage.

Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the California State Assembly and the joint-author the 2014 Water Bond. He represents Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Atwater Village, East Hollywood, Franklin Hills, Hollywood Hills, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake. Follow him on Twitter @MikeGatto or visit him at www.asm.ca.gov/gatto



Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Rev. George & Mary Regas, Pasadena



**Research Comittee Meeting Regarding
Ballot Propositions**

There will be a meeting of the full research committee and any other interested members to discuss the propositions on the November ballot and make any recommendations we agree on to the steering committee at the October meeting. The meeting will take place at 654 South Madison Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101, on Saturday, September 27, at 9 am. Breakfast will be provided so please RSVP a day or two ahead.

--Marilee Marshall

Fracking Failure

By John Grula, reprinted from the
Pasadena Weekly with permission



The inability of lawmakers to enact a fracking moratorium is the latest example of Big Oil's political power

Well, folks, any hope for getting California's state government to pass legislation that declares a moratorium on fracking (hydraulic fracturing) is effectively dead for this year. Democratic state Sen. Holly Mitchell's fracking moratorium bill, SB 1132, died on the Senate floor on May 28 when it fell three votes short of the majority needed for approval.

Fracking is a highly controversial oil and natural gas extraction technique that uses huge amounts of water mixed with chemicals and sand to blast open nonporous rock formations deep underground. The method releases oil and gas, but also poses a wide array of threats to human and environmental health. The rationale for a fracking moratorium was to halt the procedure until more studies are conducted to ensure it can be done without causing harm.

To her great credit, Pasadena's state Senator Carol Liu, a Democrat, voted "yes" on SB 1132. She deserves thanks and congratulations. However, the bill was killed on the Senate floor (after being passed by three different Senate committees) when five spineless Senate Democrats failed to vote on the bill, thus depriving it of the majority vote it could have otherwise achieved. Three other Democratic Senators did not vote on SB 1132 because they have recently been suspended from the Senate for alleged criminal offenses.

The voters don't send politicians to Sacramento to not vote (abstain) on important pieces of legislation. We expect our elected representatives to do their homework, make principled

decisions and cast their votes either up or down while bills make their way through committees and on to the floors of the Senate and Assembly. Plus, in this case, the five Senate Democrats who abstained can't claim they were simply neutral on SB 1132. Their failure to vote was effectively a "no" vote and the legislation died because it was deprived of majority support.

According to the Los Angeles Times, a recent statewide poll found that 68 percent of Californians support a fracking moratorium, and a majority would be more likely to vote for a legislator who supports such a measure. So how do we explain the failure of our state government to enact a moratorium on fracking for two years in a row? Gee, do you think it could have something to do with money?

For years Big Oil has poured big money into lobbying California legislators and providing them with campaign cash. For example, last year the Western States Petroleum Association ranked first in lobbying spending, \$4.7 million, and Chevron was close behind, spending \$4 million, according to the Times. As a result, Big Oil has a stranglehold on our state government, and many of our elected representatives follow its dictates while ignoring their constituents. The failure of our state government to put in place a fracking moratorium is just the latest example.

And the five cowardly Senate Democrats who failed to vote on SB 1132? It turns out they have received substantially more campaign money from the oil industry than supporters of the bill. Specifically, the five Democrats who abstained from voting have received, on average, 4.5 times more campaign cash from Big Oil than the Democrats who supported SB 1132, according to the Times.

According to a report released in April by California Common Cause and the ACCE Institute, "Big Oil Floods the Capital," one Demo-

cratic senator who abstained on SB 1132 has accepted \$26,481 from Big Oil. In stark contrast, the main sponsor of SB 1132, Senator Mitchell, has accepted no donations from Big Oil. Surprise, surprise.

Because SB 1132 has died for now in the Senate (it might be re-introduced next year with a new number), apparently no legislation on a fracking moratorium will be taken up by the state Assembly. So, Pasadena's representative in that chamber, Chris Holden, will be temporarily spared the agony of having to vote on this issue. As he will soon become the Assistant Majority Floor Leader in the Assembly, and thus No. 3 in the Democratic chain of command, Holden will wield considerable influence.

In the meantime, the "Big Oil Floods the Capital" report lists Mr. Holden as having accepted \$7,100 from the oil industry in 2013. Maybe that does not sound like much, but 2013 is the first year Holden has served in the Assembly. At the rate he's going, and if he remains in state government for more than a decade in either the Assembly or the Senate, he could easily zoom to the top of the "Big Oil" list.

Now that the US Energy Information Administration has slashed by 96 percent an earlier estimate of the amount of recoverable oil from California's vast Monterey shale deposits, as the Times has reported, this might shrink the oil industry in California and reduce its corrupting influence. And, if we're lucky, it may also quench the flames of fracking fever.

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



UDH OKTOBERFEST! Fundraiser



– Sunday, October 19, 1-3 p.m. at Hillmont House

Save the date! UDH Oktoberfest 2014, the big fundraising event for our Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters will be on Sunday, October 19. Don't miss it. This is the best way to support our UDH and it's always a fun get-together for local Democrats.

UDH Committee members will be helping to solicit sponsorship money in the coming weeks.

Sponsor-ships are \$1,000, \$500, \$250, and \$125. Please be as generous as you can. Many thanks for your vital volunteer help and financial support. See you at UDH soon.



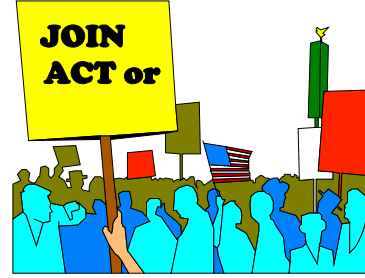
NOTE: To sponsor Oktoberfest, contact UDH Fundraiser Elaine Cartas at 909-239-7241 or elcartas@gmail.com.



Anthony Portantino, Felicia Williams, and Congresswoman Judy Chu at UDH opening.

2014 Membership Bargain – Half Price for Remainder of Year

Have you renewed your 2014 ACT and/or ADC membership? A **red** check on your address label on this Phoenix tells you we have not yet received your membership dues. Join or renew for the remainder of 2014 at bargain half price rates (half of what you see on the form below). Please use the form and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626-795-5255.



P.S. Thanks to all who have already renewed. You keep us going.

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

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| <p>Sept.19
Friday
9 a.m.</p> | <p>Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201.</p> | <p>Oct 2
Thursday
7 p.m.</p> | <p>ACT/ADC Meeting at Pasadena UDH, 603 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Latino Heritage Month program. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.</p> |
| <p>Sept 23
Tuesday
7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Coalition Building – Outreach Committee meeting at the home of John Melean, 244 E. Howard, Pasadena.</p> | <p>Oct 3
Friday</p> | <p>Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 9/19.</p> |
| <p>Sept 27
Saturday
9 a.m.</p> | <p>Research Committee Meeting regarding ballot propositions at 654 South Madison Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101, Breakfast will be provided so please RSVP.</p> | <p>October 4
Saturday
8 am – Noon</p> | <p>ACT table and distribution of ACT voter's guide at farmers market, organized by Coalition-Building and Outreach Comm. Contact dlg@dgronemeier.com.</p> |
| | | <p>Oct 5
Sunday eve</p> | <p>The <i>Phoenix</i> deadline. Send items to Hains27@SBCGlobal.net.</p> |
| | | <p>Oct 17
Friday</p> | <p>Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 9/19.</p> |
| | | <p>Oct 19
Sunday
1-3 p.m.</p> | <p>UDH OKTOBERFEST 2014 Fundraiser at Hillmont House, 939 N. Hill Ave., Pasadena.</p> |



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