



The Official Publication of ACT

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

the phoenix
On-Line

Volume 52
Number 3
March, 2024

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



Next ACT and PADC Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m.

At the home of
Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright
654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena



Everyone is welcome at this ACT Steering/Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club meeting. Come for socializing at 7 p.m., with the business meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

Our program is the **Pasadena Charter Task Force**. Guest speaker will be **Ken Chawkins**, Chair of the Charter Task Force.

Ann Marie Hickambottom will preside for ACT; Tim Wendler for PADC.



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman

Tuesday, March 19.

So, it's official. President Joe Biden, and former President Donald Trump, will be our two Presidential nominees – much to the surprise of just about no one. Pollsters have been telling us for months that large majorities of American voters

don't want to see a rematch. Yet, in multiple primaries where voters actually had a chance to pick someone else, they didn't.

To be fair, on the Republican side, Nikki Haley made a decent run at it. She almost won one state – Vermont – and was racking up a pretty consistent 20 – 30% share of the GOP voters. But that got her barely a handful of delegates. On the Democratic side, President Biden was routinely winning at least 85%, and sometime well over 90%, of the primary vote cast, margins large enough to make Vladimir Putin jealous.

So where were all those folks who wanted some other choices? Were they lying to the pollsters? Just blowing off steam? Did they all simply stay

home?

Probably many did just stay home. Turnout was pretty low for all the primary elections so far (here in California we barely got to 34%, with Los Angeles at a pathetic 29%). It makes sense that folks who felt disconnected and unsatisfied with the two leading nominees wouldn't bother to vote, especially if there were no other candidate who might plausibly have won. Also, there was probably a group of voters in each party who felt their own guy was fine, but it was the other guy that shouldn't run again.

Mostly, though, I think it points to the inherent unreliability of polls that ask these sorts of questions but then fail to dig deeper. Yes, there are lots of voters who disapprove of Joe Biden's conduct in office. But of those voters, how many are Democrats? How many want him to do even more to end the conflict in Gaza, or even more to combat social injustices, or to go after corporate polluters and overpaid CEO's? Among those voters, unhappy with Biden, how many are inclined to actually pull the trigger and vote for Trump, or not vote at all, or vote for a third-party candidate? And among those, how many will, eventually, as the specter of a Trump Presidency draws close, waver in their discontent and end up metaphorically coming home and voting Democratic?

My sense is that Donald Trump has far more to worry about on this score than Joe Biden. Those voters who went off the reservation to vote for Nikki Haley are not likely to wander back. Theirs was no spur of the moment choice; I think they, or at least many of them, are profoundly disconcerted by Trump and deeply disconnected. They may not vote for Biden, but they certainly won't vote for Trump. And even half that number, in tightly contested battleground states, is



enough to sink the Trump candidacy. (Interestingly, in early exit polling from today's Ohio primary election, from 20% to 30% of the GOP voters continue to oppose Trump, with half of those saying they will vote for Joe Biden in November, and the others saying they will vote for neither candidate; in Ohio, that would be more than enough to sink the GOP ticket.)

Further, if that weren't enough, Trump seems bound and determined to continue inflicting self-harm. His latest comments about a "bloodbath"

if he is not re-elected were not a description of what might happen, they were clearly a call to action, and might even be grounds for indictment for incitement to violence. The Trump nation seems immune to arguments that democracy is at stake. They simply don't see that; they think their democratic rights will be protected by Trump, it's only the other folks, who after all don't really deserve the protection of the law, who will be persecuted and prosecuted (along with the members of the Congressional January 6th Committee) when Trump takes office.

But there do seem to be cracks developing in the Trump machine. Former Vice-President Pence declared rather loudly (although he got only 4 minutes of coverage on Fox News) that he would not endorse or vote for Trump. In Ohio, the incumbent GOP Governor, Mike DeWine, and former GOP Senator, Rob Portman, have had the audacity to endorse a Senate candidate running against the anointed Trump candidate. Perhaps most telling, though, is that the grass-roots donations which fueled Trump's campaign seem to be lagging. The Trump Presidential Committee reported \$24 million in donations in the third quarter of 2023, roughly the same number as President Biden's committee. But in the 4th quarter of

last year, Trump's donations fell to \$18.5 million, while President Biden's total soared to \$33 million.

With the beginning of 2024, Presidential campaigns are now required to report finances monthly, instead of quarterly. In January 2024, Trump's main committee took in \$9 million, but Biden raised nearly \$16 million. The disparities for February and March are likely to be even greater, with Biden reporting nearly \$10 million received just on the day he delivered the State of the Union address.

It's true that Presidential campaign finances are complicated, with each side having multiple joint coms with other candidates and the national committees, so these figures don't necessarily tell the full story. Nonetheless, with Trump continuing to rely on campaign and national committees to pay many of his legal bills, his fundraising deficit is becoming acute, and perhaps suggestive of a weakening of his vaunted base.

This may be starting to show up in the polling, as well. Two polls over the weekend showed Biden tied or ahead of Trump, in contrast to the constant stream of battleground state polls that have been showing Biden uniformly behind Trump. Individual Democratic candidates, like Sens. John Tester in Montana and Sherrod Brown in Ohio, are leading in early polling despite being in tough red states. Reuben Gallegos, running in Arizona to take over Kyrsten Sinema's seat seems to have a modestly comfortable lead over the crazy election-denying Kari Lake.

So, I remain pretty optimistic about November. The Biden campaign has already begun opening 100 local offices in battleground areas and staffing up for a robust ground effort to complement the national advertising. I suspect there will be extensive coordination with key Senate and House candidates; Biden knows acutely how critical it is to control both Houses of Congress, and I suspect, more than we have typically seen, this

election will show the Presidential campaign focusing on coattails and down ballot races.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Campaign Position Available in Southern California

The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) is an independent expenditure campaign organization not affiliated with the California Democratic Party or the Democratic National Committee.

<http://pasadenademocrats.com>

We Offer: A large and experienced volunteer base, a history of successful elections, a diverse population with a large voter target, and a dedicated Steering Committee. Compensation commensurate with experience.

We Seek: Campaign Coordinator: Seasoned campaign leader to develop and implement local voter outreach, including voter registration, phone banking, precinct walking and GOTV as well as to recruit volunteers to help in targeted districts outside our immediate boundaries.

In consultation with the UDH Steering Committee, the Coordinator will develop and implement a campaign plan designed to deliver victory for state and federal candidates. The plan will include deadlines for reaching goals with periodic progress reports to Steering Committee. Must be able to manage social media and virtual aspects of campaign; supervise consultants, interns and volunteers; implement voter contact goals; create a positive working environment; manage day-to-day operations in conformance with an established budget; supervise the volunteer recruitment operation and the get out the vote of identified Democratic supporters in the targeted area; oversee handling of monies; assist the Fund-raising Consultant; supervise retail merchandising efforts and keep headquarters open according to

established schedule. Reports to UDH Steering Committee.

Compensation commensurate with experience. April 1, 2024 starting date.

Please send letter and resume to mmlegal@bcglobal.net. No phone calls please.



UDH News

With the March primary behind us, we at the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) are turning our attention to the all-important November elections. We have a number of excellent Democratic candidates for federal, state and local offices, and the UDH will be working hard to elect them. Our campaign efforts will include phone and text banking, canvassing, postcarding and staffing our UDH brick-and-mortar headquarters.

We will be emphasizing the House races in California as well as the Senate races in Nevada and Arizona. The House races are particularly important since success in California will go a long way to flipping the House from red to blue. The incumbent Republicans in California are MAGA loyalists and have been following the lead of Trump and other Republican leaders on issues from reproductive choice, immigration, voting rights and a host of other issues. Every single California Republican, for example, voted to impeach the Homeland Security Secretary, which is an indication of where their allegiances are.

The UDH is still working on its timetable for hiring staff and setting up headquarters, but we expect that by early summer we should be well on our way, and by the time of the Democratic National Convention in July, we will be in full swing. In the meantime, we will keep you posted

about current local events and volunteer opportunities on our website, pasadenademocrats.com.

On to victory in November!!

~ Hoyt Hilsman,
Chair UDH Steering Committee



ACT/PADC Reps to UDH



More changes of the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club representatives to the Pasadena United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) Steering Committee: Marilee Marshall is now UDH Personnel Chair, (assisted by Jeanette Mann who has chaired the Personnel Committee for many previous years.) Teresa Lamb Simpson will fill the PADC rep spot vacated by Marilee. Mona Field has agreed to be our fourth PADC rep spot, created by the death of our dear friend, Jeanne Register. (Our other two reps are Sally Beer and Ron Garber.)



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



I know I'm preaching to the choir, and you don't have to be coerced into voting in November, but perhaps you can be frightened into doing so much more. It's not inconceivable that Trump, despite losing the popular vote to President Biden by many millions of votes, could eek out an electoral college victory and despite the massive registration advantage for the Democrats, the Republicans, due to gerrymandering, could hold on to the House. Due to the fact that the Constitution allocates two Senators to each state regardless of population, and a disproportionate number of states with very few voters are located in Republican regions, also favors them. On top of that

the Democrats in this particular cycle have to defend many more seats than do the Republicans and the current Senate breakdown is 50/50 with Vice President Harris setting the all-time record for breaking ties. Bottom line they only need to hold their seats and flip just a single Democratic seat. West Virginia is a given.

I have no doubt that if everything goes wrong in November it would flip back massively in 2026, but by then so much damage could be done in the first two years of Trump's final administration that this country would never look the same. You might be heartened by the fact that it takes 60 votes in the Senate to pass legislation and Democrats refused to change that rule when it would have benefited them, because such a change would inevitably come around to hurt them in the future when Republicans had recaptured both houses. While Republicans probably feel the same way, does anyone believe that President Trump cares anything about the future beyond his 4 years? There's precedent for such a change; Harry Reid changed the 60-vote requirement to a simple majority in the confirmation process for Federal Judges and other Presidential appointments with the exception of the Supreme Court and Mitch McConnell changed it again to include the Supreme Court.

Speaking of the Supreme Court, they could be the moderating checks and balances voice of reason, but that ship's already sailed thanks to McConnell at the end of President Obama's second term and Trump's appointments during his term. It wouldn't surprise me if Justice Thomas retired in the first 2 years of Trump's second administration so Trump could solidify his MAGA legacy with an equally ultra-conservative-philosophy Justice, but one with many, many more years to serve.

You only have to use your imagination to picture what would happen with a Trump Presidency where he controls literally all the levers of government.

What am I asking of you? I can envision a House of Representatives with a one seat majority and believe it or not flipping a single seat might just be the ticket to saving the country. Speaking as one of your four representatives to the United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) steering committee, which is supported by seven Democratic clubs in the Pasadena environs, I'm very impressed with their plans to flip local Republican seats in the House of Representatives, especially the 27th district where George Whitesides will be our Democratic candidate. That district is close enough for Pasadena volunteers to do door to door canvassing, A UDH brick and mortar headquarters in Pasadena will open this summer where you can volunteer to phone bank, write post cards, text, recruit, stuff envelopes, do computer input, feed fellow volunteers, sell election apparel and probably a half dozen other things. The other thing, just as important, is money and contributions to candidate Whitesides, President Biden and the UDH - all would help the cause.

From this edition through October's this column will be devoted to the UDH's efforts and volunteering opportunities for you.

~ Ron out



Postcarding!

There's more to do in CA-27 and beyond!

Upcoming Postcarding Opportunities include:

- *Activate America* to Calvert's District
- *Activate America* to Garcia's District
- *FT6* to Garcia's District

Get involved! Every contact counts, and **we are counting on you** to help us achieve this important work!

Call or email us: ~ Karen Rowinsky

karen@karenrowinsky.com - 626-483-1135

~ Katie Dempster

kdcjic@earthlink.net - [323-363-2602](tel:323-363-2602)

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Carolyn Barber, Altadena
 Cynthia Bennett, Pasadena
 Jeanne Berney, Pasadena
 Jane Hufnagel, Pasadena
 Katherine Kitchens, Pasa.
 Mark Nay, Pasadena
 Don & Judy Nollar, Pasa.
 Gerald Phillips, Altadena
 Jan Sanders, Pasadena
 Robert Salley, Woodland
 Linda Ledeen Schwartz,
 Pasadena
 Juliana Serrano, Pasadena
 Joel & Jill Sheldon, Pasa.
 Joel Stoup, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Andreas & Joan Aebi
 Sally Beer
 Melissa Boggs
 Pixie Boyden
 William & Edith Byerly
 Joan & Patrick Cathcart
 George & Beth Elder
 David Fertig &
 Louisa Simpson
 Kathryn Fogarty &
 Rick Dinkel
 Jim & Priscilla Gamb
 Bruce & Betty Ann Jansson
 Don Lomas & Elaine Jones
 Ruth Judkins
 Ferol Mennen &
 Richard Smoak
 Martin & Pam Miller-
 Hessel
 Bobbie & Henry Moon
 June Thurber &
 Garrett Paine

Elizabeth & Tom Polenzani
 Peter Robinson &
 Buffy Shutt
 Laurie Taylor &
 Neal Wrightson
 Laura Treister
 Odessa Walker
 Michael Werner
 Deborah & Jon Williams

Special Thanks to Patrons

Mel & Renate Cohen
 Larry Eggers
 Jon Fuhrman &
 Susan Kane
 Andrea Gordon
 Jim Haight
 Lara Larramendi
 Herb & Karin Meiselman
 Sue Miele
 Terry Nafisi
 Mark Nay
 Michael O'Connor
 Dianne Philibosian &
 Thomas Seifert
 Joseph Sadove &
 Jenny Genin
 Joel & Jill Sheldon
 Arnie Siegel & Susan
 Futterman
 Tammy & Michael Silver

And Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Ray & Jackie Fisher
 Yudie & Jane Fishman
 Beth Gertmenian
 Meg & Don Gertmenian
 Molly Munger & Stephen
 English
 Nancy Pine
 Fred Register
 Shirley Spencer

William Tully & Rita Tully
 Marilee Marshall & Bruce
 Wright

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

William & Edith Byerly
 Joan & Patrick Cathcart
 Sharon Dooner
 Larry Eggers
 David Fertig & Louisa
 Simpson
 Ray & Jackie Fisher
 Beth Gertmenian
 Andrea Gordon
 Molly Munger & Stephen
 English
 Don & Judy Nollar
 Odessa Walker
 Laurie Taylor & Neal
 Wrightson

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Lynne Appel & Sam
 Teaford
 Larry Eggers
 David Fertig & Louisa
 Simpson
 Ray & Jackie Fisher
 Beth Gertmenian
 Andrea Gordon
 Molly Munger & Stephen
 English
 Elizabeth & Tom Polenzani
 Fred Register
 Denise Robb & Mike
 Vanier
 Rhoads Stephenson
 Laurie Taylor & Neal
 Wrightson
 Karen Wingard

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT members,

I've been blessed to represent the ACT activism area for a significant part of my career in public service. Thank you! Though the recent election didn't end up as planned, I am grateful to the many friends, neighbors, and supporters who walked, phoned, contributed, and supported me throughout the campaign. I am especially appreciative of my family. Ellen, Bella, and Sofia have supported my political career for longer than Bella has been alive, and I couldn't have accomplished what I was able to do without the support I've received at home.

Though my campaign has concluded, there continues to be serious policy work on my plate. My District staff and I will continue to represent the communities and good people of the greatest Senate District in California.

From eliminating microplastics in drinking water to timely IEP translations for students with special needs, I am continuing to focus on issues of importance to the many diverse families that make up our district. There is also still more work to be done on sensible gun safety, and I will continue to lead California toward safer streets and safer classrooms. I am committed to mental health, public education funding, helping decrease our healthcare worker shortages, and decreasing fentanyl overdoses among our teens. All issues that are part of my policy agenda in my last year in the Senate. Rest assured, there is considerable passion and commitment left in my

tank, and I will ardently push the 21 bills I have on my agenda onto the Governor's desk for signature.

As we head into spring and celebrate Easter and Passover, I want to wish everyone peace, love, and kindness. While our national and local rhetoric continues to be far too heated for the civil discourse required, I promise to continue to pursue thoughtful and respectful policies in a manner that encourages others to tamp down the anger and focus on getting things done for the betterment of our neighborhoods, cities, and state.

Warmly,

~ Anthony



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

It has been a busy February in Sacramento with the bill introductions coming to an end. I am pleased to announce that I have a robust legislative package of bills addressing the areas of health, the environment, education, public safety and labor. After being in the State Assembly for almost twelve years, I believe these bills exemplify my due diligence in achieving that goal, by creating solutions to solve key issues, developing roadmaps for new innovations and improved functionality, and generating a pathway for equal opportunity.

2023-2024 Legislative Package:

AB 236 would require health care service plans to annually verify and delete inaccurate listings from its provider directories, known as "ghost directories."

AB 252 would establish the College Athlete

Protection (CAP) Act for purposes of providing various rights, benefits, and protections to college athletes.

AB 280 would prohibit holding an individual in segregated confinement for more than 15 consecutive days.

AB 359 would amend existing law around College and Career Access Pathway Program (CCAP) partnerships to align with best practices from other dual enrollment programs and would streamline access to dual enrollment for K-12 students throughout the state.

AB 1017 would create the Striking Worker Emergency Homelessness Prevention (SWEHP) program to prevent workers suffering strike-related hardship by making zero-interest loans available to eligible striking workers to assist them in paying their housing costs.

AB 1826 would revise the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 to authorize the commission to exercise the authority, jurisdiction, and powers authorized by a franchise authority.

AB 1851 would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract with a nonprofit technical assistance organization to sample all potable water system outlets for high-need schools.

AB 2089 would require a city or county, when collecting demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of persons, to include the additional collection categories and tabulations for specified Black or African American groups.

AB 2193 would create a civil liability for a public or private institution of higher education by a person harmed by hazing.

AB 2330 would help expedite permits for fuel management activities to ensure public safety is in alignment with environmental law.

As you all know this is my last year in the Assembly, so let me close this letter by saying that

it has been incredible serving the people of this community while in this office. My public service does not end here. My duties as a public servant will not fizzle with the passing on of a title, in fact, it is quite the opposite. Serving my community is what I have been called to do and whether it is from a city council desk, a mayoral podium, the legislative floor, the pews of my church, or out on the streets as a civilian and public advocate, I will serve. Transitions make us stronger. Thank you to the ACT community for continuing to amplify my efforts of service and supporting me as I transition from one act of service to the next.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden



**Thanks for
the Support!**

from Rick Cole



By more than 60%, the voters of District 2 gave us a mandate for positive change at Pasadena City Hall!

By any standard, this was an improbable upset. We were up against all the powers of incumbency, including built-in name recognition constantly reinforced by City resources for events, mail, email and social media. The incumbent was backed by a slew of business, real estate and wealthy interests and heavily outspent us with the aid of not one, but two Independent Expenditure Committees campaigning on her behalf. The other side launched a barrage of ugly personal attacks, lies and distortions in the mail, at the door, over the phone and on social media. Lastly, the Mayor pushed a citywide slate of incumbents -- and the other three all prevailed by big margins.

Yet we won! For the first time in 37 years, our campaign overcame an incumbent member of the Pasadena City Council. We did it by sticking to

our promise to run a positive, issues-focused grass roots campaign.

So many deserve credit for this extraordinary achievement. That's what powers a grassroots campaign: an army of tireless volunteers, a broad base of small donors, and a relentless commitment to connect directly with the residents of District 2.

I am also grateful for the endorsement and support of ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club and so many longtime ACTivists! Jon Fuhrman, who managed my first Council campaign in 1983 served as Treasurer this time.

From the outset, I emphasized that I was inspired by my friend, the late Councilmember John Kennedy – particularly for his vision of “One Pasadena.” We've missed his unique voice on the City Council: a voice that emphasized that there is no progress if we leave the most vulnerable behind. He consistently labored to bring our diverse community together for shared success that includes everyone. As he said in his last campaign: “Building One Pasadena ought not to be just a slogan or tag line, but a real credo guiding our decision-making and our conduct.”

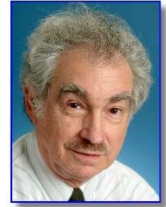
So it will be! Heart and soul, I am grateful for each of you who contributed to this remarkable achievement. It's been my path to be the only person in Pasadena history to have beaten two incumbents to be elected to the City Council (both times with ACT's endorsement). **Over the next four years, we will work tirelessly for a safer, greener and more affordable future for Pasadena.**

~ Rick Cole



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“The Last of the President’s Men” by **Bob Woodward**

In her memoir, *Enough* (reviewed last month), Cassidy Hutchinson provides a tribute to Alex Butterfield who, 50 years before, had played the same role, in the Nixon administration as she had, in being an inside staffer who provided key information: Butterfield had revealed the secret White House tape system, which contributed to bringing down President Nixon. Butterfield's story is dramatized in Bob Woodward's book, *The Last of the President's Men* (published in 2015). Butterfield's role, Cassidy says, was a key factor in her decision to return to the House Committee and to testify truthfully and completely on what she witnessed in the West Wing and Oval Office during the last two months of the Trump Administration. Hutchinson writes, “I read the book three times... As I turned each page, I kept thinking, ‘Oh my God! Alex Butterfield is me.’ The position he held as essentially the Chief of Staff to the Chief of Staff [Haldeman], the way he viewed his role and operated behind the scenes, and how he valued his relationship with the President, were all nearly aligned with my experience. He had information that he didn't want to voluntarily disclose because of his loyalty to Nixon, and he valued his anonymity. But his fidelity was to the Constitution, to the country he swore an oath to protect, and to the public who demanded his trust. ... While I found encouragement throughout the book, the final pages offered a revelation that would change the course of my journey. When asked if he were given the chance to turn back time, Alex declared he would not:

‘no regrets!’ In that moment, I recognized how fear had restrained me from making the decision I knew in my heart was right. For the first time, I felt empowered to make the difficult choice to correct course, and found the strength to see it though. I had rediscovered my moral compass.” And thus, Cassidy went on to give public testimony about what she witnessed in the Oval Office and West Wing on and leading up to the January 6 insurrection.

The Last of the President’s Men, which focuses on Alex Butterfield, was published in 2015, or fifty years after Woodburn and Bernstein’s original account of the Watergate break-in and coverup in *All the President’s Men*. Bob Woodward spent 11 months conducting interviews for this book with Alex Butterfield, who had kept much source material and had written his own unpublished draft book account of his time in the Nixon White House. What emerges shows a side of Nixon not apparent to the public, of an insecure man who harbored grudges and kept a well-known “enemies List”. Woodward writes: “In Butterfield’s view, Nixon was controlled by ‘his various neuroses, the deep, deep resentments and hatreds—he seemed to hate everybody. The resentments festered. And he never mellowed out.”

This story is told with a dry wit hinting at an air of surrealism. Woodward also provides insights into the personalities of Bob Haldeman (Butterfield’s boss in the West Wing), Dr Henry Kissinger, General Al Haig, and others.

Woodward gives a fresh treatment of the March 1968 My Lai massacre of a large number of Vietnamese women and children, and its coverage by reporter Seymour Herch. A total of 504 people from 247 families were killed. 24 families lost everyone – three generations. Included in the 504 who were 60 elderly men, and 282 women, 17 of whom were pregnant. A total of 173 children were killed, 53 were infants. Nixon’s initial

reaction was to attempt a coverup of My Lai, but that went nowhere.

The key role that Alex Butterfield played in the Watergate incident was to reveal to Congressional investigators the existence of the voice-activated taping system—in the Oval Office, the Cabinet Room, Lincoln room, various White House telephones, and at Camp David. No one except Nixon, Haldeman, Butterfield, and some Secret Service audio technicians knew of the existence of this taping system.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgDdomPn7C0>
Cassidy Hutchinson’s public testimony before the House Committee to Investigate January 6.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-95g-_nwkQ
Conversation with Woodward and Butterfield.

“Standing My Ground”, a Memoir by Capitol Policeman Harry Dunn.

A personal eye witness account of the mayhem and violence of the attempted insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, is provided by Capitol Police officer Harry Dunn in his memoir, *Standing My Ground: A Capitol Police Officer’s fight for Accountability and Good Trouble After January 6th*. While the eye witness accounts of Cassidy Hutchinson (from the West Wing of the White House) and of Adam Kinzinger and Liz Cheney (from inside Congress) provide first hand witness to the events on January 6, none were in the thick of the battle with the demonstrators and insurrectionists. As a Capitol police officer, Harry Dunn is able to share eye-witness to the heat of this battle.

Dunn vividly describes the hand-to-hand combat between Capitol Police and the insurgents who were attacking them. Dunn’s testimony to the House Committee captures much of that ordeal. See YouTube URL below. The dreary scene the morning following this ordeal captures the impact that it had on the Capitol police. Dunn writes: “The mood in the Capitol cafeteria before

roll call [on January 7] was somber. Usually there's laughter, jokes, the sort of stuff one would expect when a bunch of cops get together to start their day. But not this day. This day, we all just sat, shell shocked, waiting for someone to tell us what to do, I looked around to see who was still there, and noticed quickly all the faces that weren't. Officer Brian Sicknick was just one of the dozens whose fate was unknown." [Sicknick died in the hospital later that day.]

~ By Robert V. Frampton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dy0nYjSjUY>

Testimony by Harry Dunn to Congress.

Next Month: *Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the Course of Civil Rights*, by Doug Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmZ88j6qL1E>

Talk by Doug Jones about his book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWTaXMtFWPI>

Interview with film maker Spike Lee about his documentary, *Four Little Girls*, about the victims of the bombing.



Does ACT Have Your Current Email Address?

Please help ACT keep in regular contact by giving us your current email address, if you have one. We promise not to bombard you with email messages. We will only contact you when we need to share very important information like last-minute plan changes or events or certain deadlines.

Please share your email address with ACT Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com (that's jon underscore fuhrman) or leave a message on ACT's answerphone, 626 795-2798.



Integrity vs. Idolatry



I spoke to a neighbor who knows I'm progressive and I know she's right wing. The conversation moved to how my heart aches for the Palestinians. She said that God gave the Jews that land. I said, "But people had already lived there. It's wrong to steal the land and to destroy an entire people."

She said, "It's okay if God says it's okay."

I said, "But what about what is right?"

She said, "If God commands it, then it *is* right."

I said, "That's not *my* God. I believe that there is a level of integrity to which a person must rise, especially a God." I mentioned David having an affair with Bathsheba, who was married. God supported King David even though he'd had an affair and sent the husband to his death.

She replied that, "And God killed the baby."

"That's even worse," I said. "Christians are supposedly pro-life, yet they support a God who's a baby killer?"

I talked about how it's almost impossible for any of us to entertain a point of view outside our own. We must not only consider the other person's ideas, but alternative ideas can literally threaten our lifestyle. We have friendships, communities, churches, and livelihoods based on our long-standing belief choices. We would have to abandon those friends, or they would abandon us. We might have to give up church memberships and the communities involved. That happened when I realized that I no longer believed in the Mormon church. I stopped teaching classes there, I no longer went to the Temple once a month, and lost all the relationships there. I had no church, no

community, no God, no connections. My parents thought I was merely rebelling. It was a terribly lonely time, but I could not lie to myself and to everyone.

As we parted, my neighbor and I agreed that we always have stimulating conversations and that we both had dug in our heels when hearing opposing arguments from the other. I have noticed, though, that my modeling good behavior and sharing honest ideas, while politely allowing others to speak their minds, does indeed have a gradual influence. I have seen changes in the behavior of friends and neighbors because of my example and my words (I like to think).

~ Marcielle Brandler

ACT member Professor Marcielle Brandler is the author of five books, an award-winning poet, film and tv producer and host. Her websites are: *Marcielle Presents!* And *English with Marcielle, and Happiness Gig.*



Pictured here is Marcielle's table, working with Karen Rowinsky and Katie Dempster in their Postcard writing campaign.



Redesigned Webpage Coming Soon

Keep watching for our redesigned webpage. Check it out at www.ACTPasadena.org



Calendar

April 4 Thursday 7 p.m.	ACT and PADC Steering Committee Meeting at 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Socializing, 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m.
April 8 Monday 5:30 p.m.	<i>Phoenix</i> deadline. Monday eve. April 15 UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom.



The Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the April Phoenix will be Monday, April 8. Send items for publication to Chuck Hains at Hains27@sbcglobal.net and to Sally Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to send his deadline reminder to regular contributors.)



The Phoenix Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the *Phoenix* represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.



ACT and PADC Membership Dues for 2024

It is time to renew your membership(s) for 2024! Dues categories are listed below. Note that you can join both ACT and the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club at bargain rates. Please respond to the renewal letter you recently received, send your check with the form below, or renew online at our website. Many thanks go to those who have already renewed!!



Please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman if you have any questions about your membership at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com or 626 864-5255.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

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

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

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

Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.