



**The Official Publication of ACT**

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*the phoenix*  
**On-Line**

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



**United Dem HQ OPENS**  
organize. unite. vote.  
United Democratic Headquarters



## What's Happening at Our UDH?

Nothing but GOOD stuff. We have signed up 200 new volunteers in the last two weeks. Our store is fully stocked and functioning. We have great merchandise and it is selling well. Our Harris/Walz yard signs will be here about the same time as the Convention – August 19. You can pre order them and get a \$2 discount - \$15.

We are thrilled to have Nikki Palmer Morgan as our Volunteer/Field Coordinator. And now we have Avery Cross ably handling the store. And Karen Rowinsky and Katie Dempster as our postcarding masterminds can't be beat.

Our website has been redone and the views have been soaring. Our interns have worked on the website and also on Instagram and TikTok. We are doing regular posts on Instagram and getting lots of views on TikTok. Also, we are getting a portable A/C or maybe two that will control the heat in the afternoons. We are going to full hours on August 19. Be sure to check our webpage: [pasadenademocrats.com](https://pasadenademocrats.com). Hours have been changing... Also check for new events and activities.



We are walking weekly with George Whitesides in Santa Clarita and Will Rollins in Corona. We are going to Las Vegas and Mesquite, Nevada in the last week of September and weekends in October. And doing virtual calls to Nevada that are critical to winning there. We are also offering Swing State phoning and texting in partnership with Field Team 6.

Come to our **free, fun GOTV Rally on Saturday, August 31 at 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.** Our great Congresswoman Judy Chu is our featured speaker. We will have bagels, donuts, coffee and hear from Judy and other elected officials. Plan to stay and mingle afterwards. And, please, if you can come, RSVP me (Bill Hackett) at [billhackett2002@yahoo.com](mailto:billhackett2002@yahoo.com). We need numbers and names, an email address and a phone

number.

Remember we are at 400 S. Lake Avenue with 90-minute free parking behind the building. We are next to Men's Warehouse and Coldwell Banker and across from Macy's.

We are doing great. Our calendar is full, and we will be sharing events on our website. Please keep checking it out. See you soon,

~ Bill Hackett, Campaign Manager



### Upcoming ACT / PADC Schedule

#### AUGUST

The Research Committee will meet on Saturday, August 24 to interview candidates for PUSD Board of Trustees Seats 2, 4, and 6. Contact Marilee Marshall for information at [marshall101046@gmail.com](mailto:marshall101046@gmail.com).

#### SEPTEMBER

The September ACT / PADC Meeting will be on Thursday, September 5 at 7 p.m. The Research Committee report will be featured, with the Steering Committee voting on endorsements.

#### OCTOBER

The October ACT / PADC Meeting will be on Thursday, October 3.



### Local Democratic Summer/ Fall Internships Available



The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) is seeking high school and college interns.

It's a chance to learn about how campaigns are run while getting valuable hands-on experience. We opened our headquarters in July, and had remote and some in person opportunities starting in June. And we go on from there.

We provide references! Gain skills and experience! Flexible hours!

Contact our Campaign Manager Bill Hackett at (626) 705-2180 or [billhackett2002@yahoo.com](mailto:billhackett2002@yahoo.com)



### Judy Boggs Interns Begin Work at UDH!

Two students at PCC and one at Occidental College will be this year's Judy Boggs interns. Stephanie Vega (from South El Monte) and Lily Regan (who attended high school in New York) began their internships on August 10th. Both are enrolled at PCC and both got their starts in local politics by volunteering on Ryan Liu's campaign for PCC Board of Trustees.

Akeela Naqvi is enrolled at Occidental College and will begin her internship on August 24th. Akeela is from Minnesota and has volunteered previously with the Democratic Farm Labor Party – including working for and with our Vice-Presidential nominee, Gov. Tim Walz!

All three will be working at the United Democratic Headquarters (400 S. Lake) under the supervision of UDH coordinator Bill Hackett. Stop by to volunteer and meet Stephanie, Lily and Akeela.

Many thanks (AGAIN!) to all who contributed to make these internships possible. Judy Boggs loved mentoring young people. Seeing these remarkable young women at work in the UDH would make her very proud!



### For Postcarding Information:

Call or email us:

Karen Rowinsky  
[karen@karenrowinsky.com](mailto:karen@karenrowinsky.com) - 626-483-1135

Katie Dempster  
[kdcjje@earthlink.net](mailto:kdcjje@earthlink.net) - 323-363-2602



## ACT and PADC September Meeting

**Thursday, September 5, 7 p.m.**

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

Come to our ACT Steering/Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club meeting that will feature the report of the Research Committee on Pasadena Unified School District candidates, and Steering Committee voting on PUSD endorsements.

Come at 7 p.m. for socializing and 7:30 p.m. for the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Ann Marie Hickambottom will preside for ACT; Tim Wendler for PADC.



## Research Committee Calendar

The ACT Research Committee will hold endorsement recommendation interviews for Pasadena Unified School District Board of Trustees Seats 2, 4 and 6 on Saturday, August 24. Marilee Marshall will send out the details to Research Committee members and those who have expressed interest to her (send her an email at [marshall101046@gmail.com](mailto:marshall101046@gmail.com)).



## Thanks to Bobbie and Henry

The folks who get the Phoenix ready for mailing (folding, sealing, labeling, etc.) decided it was time to get together in one place, on one evening to do that task like we used to do. (Instead of driving all over the San Gabriel Valley – after Covid - to five or so locations to do the job.) We asked ACT members for a location and Bobbie and Henry Moon immediately stepped up. So, we prepped the July Phoenix on the Moon's dining room table and that's where we expect to be working for the foreseeable future. Thank you, thank you, thank you Bobbie and Henry.

## At Last – Our Redesigned Webpage

It is available now. Check it out at <https://www.actpasadena.org/>. We are proud of it and think you will be pleased.



If you are unable to easily access the website with your computer set-up, Fred Register wants to know. Contact him at [fred.register@Charter.net](mailto:fred.register@Charter.net).



## Free Climate Change Art Event

The Pasadena/Foothills Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) in partnership with Creative World Art Center is hosting a free art exhibit and program entitled “GRASSROOTS: Climate Conversations”

ACT members (and the public) are invited to visit the Opening Reception on Saturday, August 24th 5-7 p.m. at the Artopia Gallery, 524 S. First Avenue, Arcadia. The opening reception will feature conversations with the contributing artists and members of Citizens Climate Lobby. The gallery will be available for viewing through November 1st.

See <https://www.cw-arts.org/artopia-gallery>



## Review of Jamie Raskin's *Unthinkable*

Marcielle Brandler recommends a review of ‘*Unthinkable*’ by Jamie Raskin. on Daily Kos.com.

You can also read Marcielle Brandler's article, ‘*Breathe in as pain. Breathe out as Love*’: on page 12 of this Phoenix.



## Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Renatta Cooper  
Julie Reiz



## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman

Monday, August 13.

In my last column, I was marveling at the outpouring of support for Vice-President Kamala Harris. In the two weeks since, it has grown exponentially – in money being donated, in volunteers enlisting, in voters registering to vote, in news coverage, in polling results. The race has been turned entirely upside down.

I always thought we would win, even with President Biden, because I thought voters would, at the end, albeit grudgingly, vote for Biden to reject the former President's dystopian vision and hateful rhetoric. But now there is this unprecedented joyfulness suffusing the Democratic campaign and spreading out into the populace generally. In the fifty years I've been doing politics, I've never seen something like this. Even President Obama, with all the pride and hope he brought, didn't quite have the impact that Vice-President Harris has had on the electorate.

You can see it in the stunning amount of contributions that have come in – well over \$300 million, with probably another \$50 million coming in this month. That gives the campaign the ammunition not only fully to fund the ground effort, but to expand advertising into states like Georgia, North Carolina, and even Florida and Ohio, states that typically would be ceded to the GOP. The news media have reported that 2/3 of these contributions have come from first-time donors; but what they haven't noted is that most of those

first-time donors are not going to be one-time donors. The Harris campaign will be soliciting them again and again, and my guess is that most will contribute again, and perhaps again, and perhaps yet again. So that \$300 million that the Vice-President has raised will turn into \$500 million or perhaps \$600 million – now we're talking some real money.

The Trump campaign, only a month ago, had been talking about expanding their battlefield into states like New Hampshire or Minnesota. Not any more. In their first major media buy, the Trump campaign reserved \$37 million in TV ad space, but over \$24 million was just in Georgia. If they think Georgia is slipping away, then we know we're on the right track.

The other fascinating change has been how totally the Harris-Walz ticket has dominated the news cycles. They've had plenty to crow about, with national and state polling on a constant upswing and Trump wallowing in self-pity and despair. It's become a virtuous cycle – better polling feeds the news, which leads to still better polling (and more contributions and volunteers), which feeds the next news cycle. The Trump campaign has tried several times to break into that cycle, most recently with the Elon Musk interview, but nothing seems to be working for them.

With the Democratic Convention coming next week, the Harris-Walz campaign will continue to dominate the news, and only three weeks thereafter, early voting will start in Pennsylvania and a few other states, with the rest of the country to follow shortly thereafter. That's why former President Trump is so eager to have a debate, in which he thinks he can dominate the Vice-President. But I think he will be unhappily surprised. The Vice-President has that rare talent of combining substance with style, enhancing a mastery of facts with the occasional deft put-down.

So now it's time for the rubber to hit the road, as

they say. What will the final score be?

My prediction is that the Harris-Walz ticket will win with 377 Electoral Votes. Extreme? Perhaps, but I'll lay out my state-by-state predictions and why I think so. I invite all our ACT members and other readers to send in their own predictions; we'll keep a spreadsheet and recognize in November who came closest.

I'll start with the Democratic "base" – all the traditional states we typically win, including one electoral vote from Nebraska's central district covering Omaha and its suburbs (Nebraska and Maine are the only states that allocate their electoral votes by Congressional District, rather than by the state as a whole). That's a total of 226 votes.

Then we have the "Blue Wall" – Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. I'm giving all 44 votes to Harris-Walz, which puts them at 270 (exactly enough to win the election). Each now has a Democratic Governor. In Michigan, in 2022, we swept all the state-wide offices and flipped both houses of the Legislature. In Pennsylvania, we captured the lower house (and may flip the upper house this year). In Wisconsin, the GOP still controls the Legislature, but only because of gross gerrymandering (and, interestingly, those districts have been redrawn by court order so we have a shot at flipping the lower house this year). I say all this because my sense is that all three states are trending Democratic. Further, in Wisconsin, the Democratic Party State Chair, Ben Wickler, has created one of the best grass-roots organizations in the country. So I think these states are less in doubt than many assume, but you can be sure that the Harris-Walz campaign will be pouring tons of money and effort and personal appearances into these states.

Next are the "Biden wins" – Nevada (6 votes),

Arizona (11 votes) and Georgia (16 votes). Again, I'm giving all 33 to Harris-Walz, taking their total up to 303. Both Nevada and Arizona have hotly contested U.S. Senate races as well, and just this week the Dems held major rallies in both states. But even more importantly, we have a secret ingredient! In both Nevada and Arizona,



there will be reproductive rights measures on the state ballot. These State Constitutional amendments are hugely popular and mesh directly with one of our core themes. In Arizona particularly, the grass-roots effort that collected signatures and qualified the amendment was brilliantly organized, and the campaign will be focusing, first, on the 700,000 voters who signed the petition. Their campaign is well-funded, entirely separately from the Harris-Walz- Gallegos campaigns,

but entirely complementary. Anyone voting for the ballot measure is going to vote for our side, from the Presidential race, to the Senate race, to Congressional races (where we have 2 seats we have a great shot at flipping), down to state legislative races (the GOP controls each house by one vote, so we have an excellent chance of flipping both houses of the state legislature).

In Georgia, for reasons incomprehensible to me, former President Trump has decided to pick a fight with GOP Gov. Brian Kemp. Kemp is not only popular; he controls much of the ground operations of the GOP in Georgia. The former GOP Lt. Gov., Geoff Duncan, has already publicly announced he is supporting Harris-Walz. I think Georgia was already slipping away, but these self-inflicted wounds make it all the more likely that Dems will carry Georgia by margins similar to those with which we won the two Senate races.

Next we have North Carolina, with 16 votes. Obama carried the state once, and Democrats



have come heartbreakingly close several times thereafter. This time, though, we have another secret ingredient – the Republican candidate for Governor and their candidate for Education Commissioner. Mark Robinson, the current GOP Lt. Governor and candidate for Governor (Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is termed out), is an incredibly inflammatory, radical, extreme nutcase, and I use that term in its technical sense. Robinson has said he would sign a bill to ban abortion “for any reason”; he referred to LGBT topics as “filth”; he said Christians should “be led by men.”

It may be hard to believe, but the GOP candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Michelle Morrow, is even wackier. In 2020, she actually expressed support for the televised execution of former President Obama and then President-Elect Biden. When challenged by CNN, she defended her previous tweets and argued that President Obama committed treason.

North Carolina may traditionally have had close elections, but the latest polls show Democrat Attorney-General Josh Stein 10 points ahead of Robinson in the gubernatorial election. I think that lead is likely to grow, and this may be a case of upward-bound coattails, as the down-ticket races help propel the Harris-Walz ticket to victory. And this doesn't even factor in the impact of Harris on the African-American women in North Carolina. With North Carolina, that takes our total up to 319 EV's.

Lastly, we come to the “stretch” states: Florida (30 votes), Missouri (10 votes), Ohio (17 votes), and one vote in Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. Florida and Missouri are traditionally solid GOP territory, but once again, we have a secret weapon. They both will have reproductive rights amendments on their state ballots, to overturn strict abortion bans enacted by their state legislatures. In Florida, the amendment needs a 60% majority to pass, but the most recent polling

shows 69% of the voters supporting the measure. Certainly, not all of those voters will vote for Harris-Walz, or for Democrat Debbie Mucarsel-Powell who's running for the Senate against incumbent Rick Scott. But we don't need all 69% -- 60%, or 55%, or 52% will do just fine. And I think, in the end, we'll get to that number.

Missouri is even more of a stretch, but again voters seem overwhelmingly to support the reproductive rights amendment, and I think that will leak over into the partisan races and let us carry the state. It wasn't that long ago that Claire McCaskill was representing Missouri in the Senate.

Ohio doesn't have a reproductive rights amendment on the ballot (although they do have a fairly designed redistricting measure on the ballot, to pull out the good government types). But they did, just last year, go through two successive elections on reproductive rights, with our side winning by about 58% each time. This is a solid pro-choice majority that U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, one of the most endangered Democrats, can pull together to ensure his re-election, emphasizing that the GOP wants to ban abortion nation-wide if they get control of the Federal Government. And, indeed, Brown is leading by 5 – 10 points in various polls. Once again, this may be an example of upwards coattails, with Brown helping Harris-Walz squeeze by in traditionally hostile territory.

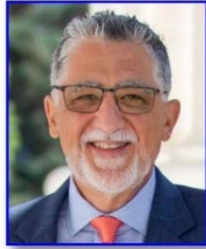
I think we get all 58 votes in this last group, taking our total up to 377.

So send in your predictions. We'll keep a record, and let our readers know who came closest. (And extra credit for sending your predictions in early – waiting until November 4<sup>th</sup> won't get you much glory.)



~ Jon Fuhrman

**From  
25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senator  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear ACT members,

We have less than three weeks left for the final two-year session of my tenure in the Senate. I am hoping to pass legislation that will positively affect our school children. As ACT Members know, I have always prioritized public education and continue to do so. Over the past several months, I've been working closely with the PTA to update parental notification rules regarding truancy. There is ample research that successfully details how to get chronic truants back into the classroom successfully. The research centers around the type of communication districts employ when communicating with parents. In short, if school districts direct parents to helpful resources and offer support rather than using threats of legal action, it proves to be more successful.

I am also making a fourth attempt to create a strict timeline for translating IEPS (Individualized Education Programs) for our special needs students. Many districts take almost the entire school year to translate these important advocacy documents into parents' languages. Imagine wanting to advocate for your child's well-being, but you can't read the documents that help you do it. The current delay in translation is unacceptable.

Our office prides itself on a robust internship program. At the conclusion of every summer, I ask my interns to propose legislation. Last year, I took one of those ideas and introduced it as a bill. The bill would allow students the ability to carry fentanyl test strips on campus without

having to garner permission. Far too many teens die from accidental overdoses because they don't know if a drug is laced with fentanyl.

A strong coalition of gun sense organizations is supporting our collective effort to expand California's historic safe gun storage law beyond homes that have minors. The data is clear that safely storing guns leads to safer neighborhoods and less gun violence.

I am also working in collaboration with Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto in an effort to protect teens from trafficking and sexual abuse. There is a loophole in California's sex registry law that directly harms young girls, and it needs to be closed. My fingers are crossed that these sensible proposals pass and garner signatures from Governor Newsom.

I hope everyone had a great summer. I took Bella to the Rose Bowl Flea Market this past weekend. Though it was hot, it was packed and fun. She graduated college this year and is back home with us. Sofia is off working on another film and Ellen is doing great.

On to the Harris - Walz campaign and winning in November.

Warmest and Best,

~ Anthony

*Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which stretches along the 210 Freeway from Sunland/Tujunga to Upland. He proudly represents the Rose Bowl, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park, Caltech, and the Claremont Colleges.*



**From  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
Assemblymember  
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

I want to start by thanking you all for attending and supporting my Annual Community Resource Fair & Block Party for the last 25 years! The festivities were truly memorable. The block was filled with families, laughter, music, and insightful resource tables from our incredible partners. Each year the California Legislative Black Caucus provides scholarships for students pursuing college and we always have a very competitive pool of applicants. It was my pleasure to present 20 of our outstanding students in the district with scholarships totaling an amount of \$49,000 altogether. Of the many highlights taken from the block party each year, having our community stand and clap as each student accepts their check is always gratifying in a special way.

Earlier this month I had the honor of joining some of my colleagues at our nation's Capital for the Biden-Harris Administration's 'Communities in Action' forum. This series of forums will eventually feature all 50 states and brings the Building a Better America "roadshow" to the White House by lifting up the voices and examples of local leaders who are delivering real results for working families. Through their format I was able to share the work I have been leading in the 41<sup>st</sup> District, learn about new ways of partnering with the Biden-Harris administration, and discuss the impact that the President's administration has on California.

Lastly, we welcomed a legend and proud Pasadena native to the State Capitol for recognition. I was joined by Senator Bradford to host a reception sponsored by the Congressional Legislative Black Caucus to present a resolution honoring

Michael "Coop" Cooper, a 12-year Los Angeles Laker and the only player in Lakers franchise history to win the NBA defensive player of the year award, following his recent induction into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame. As SDSU Aztec basketball was my first love, it gives me great pleasure to honor a player who has not only transformed the game on many levels but also served as a leader from the sidelines. Coop is well deserving of his many accolades and continues to serve as an example of sportsmanship, leadership, talent, and service. Coop never forgot his hometown community of Pasadena where he was raised and is always willing to return and give back. His athletic achievements extend beyond his five NBA Championships and into coaching, mentorship, and philanthropy.

As I get settled back into my last session, I look forward to advancing my bills and advocating for the solutions to the key problems Californians are facing. Thank you always for supporting my administration and all of the hard work my team puts in on a daily basis. It is my honor to serve the people of our community.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

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





## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



### It's in the Constitution

WARNING!!! If you're easily depressed, you may not want to continue reading, but know that any negativity is only used to serve as motivation to elect Democratic Congressional Representatives, Senators and the Harris/Walz ticket, and defeat Trump.

The United States is considered to be a democracy, but it's a very flawed democracy. Most of those flaws come from the U.S. Constitution, but additional ones come from the Republican Party making up their own rules which is something you can do when you have an overriding majority sitting on the only body that gets to determine what's Constitutional and what's not.

For every 75 Californians there is only one resident of Wyoming and yet both states are equally represented in the Senate. There are more red states with small populations than blue states. While gerrymandering is practiced by both parties, the Republicans are vastly more successful at its use. The state with the most Representatives, California, has, passed by its electorate, a system that precludes its use.

No matter what pans out after this election, one thing that's assured is that the Democrats, by a wide margin, will have received more votes than the Republicans in both houses. But be assured that if the Republicans have the slimmest of majorities in both houses and Trump wins the Presidency, even with less actual votes, they will govern as if they had won in a landslide.



You might think that there's always "Senate Clo-  
ture" which requires at least 60 votes to pass

anything, but don't count on it. In our recent history on two occasions the Senate changed its own rules with just a simple majority and the first time it was done, it was done by Harry Reid so we'd be hard pressed to argue that it can't be done and I'll bet it's their first action when the new Congress convenes. That date is Jan. 3 so they can count the electoral college votes on Jan. 6. I'll leave that calculus to you.

By now you should all at least be minimally aware of Project 2025 most of which would be constitutionally out of bounds except you'd have a Republican Congress, a conservative Supreme Court and, most importantly, a President who can do whatever he wants because he has blanket immunity if he's acting in an official capacity. He could declare a state of emergency on virtually any pretext and call off the 2026 and even 2028 elections.

None of the worst of these scenarios will come to pass if we can win at least one house of Congress. So, I implore you, volunteer to do whatever you can. I'm writing postcards, almost 500 to date, and hopefully scaring the bejeezus out of you.

~ Ron out



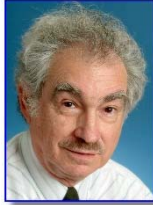
### The Phoenix Editorial Policy:

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.



## Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



**“The Apprentice: Trump, Russia, and the Subversion of American Democracy”  
by Greg Miller.**

Greg Miller is National Security Correspondent for the Washington Post. Miller was among the Post reporters awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Russia’s interference in the 2016 election and the fallout under the Trump administration. The book is the result of two years of research, reporting, and deep sourcing, revealing efforts by Russia to interfere in the election. The title is a bit deceptive: this book has nothing to do with Donald Trump’s TV show; rather it refers to his utter lack of political or governmental experience upon assuming the presidency – making Trump himself the Apprentice.

Russian efforts at interference and disruption took three forms: hacking of the DNC computer network and release of stolen material through Wikileaks; spread of disinformation through social media such as Facebook and Twitter; and covert contacts and meetings between Russian officials and Trump campaign personnel, including Carter Page, Paul Manafort, Donald Trump Jr., and General Michael Flynn. The book is rich in details, serving to connect the dots between these three levels of Russian interference, similar in style to the books of Bob Woodward.

The main efforts at hacking as well as spreading information warfare on social media came from the Internet Research Agency in Saint Petersburg, founded by Yevgeny Prigozhin (who later led the Wagner Group of irregular troops). This type of “hybrid warfare” had been carried out by

Russia at least since the invasion of Crimea in 2014. This involved “studying the political climate of the United States, with special focus on issues that seemed to strike deep emotional chords with Americans: guns, Islamist terrorism, and race.” Their Translator Project involved “an effort to infiltrate America’s dominant social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). For example, “A fake Black Lives Matter page was called ‘*Blacktrivist*’; A fake LGBTQ page was called ‘*LGBT United*’”; and there were many others. The disruptive potential of the internet was vast and unbelievably cheap; the Russians spent only about \$100,000 on Facebook ads, though propagation by “likes” resulted in some of these disruptive messages reaching millions of Facebook users. A post-mortem study by a journalism professor found that free content from those Facebook pages alone had been “shared” an astounding 340 million times. And Facebook said later that there were 464 more pages linked to Russian ads. Many of these fake pages were denigrating to Hillary Clinton.

The Russian hackers’ forays into the DNC network easily eluded the DNC security. But US Intelligence agencies also failed to see the breach. It was first discovered by the Dutch Intelligence Service, AIVD, which alerted US Intelligence. However, when the FBI attempted to alert the DNC technical staff, through a series of miscommunications the DNC took no action for many months. By the time that the DNC took action to purge their network of Russian bots, it was too late: the Russian hackers had already downloaded a massive amount of material, including 50 thousand emails. Much of this was later transferred to Wikileaks and released to the public, causing much damage to the Clinton campaign.

There are several documented cases of contacts between Trump campaign officials and Russian officials including Ambassador Sergey Kislyak;

indeed, several of these contacts were being monitored by the FBI and other US Intelligence agencies. Miller goes into extensive detail on this, while I can only briefly summarize here. Carter Page had been tracked for at least 3 years prior to his joining the Trump campaign, for his contacts with Russian intelligence. Page had been the subject of repeated FISA warrants. Trump had named George Papadopoulos as his main foreign policy advisor during the campaign, although Papadopoulos had very little foreign policy experience. However, Papadopoulos became of interest to the FBI when, during a meeting with the Australian ambassador to the UK, Alexander Downer, he revealed to Downer that the Russians had “damaging material” on Clinton and was prepared to release it in the final stages of the election campaign, and this was months before Wikileaks released some of this material. Paul Manafort had been a campaign advisor to Ukraine’s pro-Moscow presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich, for which he was paid millions and failed to disclose this income to the IRS. Manafort later became Trump’s campaign manager. Manafort spent close to two years of a 7.5-year sentence in prison for bank and tax fraud, illegal foreign lobbying and witness tampering conspiracies before being released in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. General Michael Flynn had been dismissed as Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency over his poor management of the agency. Against the advice of Obama and others, General Flynn was named as Trump’s national security advisor (succeeding Susan Rice). During the campaign Flynn met with Ambassador Kislyak to discuss sanctions, then denied this meeting to Vice President Pence. This resulted in Flynn being fired after serving just three weeks. In December 2017, Flynn formalized a deal with Special Counsel Robert Mueller to plead guilty to a felony count of “willfully and knowingly” making false statements to the FBI about the Kislyak communications.

Miller covers in great detail other topics, including the Steele dossier, the controversy over Clinton’s email server, the belated effort by Obama to confront Putin over the election interference, the firing of FBI director Comey, the Mueller investigation and indictments, the Helsinki summit, etc.

Russia essentially exploited and accentuated political and cultural divisions that already existed in American society. As Miller concludes, “The societal fractures exacerbated by Trump tracked many of the fault lines – race, religion, guns, and immigration – that Russia had sought to exploit with its social media campaigns. Kremlin trolls had sought to spark unrest by targeting the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement, fomenting anger around the removal of Confederate statues, and urging followers to ‘secure the border’ and ‘deport the illegals’”. Throughout the campaign and his presidency, Trump had courted Putin and disparaged our traditional NATO allies. Miller concludes, “Putin had obtained and maintained power by silencing critics, rallying conservative extremists, demonizing certain minority and ethnic groups, and reinforcing the idea that democracy means chaos. In his attitudes and actions, Trump, again, was Putin’s apprentice, summoning a side of America that sapped its claims to moral authority.”

~ Robert V Frampton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkE1rO086hk&t=607s> Panel Discussion with Greg Miller and his Colleagues at the Washington Post

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKUdfFbzRgQ> Interview with author Greg Miller



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

Julie Reiz

## *Long Pain Leads to a Burst of Joy*

By **Marcielle Brandler**

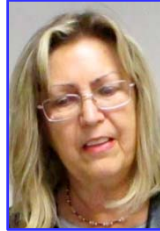
If you've ever seen Sullivan's travels starring Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake directed by Preston Sturges (1941), you know that protagonist, John L. Sullivan directs comedies and is frustrated that he is not creating important and profound work. He wants to make the great American masterpiece, so he dons an old hat and torn-up clothes from the wardrobe department and heads to the railroad tracks in search of human pain.

He gets more than he'd bargained for and ends up in a chain-gang prison a nameless and helpless hobo. He suffers the same fate as all the other "convicts". The studio has no idea where he is. He has no connections, no friends, no safety, and no chance of escape. It's hopeless. The beatings, the horrible food, the dank and broken-down shacks all wear Sullivan down, and he becomes as hopeless as the poor criminals who surround him.

One evening, the men in chains are herded into a black church. As they march in sync with leg chains attached from man to man, the song, "Go Down Moses" is sung in a heart-stopping deep bass by Jess Lee Brooks joined by the black congregation as the convicts file in. The connection to the song of Isrealites enslaved, our black brothers and sisters having been enslaved and who now are kindly hosts to convicts who are enslaved is not lost on viewers.

A cartoon begins and Sullivan is cramped in the midst of hardened criminals. He frowns. All is morose and depressing.

Immediately a few men burst out laughing. Sullivan's furrowed brow reveals that he is confused at their enjoyment. *What's to laugh about?* More voices burst and the room vibrates with glee. Men's dirty, hardened faces are now



wide-eyed with childlike innocence. The mood spreads to the minister who giggles and covers his mouth in embarrassment. The room is clanging with happiness and Sullivan actually laughs. He turns to his laughing neighbor and says, "Am I laughing?" A similar pain-to-joy era is what America has just experienced. It seems almost meant to be that we had years of suffering with lies, Covid, a sick-minded "leader"

who had no conscience, who told us to drink bleach, who refused to wear a mask, who called doctors and experts liars, who tweeted out calls to sic his dogs on anyone who displeased him, who was found guilty of sexual assault by a jury, who boasted about grabbing women by their intimate parts, who stole and lied about classified documents, who called reporters fake news, who forced anyone who worked for him to swear an oath to him over loyalty to the Constitution, and so much more.

We endured this for years, and then our lovely President Joe Biden had a disastrous debate and our hearts sank even lower. Many of us stood by him despite his problems. We suffered and worried and were wringing our hands at the threat that the "Orange Jesus" would become a "dictator on day one."

Then hope, then youth, then a fresh start, then Kamala! Amazing HOPE burst onto the scene and we burst into laughter, truly joyful laughter. Now even commercials are selling "joy". It feels so good to have real hope again, no matter what they throw at us in their angry tirades. Joy joy joy!

~ Marcielle Brandler

**Professor Marcielle Brandler** is the author of five books, an award-winning poet, film and tv producer and host. Featured in *Who's Who in the World* for several years. Her articles and poems have appeared in journals since 1976. Her poems have been translated into Czech, French, Arabic, and Spanish, and published internationally. Her websites are: *Marcielle Presents!* and *English with Marcielle, and Happiness*

## National Women's Political Caucus Greater Pasadena Area

2024 Annual Honoree's Event and Celebration

**Friday, September 6, 2024, 5:30 P.M.**

You are invited to attend a reception to benefit the NWPC – GPA Political Action Committee!

Proceeds support endorsed women candidates running for local office in Altadena, Glendale, La Canada Flintridge, Pasadena and Sierra Madre.

**Guest Speaker: Congresswoman Judy Chu  
Dolores Hickambottom Public Service**

**Award: Dorothy Thorman**

**2024 Lifetime Service Award:**

**Marguerite Cooper**

Sponsor or purchase tickets at: <https://bit.ly/NWPCGPA24>.  
For further information contact [Chair@NWPCGPA.ORG](mailto:Chair@NWPCGPA.ORG)



## 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](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com) (that's jon underscore fuhrman) or leave a message on ACT's answerphone, 626 795-2798.



## September Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the September *Phoenix* will be Monday, September 9, Send items for publication to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Hains27@sbcglobal.net) and to Sally Beer at [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com). (We will send a deadline reminder to regular contributors.)

## Aug Sept Calendar

- August 19-22 Mon-Thurs The 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago!!!
- August 24 Saturday Research Committee interviews for PUSD Seats 2, 4 and 6. Contact Chair Marilee Marshall [marshall101046@gmail.com](mailto:marshall101046@gmail.com) for details.
- August 31 Saturday UDH GOTV Kickoff. Congresswoman Judy Chu is the featured speaker. 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Stay to mingle after.
- September 5 Thursday ACT / PADC Steering Committee Meeting. Research Committee report. 7 p.m. for socializing; meeting 7:30 p.m.
- September 6 Friday NWPC – GPA 2024 Annual Honoree's Event & Celebration. 5:30 p.m.
- October 3 Thursday ACT / PADC Steering Committee Meeting. State Initiatives. 7 p.m. for socializing; meeting 7:30 p.m.



Greg Harrison and Nikki Mihara on a recent trip up north with their *Phoenix*. (Greg is an ACT Co-Chair.)



## ACT and PADC Membership Dues for 2024

If you haven't paid up, there is still time. Dues categories are listed below. Note that you can join both ACT and the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club at bargain rates. Please send your check with the form below, or renew online at our website. Our thanks to the generous folks who have already joined and renewed.

Please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman if you have any questions about your membership at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto: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**

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 Name

Home Phone

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 Address

Office Phone

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 City

ZIP

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 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.