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February 2006

PASSING THE TORCH

By Bettina Duval, Founder, The CALIFORNIA LIST

We began 2006 celebrating the victories of newly elected female leaders in Chile, Liberia and Germany. This month we mourn the passing of three women: Betty Friedan, Coretta Scott King and Wendy Wasserstein. In their own way, each helped permanently transform the social fabric of the United States. Their life work reminds us that the fight for individual liberty is a broad and deep one with a history, and a future.

Just think what life would be like if Betty Friedan did not write The Feminine Mystique! Friedan's society shaping crusades—equal access to and treatment in the workplace, political and legal empowerment, and later in her life, embracing the nurturing home and family life—ignited debate and conversation that helped us obtain the rights that we have today.

In a time when women were not especially welcomed as leaders, Coretta Scott King, played a visible role in the fight for freedom and equality, never faltering. A mother of four and mourning the death of her husband, she helped freedom march forward.

On Broadway, Wendy Wasserstein revolutionized the face of theater with her thought-provoking plays that explore the complexities and emotions of women's lives, winning both a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for her groundbreaking work. In describing her writing, Wasserstein once said, "this is in fact a political act."

Imagine a world without the contributions of these three remarkable women. They impacted women's roles in the arts, politics, business, and every day life. With their deaths, the torch has been passed to the next generation—our generation. The question is what do we want to do with it?

Many young women today do not comprehend what life was like when most forms of discrimination against women were perfectly legal. Even my peers become so busy with carpools, soccer games, work, home...that they take for granted the luxury of their lifestyle choices—choices that did not exist for their mothers, sisters, and aunts. It is our duty to teach and remind others and ourselves how far we have come. If the history of the women's movement fades with memory, we risk endangering feminist gains and raise the real possibility that future generations will have to fight the fight all over again. **I believe that we can carry the torch onward.**

As the founder of The CALIFORNIA LIST, I see it as our moral duty to continue the fight for individual liberty. It is my belief in Democracy—a Democracy that is made stronger with diversity—that motivates me to encourage you to support Democratic women running for political office. I believe, and hope that you will carry the torch, too.

Does it matter that California stands to lose two-thirds of our elected women by 2008 due to term limits? YES. *It is a fact that women legislators introduce legislation that benefits women, children and families.* We need our women legislators so that our voices are heard.

The CALIFORNIA LIST strives to elect Democratic women to California state government. By doing, so we light the way for future generations of women in California. Please join us!

Last year we profiled all of the Democratic women running for California State government. As the election nears, we are profiling each candidate's campaign. This month we are featuring the non-incumbent Democratic women running for the Assembly. Next month we will feature the Senate and Board of Equalization candidates.

The following candidates are continuing the very important work that our foremothers began. Please read the bios on the various candidates. With your support, we can collectively pass the torch and keep the flame of equality burning for present and future generations of girls and women.



CYNTHIA MURRAY – AD 6 (Marin, Sonoma)
Campaign Theme: Cynthia Murray – Experience
That Measures Up

Cynthia Murray's vast experience includes serving as a County Supervisor and City councilmember for 14 years. Murray has developed a balanced approach and found common sense solutions that have produced results for North Bay families. The campaign's grassroots operation is taking off: Murray recently hired a field director to implement an aggressive "Get-Out-The-Vote" operation; and fundraising operations have been successful with almost \$270,000 raised for the year-end filing. Murray has earned endorsements from the majority of city councils in her district's five largest cities – Petaluma, Santa Rosa, San Rafael, Rohnert Park and Novato. Other key endorsements include former State Senator John Burton, Larkspur Mayor Joan Lundstrum, Santa Rosa Mayor Jane Bender, and Novato Mayor Carole Dillon-Knutson.

Campaign website:
<http://www.cynthiamurrayforassembly.com/>



PAMELA TORLIATT – AD 6 (Marin, Sonoma)

Pamela Torliatt is a fourth generation Petaluman who has served her community for the past 14 years. From 1993 to 1996 she was a Planning Commissioner and for the last ten years she has served as a Petaluma City Councilmember. In 2004, Torliatt was re-elected to the Petaluma City Council with 16,470 votes, the highest number of votes in city history. She has been praised as someone who gets things done, and was described by a local paper as "the hardest working member of the City Council." Pamela has been at the forefront of policies that control growth, protect the coastline, preserve open space, keep our air clean, and provide high-quality drinking water. Pamela's key endorsements include California Federation of Teachers, Assemblymember Noreen Evans, Former Assemblymember and State Senate candidate Pat Wiggins.

Campaign website: <http://www.vote4pam.com/>



LAURA CANCIAMILLA – AD 11 (Contra Costa)

Laura Canciamilla is running for the 11th Assembly District seat being vacated by her termed-out husband, Joe Canciamilla. A former school teacher, counselor and principal, last year Laura Canciamilla ran for and won a seat on the Pittsburg Unified School District Board, receiving the greatest number of votes of any of the candidates. Now, Canciamilla seeks higher office because she believes that few state legislators understand the challenges that schools face, yet every day they make critical policy decisions that directly effect schools. In the Assembly, she plans to promote vocational training opportunities and sponsor legislation to ensure textbooks are aligned with state standards. Laura Canciamilla holds undergraduate and Masters degrees from Stanford University, in addition to a doctorate from the University of La Verne. She has been endorsed by the California Nurses' Association, Delaine Eastin, Joe Canciamilla, Joe Nation, and Gloria Negrete McLeod, among others.



FIONA MA - AD 12 (San Francisco)

Fiona Ma was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in December 2002. She is a qualified leader who has a proven track record of fighting for San Francisco's families. As a Supervisor, Fiona Ma has been an advocate for neighborhood schools so children can attend quality school close to home. She serves on several committees, including: Budget City Operations and Neighborhood Services and the Joint Board of Supervisors/School Board. Last year, Fiona was chosen to serve as a member of the State Controller's Advisory Committee on County Accounting Procedures. Prior to her election to the Board of Supervisors, Fiona Ma was a district Representative for Senator John Burton, and has been appointed to various boards and commissions by President Bill Clinton, and former San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. Fiona has the endorsement of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee, and California Nurses Association.

Campaign website: <http://www.fionama.com/>



JANET REILLY – AD 12 (San Francisco)

Campaign Theme: "Janet Reilly for a Healthier California"

Democrat Janet Reilly is a non-profit leader, a former journalist, a businesswoman and a mother of two daughters.

She is fighting for San Francisco as a member of the Golden Gate Bridge Board and as a member of Mayor Gavin Newsom's task force on children, youth and families. She knows that the only way to protect our quality of life is to start tackling the big problems like our failing schools, congested roads and transit lines, endangered environment and dysfunctional health care system. That's why she is proposing major reform of our health care system to cover all Californians, new funding for schools and higher education, and a renewed commitment to protecting our quality of life. Janet has been endorsed by San Francisco Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, Assemblyman Leland Yee, and San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

Campaign website: <http://www.janetreilly.com/>



RONNIE CAPLANE – AD 16 (Alameda)
Campaign Theme: “Ronnie Gail Caplane –
Putting Schools First”

Ronnie Caplane is known as a civic leader in Piedmont, where she has been a member of the Piedmont School Board since 1998, and served as Board President for two years. Appointed by Governor Gray Davis, Ronnie currently serves as a Commissioner on the State of California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. She is an attorney, a journalist and a strong defender of women's rights. She is a current member of the National Association of Women Judges, a board member of the National Women's Political Caucus and was named the 16th Assembly District's Woman of the Year in 2004. Ronnie believes that education is the cornerstone of our society and is ready to make her contribution to the families and children of California now. She knows that life is too short to wait to make a difference in our communities. In the last fundraising period, Ronnie out-raised both of her opponents, John Russo and Sandre Swanson, combined. Ronnie's endorsements include Senator Sheila Kuehl, Rob Reiner, Delaine Eastin and NWPC-Alameda North.

Campaign website: <http://www.ronniecaplane.com/>



CATHLEEN GALIGIANI – AD 17 (Merced, San Joachin, Stanislaus)

Cathleen Galgiani is the only Democrat running for Assembly in the 17th District. A fifth generation Stocktonian who has worked with the State Legislature for many years, she has a broad understanding of the challenges facing California and its leadership. As Chief of Staff to Assemblyperson Barbara Matthews (termed out this year), Cathleen Galgiani has a keen awareness of the issues particular to women legislators. Supporting Cathleen Galgiani's campaign will help keep this district represented by a thoughtful, Democratic woman. Some of Cathleen's endorsements include: Women's Political Committee, California Association of Realtors, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, CA State Council of Laborers, Merced County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, and San Joaquin Correctional Officers' Association.



MARY HAYASHI – AD 18 (Alameda)

Mary Hayashi is considered one of the country's most accomplished advocates for healthcare reform and improvement. She is the director of the American Public Health Association, a leader in public health education and organizing, and in 2004, was appointed to the Board of Registered Nursing. Having received her Masters in Business Administration, Mary knows that improving the workforce through our Community Colleges and Universities will bring better paying jobs to California. She currently serves on the boards of Chabot College Foundation and of Girl's Inc. of Alameda County. With her leadership experience and long history of community and public service, Mary Hayashi will be a strong voice in the State Assembly for California's women and their families. Her endorsements include the Sierra Club, National Women's Political Caucus-Alameda North, Central Labor Council of Alameda County, Hayward Firefighters, California Nurses Association, and California League of

Conservation Voters.

Campaign website: <http://www.hayashi2006.com/>



ANNA CABALLERO – AD 28 (Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Santa Clara)

With over 69% of the vote, Anna Caballero was re-elected to her fourth term as Mayor of Salinas in November 2004. Mayor Caballero's popular support among the residents of Salinas can be attributed to her seven years of experience as a City Council member, including four years as Vice Mayor. Mayor Caballero is also a proven leader in the private sector. In 1982, she opened the Law offices of Caballero, Matcham & McCarthy, providing affordable, excellent legal representation. Mayor Caballero and the law firm have received numerous awards and praise for their work. On leave from the law firm to run the city, Mayor Caballero now serves as the Executive Director of Partners for Peace, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, dedicated to developing effective violence prevention strategies by focusing on literacy, early childhood education and strengthening families and children. Anna has been endorsed by Former Assemblymember Rusty Areias, Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza, Los Angeles City Councilmember Tony Cardenas



ANA VENTURA PHARES – AD 28 (Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Santa Clara) - Campaign Theme: Creative Solutions

As a councilmember and mayor of Watsonville, Ana Ventura Phares has been known for her ability to bring together diverse interests to get things done. Unlike neighboring towns, Watsonville under Ana Ventura Phares leadership has had a balanced budget and no layoffs in recent years, while improving city services, adding a new high school and serving as a model for the state in building transit-friendly, green housing for working families. Ana Ventura Phares was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Watsonville City Council in 1998. In 2002, she was re-elected and in November 2004, she was appointed to serve as Mayor. She is serving her last year on the council. Three of her major endorsements include: The California Federation of Teachers, The United Farm Workers, Assemblymember Sally Lieber.



FERIAL MASRY – AD 37 (Ventura)
Campaign Theme: "Working For A Better California"

Ferial Masry, candidate for the 37th Assembly District, epitomizes the diversity embraced by the Democratic Party. Born in Saudi Arabia, Masry emigrated to the United States as a young woman, and became an educator, small business owner and a community leader. When her son joined the US Army and was sent to fight in Iraq, a war she vehemently opposed, Masry decided to run for public office. Her intelligence, determination, and principled stand on issues ranging from public education to the Patriot Act galvanized voters and drew national attention to the race. During her campaign, Masry appeared on CNN and in the international press. She was also named "Person of The Week" by ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. The 2004 election returns, where she received 41% of the vote, prove that the

37th is no longer a safe Republican seat. If anyone can win the seat for the Democrats in 2006, it will be Ferial Masry. Masry's endorsements include LA County Democratic Party Chair Eric Bauman, Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum, California Democratic Party Region 10 Director Bob Handy, and LAUSD Board Member, District 3 Jon Lauritzen.

Campaign website: <http://www.ferialmasryforassembly.com/>



JULIA BROWNLEY – AD 41 (Los Angeles, Ventura)

Campaign Theme: "Let's Make California Schools Great Again!"

Julia Brownley has been a progressive community activist and an advocate for children and their education in her community for over twenty years. She also understands that the 41st district expects leadership in other areas as well. Brownley plans to partner with Senator Sheila Kuehl to move the single-payer health program forward and continue Assemblywoman Fran Pavley's landmark environmental efforts. Additionally, Brownley strongly supports political reform. Julia Brownley has the endorsement of a number of key women leaders important in the 41st AD including Senator Sheila Kuehl, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, and former Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson. She has also been endorsed by Senator Jackie Speier and Assemblywoman Loni Hancock.

Campaign website: <http://www.juliabrownley.com/>



KELLY HAYES RAITT – AD 41 (Los Angeles, Ventura)

Kelly Hayes-Raitt is an advocate for consumer rights, environmental protection, health care and civil liberties. As executive director of the Coalition for Clean Air and as Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy's environmental representative, she fought to protect the California coast from offshore oil drilling. A co-founder of Heal the Bay, Hayes-Raitt helped pass important bills to set health standards for toxic mold and to phase out diesel school buses. Hayes-Raitt is a national spokesperson to protect civil rights and to champion women's rights. The LA County Women's Commission named her a 2004 Woman of the Year. Kelly has been endorsed by many statewide and local officials and organizations, including Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante and State Senator Richard Alarcón.

Campaign website: <http://www.kellyforassembly.com/>



ABBE LAND – AD 42 (West Los Angeles)

Mayor Abbe Land is running a very competitive campaign against former Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Feuer and in the last filing period her campaign raised substantially more money than her opponent's. Currently the Mayor of West Hollywood and Co-chief Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Free Clinic, Mayor Land's strong name recognition and impressive fundraising capabilities help make her one of the most solid candidates running this election cycle. Mayor Land's main concerns are tenants' rights, the creation and maintenance of affordable housing, economic development, social services and environmental issues. She is a strong

advocate for women's issues and issues related to civil liberties. Recently, Mayor Land announced that AFSCME, District Council 36 has endorsed her candidacy.

Campaign website: <http://www.abbeland.com/>



DIANA PETERSON MORE – AD 44 (Los Angeles)
Campaign Theme: "Making a Difference for all Californians"

With 50% of the female State legislators being termed out of office, Diana Peterson-More's candidacy presents an important opportunity to elect the only candidate in this race who is an experienced advocate for women and families while holding on to one of these critical seats. Her efforts have resulted in more jobs, affordable housing, quality child care centers and homeless shelters for women. She is also in an excellent position to win the seat: she is the only woman in a field of five running in a district that has a 66% female electorate and the only candidate with the breadth of experience that will resonate with the diverse make up of the district. Diana is endorsed by the California Nurses Association, AFT College Staff Guild, EMILY's List, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Senator Sheila Kuehl and Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg.

Campaign website: <http://www.peterson-more-for-assembly-2006.com/>



ELENA POPP - AD 45 (Los Angeles)
Campaign Theme: "Vote Elena ... Experience You Can Trust!"

Assembly Candidate Elena Popp is the only candidate with a history of fighting to improve the lives of women, children and families in the 45th district. As an activist, she has already made a difference; as an Assembly member, she will bring a breadth of experience to the legislature that will allow her to be more than a good vote, but an effective advocate for the issues we care about. Recently, Elena has been endorsed by State Senator Sheila Kuehl, State Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, and UFW Co-Founder Dolores Huerta.



CHRISTINE CHAVEZ – AD 45 (Los Angeles)

Christine Chavez has made a lifetime commitment to public service, civil rights and the labor movement. Today, Christine works for the United Farm Workers of America, the union her grandfather Cesar Chavez helped to co-found 40 years ago. For the last eight years, she has served as the UFW's Political Director. Over the last eight years, she has helped elect candidates, pass legislation and oversee public outreach activities. Latina Magazine recently named her as one of their top Latinas of 2004 for her longtime involvement with civil rights issues. Continuing her desire to create change, Christine joined Rev. Al Sharpton to announce the formation of the Latino and African American Leadership Alliance to end the escalating violence between Latinos and African Americans. Christine's endorsements include Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers of America; Los Angeles Sheriff Baca and Senator Gloria Romero.

Campaign website: <http://www.actionimpact.org/>



LAURA RICHARDSON – AD 55 (Los Angeles)

Assembly Candidate Laura Richardson has consistently addressed many issues that are imperative to protecting Los Angeles' future. The major issues she is concentrating on during her race are transportation, infrastructure, jobs and financial solvency. She is currently Southern California Director for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Laura has served on the Long Beach City Council, District 6, since 2000 winning her re-election in 2004. Laura's priorities as a Councilwoman are neighborhood improvement, public safety, attracting jobs and businesses to the cities' central corridors, job training programs for adults, after-school programs for youth and expanding senior programs. Laura's endorsements include the California Black Legislative Caucus, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, Congresswoman Diana Watson and Congresswoman Juanita Millendar-McDonald.



RENEE CHAVEZ – AD 57 (Los Angeles)

As the wife of Assemblyman Ed Chavez, La Puente Mayor Pro Tem Renee Chavez has been involved in politics and her community for many years. Prior to her election as La Puente Mayor Pro Tem in 2003, Mayor Chavez spent most of her career as a Registered Dental Assistant in the City of West Covina. She is a member of the American Dental Assistants Association and the National Association of Dental Assistants. Mayor Chavez has served on a number of boards and commissions including the California League of Cities Association, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. Renee has been endorsed by a number of elected officials and organizations, including Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, State Senator Nell Soto and UFCW Local 1428.



GERRI GUZMAN – AD 58 (Los Angeles)

Gerri Guzman has lived in Montebello for over 38 years and has consistently taken an active role in shaping her community towards a brighter future. She has served as Montebello's City Treasurer since 1999 and as a Board Member of the Montebello Unified School district since 2001 being re-elected in 2003 and 2005 respectively. With her experience in public finance and government, and her commitment to student achievement, Guzman has played a critical role in producing education policy and advocacy. As a community advocate she worked with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano for over nine years and was hired to her 38th Congressional District's staff three years ago serving as the Senior Health and Education Aide and Labor Liaison. During her time as Municipal Treasurer, Guzman has never been afraid to take on the tough issues or fight for open government, truth and honest accountability from all.

NORMA TORRES – AD 61 (Los Angeles, San Bernardino)

Mayor Norma Torres has been at the forefront of social change concerning race issues, labor rights and youth advancement, working to change from within the dysfunctional



state of the government. Recently elected Mayor of Pomona, Torres also serves as the Councilwoman for Pomona District 6. While Councilwoman, Mayor Torres has taken pride in motivating organizational assistance for low-income housing in District 6 as well as taking the lead in creating a Skate Park and a Teen Center for Pomona's youth. While serving as Chair of the Pomona Valley Transportation Authority Board, Norma developed a Youth Transportation Program. Mayor Torres and the Pomona Police Department have worked together to implement a Zero Tolerance campaign against crime and has advocated regulating sex offenders and gang activity throughout her city.

Campaign website: <http://www.normatorres.com/>



LAUREL NICHOLSON – AD 66 (San Diego, Riverside)

Laurel Nicholson, chair of the 66th assembly district, is running to represent her district which includes both San Diego and Riverside counties. Nicholson ran for state assembly in 2004 and made extensive inroads, preparing for the 2006 open seat campaign. She is running on her "B.E.S.T." issues — Budget, Education, Security, and Transportation. Laurel Nicholson is a pro-choice Democrat, committed to keeping government out of the private decisions that affect our lives. Married with three grown children, she is the chair of the Democratic 66th Assembly District, a member of both the San Diego and Riverside Democratic Central Committees, and serves on several local chambers of commerce. A few of her endorsements include Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, Board of Equalization member Betty Yee, California Senator Jackie Speier, and FATE (Foundation Aiding the Elderly).

Campaign website: <http://www.nicholson4assembly.com/>



MARY SALAS - AD 79 (San Diego)

Mary Salas' honest leadership and service to her constituents is evident throughout the 79th Assembly District. In 1996, Salas became the first Latina elected to the Chula Vista City Council, the second largest city in the San Diego County. Defeating the favored challenger by ten percentage points—an all-time high in the City's history at that time—she also raised a record amount of contributions. In 2000, she ran for re-election and captured 66% of the vote. She ended her term in 2004. Salas' commitment to education is unequivocal. As a councilwoman, she chaired the University Working Group to establish a higher education center in Otay Ranch. For the past two years, along with the Superintendent of the County Office of Education, she has co-chaired the Blue Ribbon Committee for Universal Preschool. She has mentored young girls to stay in school and pursue a university education, to strengthen their leadership skills, and to work to improve their communities. Most recently, Salas launched a mentorship project in conjunction with the American Association of University Women and the Women's Resource Center at the local community college. Mary's endorsements include the California Democratic Legislative Women's Caucus, California League of Conservation Voters, Chula Vista Firefighters Association and the Women's Political Committee.

Campaign website: <http://marysalasforassembly.com/>

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

Thank you to all of the candidates who provided information for their profile. If we unfortunately missed profiling a candidate, please don't hesitate to contact us as soon as possible at info@californialist.org

JOINING FORCES

In Sacramento, The Woman's Campaign Fund was one of the first groups in California to focus on helping to elect women to California state government. The CALIFORNIA LIST would like to thank the members of the The Sacramento Women's Campaign Fund for joining forces with The California List. We appreciate your support. Thank you, Toni Roberts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We would also like to thank Senator Don Perata, one of our earliest supporters, for hosting a breakfast to support The CALIFORNIA LIST. The breakfast is tentatively scheduled for late March.

Mark your calendars! The CALIFORNIA LIST is on the move!!! There are several upcoming events in the next few weeks. Bettina Duval will be in San Diego on Wednesday, February 15, and Thursday, February 16 as she starts to plan The Annual SAN DIEGO WOMEN VOTE event in May.

Next month, she will head north to San Francisco on Thursday, March 9, and Friday, March 10. If you would like to get together and discuss women, politics, and The CALIFORNIA LIST, please call the office at 310.458.9355.

As a political fundraising group, we rely on our members not only to create a financial network, but also to build a personal network of relationships. [Please join us.](#)

I want to join The CALIFORNIA LIST !

Membership Application (page 1 of 2)

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