

# California Freedom

November 2008 — The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

## Your \$\$\$ Buys Liberty

# Rejoin! Renew! Donate!

by Thomas M. Sipos

End of the year. Time to renew your LPC memberships. Time to resubscribe to *California Freedom*. And if you wish to join the Coffee Club or make a one-time contribution, LPC Secretary Beau Cain has created some very nice coupons for your convenience—see pages 5 and 6!

Even now, Beau is mailing renewal postcards to current LPC members, and “come join us” letters to national LP members in California. But Treasurer Don Cowles has asked me to reinforce Beau’s mailings in these pages.

Why rejoin the LPC? We don’t win many elections. A few. Not many.

But the LPC is *more* than a political party. It’s an infrastructure that educates the public year-round about liberty. Changing minds. Influencing

the culture. Making a difference.

How so?

- **Running Candidates.**

It’s not just about winning office. Every election year, LPC candidates are interviewed by newspapers, at public forums, on radio and cable TV shows. Political campaigns are unique teaching opportunities that would not exist were the LPC not a recognized political party with ballot access.

Your money helps maintain both the party infrastructure and ballot access that buys media credibility and access to people’s minds.

(And occasionally, LPC candidates do win elections.)

- **Ballot Proposition Arguments.**

Ballot propositions present real opportunities to expand or limit freedom. LPC activists write many of

the pro-freedom arguments that appear in Voter Guides. Sometimes, ours are the only pro-freedom arguments for a proposition.

When a ballot measure results in more freedom, and the electoral victory was close, it’s not unreasonable to assume the LPC’s arguments made the difference.

Your money helps organize activists and buy credibility with the Registrar of Voters, so that voters see our pro-freedom arguments.

- **Speakers Bureaus.** I spoke at several venues over this summer, teaching liberty to teenagers and college youth. I was invited solely because I represented a political party. Other LPC members have done likewise. LPC speakers are invited solely because we

represent a recognized political party.

Your money helps organize these speakers and buy credibility with venues so that our speakers are invited.

- **Letters to the Editor.**

Many LPC activists and candidates write letters to local newspapers—and are published. The LPC supports these efforts (such as via Richard Rider’s tips on how to write effective letters to the editor, which appeared in *California Freedom*), and gives talking points and credibility to these writers, making publication of their letters more likely.

Your money helps the LPC help these writers get libertarian views in print.

- **Libertarian Perspective.**

Dan Minkoff publishes the weekly *Libertarian Perspective*. These pro-freedom op-eds are written by top libertarian writers, then submitted to *thousands* of publications (online and on paper) throughout the country. See: <http://www.ca.lp.org/perspective.shtml>.

Your money keeps those op-eds coming.

- **California Freedom.** It’s not for members only. Extra copies are printed of each issue, to be used as an outreach tool. Old issues are archived online and made available to the world: <http://www.ca.lp.org/cafreedom.shtml>.

Beau tells me that over the past 14 months, paid subscriptions have increased by over 12%. But apparently it’s not enough. Issues are no longer put online ASAP, but are delayed by nearly two months, in an attempt to encourage more paid subscriptions.

More money makes it more likely that issues will once again be put online as they come out, so the entire world can read *CF* ASAP.

We live in confused times. Republican and conservative policies are mistaken for

free market capitalism. Many Americans believe that deregulation caused the mortgage crisis and bank failures. As economic times worsen, Americans will seek answers.

Who will they listen to?

The bad news is, most Americans don’t want liberty. The good news is, they don’t want statism. They want prosperity, comfort, and security. They don’t care about principles. They want what “works.”

Your money helps the LPC teach Californians that to attain prosperity, comfort, and security, they must travel the road of freedom. Otherwise, Californians will look to Republicans and Democrats for economic answers.

A scary thought, no?

LPC activists are also fighting eminent domain abuse, confiscatory taxes, violations of civil liberties, oppression of minorities, and wars that are bankrupting this country.

Your money sustains the LPC. It pays for office rent. For our educational pamphlets and flyers. For our mailings. For our website and its *Libertarian Perspective* op-eds. For *California Freedom*. And for the credibility derived from being a recognized political party.

Please renew your LPC membership. Resubscribe to *California Freedom*. Join the Coffee Club. Donate.

Posterity thanks you for your support.

## Raising \$\$\$ for Liberty

# Ed Clark Attends LPC Fundraiser

by Kevin Takenaga

On Saturday, September 27, 2008, the LPC held a two-part fundraiser, attended by special guests of honor Ed and Alicia Clark.

Ed Clark is the Libertarian Party’s most successful presidential candidate to date, earning 921,299 votes (1.06%) in 1980. He also remains the LPC’s most successful gubernatorial candidate, winning 377,960 (5.5%) in 1978.

The fundraiser began with an 8 p.m. dinner at Il Fornaio restaurant in Pasadena, with eight people attending. A reception followed at the Eagle Rock home of Rick and Pam Probst. About thirty donors attended, including ExCom members Zander Collier III, Don Cowles, Beau Cain, Ted

Brown, and myself.

After Ed Clark spoke, I presented a slide show on LPC activities throughout the state over the past three to four months, which I personally photographed. Then Allen Hacker, who traveled from Texas to attend, gave a fundraising pitch.

Special thanks go to Rick and Pam Probst for providing their house—and delicious desserts and refreshments!—for the reception.

**Kevin Takenaga** is Chair of the LPC.



Ed Clark at the LPC fundraiser

Photo: Kevin Takenaga

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All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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# From the Editor Rock the Vote & Miss Joy

by Thomas M. Sipos

On Sunday, September 28, I spoke to youth at an "L.A. Teens Rock the Vote" concert, held at Safari Sam's on Sunset Boulevard. The event was co-sponsored by the Westside Jewish Community Center and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. As with my college talks this past summer, representatives from all political parties were invited to explain their stances.

It's instructive which positions go over well, which fall flat. It should come as no surprise that our opposition to the drug war drew the loudest cheers. (What else do you expect at a Rock the Vote concert?) Our opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan drew the second loudest applause. Support for gay marriage drew some cheers. Our call for lower taxes and less government fell flat. Silence. But our opposition to a Wall Street bailout drew some cheers.

After I spoke, I worked the crowd, distributing reprints from the LPC's Libertarian Perspective op-eds. Kudos to Dan Minkoff for running it, and to all its writers. This is a useful educational tool. See: <http://www.ca.lp.org/perspective.shtml>.

The speaking engagements I attended over the summer demonstrate a political party's unique educational potential. I would not have been invited to address teenagers and college youth about libertarian philosophy were I from a think tank. It's only because it's an election year, and I represent a political party, that I was able to edu-



cate these young people about liberty.

### • LP Women's Caucus Column

Barbara "Joy" Waymire will no longer write a "From the LP Women's Caucus" column.

In all the months I'd been publishing Barbara, I'd not received a single complaint from anyone. Then in late September, I received a flurry of emails from LPWC members. (Some appear in this issue's LTE section.) They were upset by Barbara's pro-war views, and especially that these views were presented under the LPWC banner.

I didn't want to drop Barbara's column because of her views, but it was inappropriate for her to continue to speak for the LPWC if she did not, or no longer did, reflect a majority of her fellow LPWC members' opinions. I announced that I would continue Barbara's column, but without the LPWC moniker. Everyone seemed satisfied by my decision. Barbara agreed to continue her column.

Soon thereafter, she changed her mind. She no longer wished to write a column.

Barbara did nothing wrong. To her credit, she submitted



L.A. Teens Rock the Vote at Safari Sam's nightclub

Photo: Thomas M. Sipos



Outside Safari Sam's on Sunset Boulevard

Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

columns in a timely fashion. Although I too disagreed with many of her opinions, she should be commended for the courage of her convictions; for boldly stating her views, rather than spinning for political gain,

or pretending to be someone she is not.

While Barbara has chosen not to continue her monthly column, she will continue to submit articles, and we look forward to her work.

# Fallen Freedom Fighter David Larkin, RIP

by Michael B. Everling

We are deeply saddened to note the passing away of one of our members, David W. Larkin, on or around October 8, apparently of natural causes. He was 61 years old and had suffered from diabetes, though the precise cause of death is not yet known.

Dave was a prominent member, since 1989, of the Libertarian Party of California, holding several offices and

handling many responsibilities during those years. He was a past Chair of the Los Angeles County LP, past Chair of Region 61, San Fernando Valley LP, and had currently been serving on the L.A. County LP's Judicial Committee. It was under Dave's administration as Region 61 Chair that Region 68, Antelope Valley LP, was established, in great part due to his leadership.

These are just a few of Dave's



David Larkin

many responsibilities and accomplishments as a leader and member of the LPC.

Dave served his country

during the Vietnam conflict as a U.S. Navy sailor, with duty assignment on river boats, for which service he received a decoration with a combat "V". His Vietnam experiences informed him as his political orientation evolved toward libertarianism, and those experiences gave him a credibility not shared by others. You can read more about that in Thomas M. Sipos's interview with Dave in the November/December 2007 *California Freedom*, available at: <http://ca.lp.org/cf/CF-200711.pdf>.

Of him, Thomas says: "David

*continued on page 6...*

Photo: Thomas M. Sipos



## Letters to the Editor

### Women's Caucus Not Pro-War

Barbara "Joy" Waymire does not speak for the LP Women's Caucus or the Women and Minority Outreach Committee of the LNC.

Her article supporting U.S. intervention in the affairs of other countries [*California Freedom*, August 2008] is her own *personal* opinion and should not be taken as the position of the LP Women's Caucus. Her opinion contravenes the Libertarian Party's historic position of non-interventionism.

The LP has never supported nation building, and there is certainly no consensus in the Women's Caucus to change that position at this time. Ms. Waymire does not have the authority or the right to speak for the rest of us.

— **Ruth E. Bennett**  
Seattle, WA

In the August issue of *CF*, I was surprised to come across [Barbara "Joy" Waymire's] "God and Founders Support Iraq War." It expounds a very pro-war message.

This is the kind of irresponsible publishing that we have to avoid. This is not the LP platform. It's not libertarian thinking. It is not from the Women's Caucus. This is, at best, from a few. Most likely, just from Joy Waymire. But it says it comes from us. It doesn't come from me. It definitely doesn't come from Angela Keaton, moderator of this list, LNC At Large member, and Antiwar.com goddess.

Joy says: "This is telling our new citizens that we don't care if your other family members in

your country suffer, they don't live here."

That's right, Joy. We are a sovereign nation, and our greatest responsibility to other nations is to allow them the same right. We fought for self-government. We must allow them to do the same. Otherwise, it doesn't last.

And we often back the wrong faction. In Nicaragua, we backed the contras, the drug trafficking, money-laundering dictators. Against the freedom fighters. Knowingly.

In Iran, we fought Khomeini (the man had 11 million people block the streets for his funeral—hardly an indication that he was universally hated) because we hate Islamic law. And this is probably the genesis of the current problems with "Muslim terrorists." We built them.

"And then we sit back and wonder why there is so much unrest in this nation and worldwide?" asks Joy.

A lot of the unrest worldwide comes from resentment due to the U.S. sticking its nose and troops into everyone else's business. By this statement, Joy shows that she has not traveled outside this country, or at least, not spent time with the general population. We do. And we hear, over and over: "Why does the US stick their nose into our business? Take your troops home, and leave us to straighten things out."

According to Ivan Eland at Cato.org [July 24, 1998]: "The United States currently has over 200,000 troops stationed in 144 countries and territories. At any given time, it usually has another 20,000 sailors and Marines deployed afloat on Navy ships. In the more benign post-Cold War international environment, why does the United States need all of those forces positioned overseas?"

No one can argue that we need troops in Japan and Germany. WWII was over 60 years ago. And we still have troops in both places.

The same article goes on to say: "Most of the 100,000 troops in Europe (mainly in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Spain, Iceland, Belgium and Portugal) and almost all of the 75,000 troops in Asia (in Japan and South Korea) are supporting wealthy nations against mild or declining threats."

The U.S. government is our worst enemy in the world of pub-

lic opinion, and we're losing.

We socialize with many new immigrants. We live in the Seattle area, which is full of young immigrant professionals. And we hear the same song: "Leave our country to work out its own problems."

Self-government. Sovereignty. What we fought for. And what we owe to others—the freedom, the opportunity, to claim their own sovereign state.

— **Rachel Hawkridge**  
Seattle, WA

I wanted to express my dismay with the decision to give Barbara "Joy" Waymire a monthly column in *California Freedom*, and especially labeling it as coming "From the LP Women's Caucus." From what I've read in her columns, it seems to me she holds very few opinions that could be considered "libertarian."

This is in no way intended as a personal attack. I've spent time with and enjoyed the company of "Miss Joy," and I recognize she has worked very hard on various projects connected with the LPC.

However, in my opinion, the last thing the party needs—at this point in time, more than possibly any other—is to have wildly un-libertarian views expressed as if they're perfectly consistent with libertarian philosophy, unobjectionable, and a valid representation of a segment of the libertarian population who never got a chance to weigh in on the particular issues discussed—i.e., the Women's Caucus.

Let me be clear, I have no desire to restrict or limit anyone's ability to express their personal views in the newsletter, whatever they may be, and wherever they may fall in the spectrum of libertarian thought—as long as they're identified as being *personal opinions*.

As I see it, the issues are:

1. Labeling the column as coming from the Women's Caucus, when no one was ever consulted about content;
2. Giving someone who is so far afield from traditional libertarian beliefs a monthly column that legitimized her views, and could easily be misinterpreted by some to imply that she does, in fact, represent libertarian philosophy.

— **Donna Orlando**  
San Diego, CA

### State Marriage Is a Curse

In regards to Rob Power's criticism of Adam Summers's opinion in his "Vote No on Prop 8" article [*California Freedom*, September

2008], I don't know what has blinded him from seeing this subject from a libertarian perspective.

Since when has government's regulation of our personal relationships been a "benefit"?

Marriage used to be everybody's ticket to happiness, and a life of bliss and harmony, until government started regulating it. Now it is nothing but a deadly trap, and an engine of eternal misery.

Why would any guy need government to foul things up for him? Women already recognize this as a sure way to get hold of another man's riches.

Things used to work fine until the government started intervening in our marriages.

Now every one of us who is married chafes in a living hell of eternal obligations and liabilities, surrounded by judges and lawyers who enforce them upon us like guard dogs holding a hostage.

Does Rob have a secret wish for a life of serfdom and servitude? Does he wish to lose all his life savings, all of his hard earned assets, all of the securities that he accumulated for his end of life retirement needs, to a hounding horde of judge-and-lawyer cannibals?

Does he want to be one of those 30,000 fathers who commit suicide every year because a judge has stricken him out of his home and out of his children's lives?

Does he want to be one of those 100,000 fathers who die every year because they could no longer endure those deadly attacks by those predatory judges and lawyers?

I'd be glad to trade the curse of my marriage privileges with Rob's deprivation of same anytime he wants.

Give me your marriage-free status, and take my married to the ball-and-chain, anytime, Rob. And may you yet receive the luck that you will need to go with them.

— **Aarde V. Atheian**  
Los Angeles, CA

### Watching Big Brother

Katherine Albrecht is a former LPC member now in New Hampshire. She is a nationally recognized expert on electronic surveillance and privacy issues, and co-author of the book *Spy Chips*.

It's good to see a Libertarian taking a lead role in documenting this fast-emerging threat to freedom. I strongly recommend read-

ing her excellent article on Radio Frequency ID (RFID) tags: [www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=how-rfid-tags-could-be-used](http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=how-rfid-tags-could-be-used).

— **Starchild**  
San Francisco, CA

### What is a Patriot?

I have discovered that I am a patriot.

For many years, the term "patriot" had a disagreeable connotation in my mind. I grew up on South Side of Chicago during the 1960s and 1970s. What patriot meant then was unswerving, unquestioning service and allegiance to the state, no matter what the state did. No matter how big the state was. No matter how many of our natural liberties the state was violating.

Is that what it means to be a patriot?

Does patriot mean paying our taxes with a smile, and complying with compulsory school attendance laws? Does patriot mean giving quick, ready service and allegiance to the state, no matter what they ask of you? Such as line up and be sent overseas to fight a war such as Vietnam?

To fail to do so was unforgivably selfish and viciously unpatriotic.

I turned eighteen in 1973. I remember "patriot" being aggressively promoted as going to Vietnam without question if called. Fortunately, I never went to Vietnam. But the scary thing is, if I was called, I would have gone.

It was some years since 1973 before I became aware of the wrongness of the Vietnam War and other police wars. By 1978, I was a libertarian, thanks to an economics course in college by an Austrian economics professor. It was exciting to put the civil liberties aspect together with the economic freedom aspect. I've been libertarian since.

But did I consider myself a patriot? Not for a long time.

I would like to thank Ron Paul, and Alex Jones of the Alex Jones radio show, and the Libertarian Party, for my new understanding of what it means to be a patriot.

To be a patriot is:

To question the state on EVERYTHING it does.

To hold accountable the government for EVERYTHING it does.

To demand the government adhere to a strict moral code.

To question any war the government might want to engage.

To forcefully remind the government that it cannot do just ANYTHING it wants.

*continued on page 5...*

**YOUR Letters  
Welcome!**

**But we can't publish  
what we don't receive.**

**Please submit your  
letters to:**

**editor@ca.lp.org**

## Foreign Interventionist Failure

# Georgia War's Background

by Philip Giraldi

The fighting between Georgia and Russia is yet another U.S. foreign policy disaster in which Washington might have encouraged a war where there was no conceivable American interest. It is also, by all accounts, the latest major intelligence failure.

When Tbilisi staged its surprise attack into South Ossetia, the U.S. had no less than 130 soldiers and Defense Department contractors training the Georgian forces through the embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation. Some were U.S. Army intelligence officers educating the Georgian army in their craft. There was also a CIA station and an embassy political section tasked with developing confidential relationships with Georgia's political leadership. U.S. Ambassador John Tefft reportedly could drop in on President Mikheil Saakashvili any time he wished.

In addition to the American contingent, the Israelis had a very large presence providing \$500 million worth of equipment and training to the Georgians, funded through two U.S. assistance programs. The Israeli media has been reporting that there were hundreds of former military officers working as trainers in Georgia.

This version of a greater Caucasus co-prosperity sphere

was greased by an estimated \$2 billion in U.S. assistance used to maintain and upgrade the Georgian military, partially to enable it to serve in Iraq, but also to protect the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and confront nonexistent al-Qaeda elements in the Pankisi Gorge.

The assistance program involved frequent interaction with all levels of the Georgian military, but the Americans and Israelis did not know what Tbilisi was up to, though invading a country, even on a small scale, is no turnkey operation. Planning and preparation involving thousands of Georgians went apparently unnoticed by the many foreign observers in the country.

The U.S. advisors were withdrawn to Tbilisi, and the Israelis were evacuated back to their own country after fighting broke out, leaving so quickly that they abandoned their classified training materials.

When Moscow counterattacked, the U.S. found itself equally blind in spite of a large CIA station and diplomatic presence in Russia. Are there any spies here? Apparently not.

A rough after-action assessment of the intelligence failure, both in Russia and in Georgia, reveals the usual problems. Spy satellites, which might have detected the movement of troops, were instead watching

Iraq and Afghanistan. Lacking language and cultural skills, the U.S. intelligence community relied on its Georgian counterparts to provide the information that it needed. When the friendly liaison service has something to conceal, such information becomes disinformation. Diplomats and military officers, meanwhile, uncritically accepted what their Georgian interlocutors were telling them.

The Israelis were also apparently too busy turning a buck to notice what was going on. One Israeli officer returned from Georgia noting that the training had been perfunctory, because turning trainees over rapidly provided opportunities to make more money.

Both Israeli and American instructors agreed that the frequently illiterate Georgian conscripts were poor soldiers, led by mediocre officers and unfit for any military action, but they were reluctant to report their observations, because they would not have been well received in Washington and Tel Aviv.

*Philip Giraldi is a former CIA officer, and a fellow at the American Conservative Defense Alliance. This article reprinted courtesy The American Conservative magazine. Their website: [www.amconmag.com](http://www.amconmag.com).*

## Protecting YOUR Property Rights

# Punishing Santa Barbara County

by Alissa J. Strong

“These guys hit us over the head with an environmental billy club. So, we've got to make an example of them.”

Those are the words of Peter Adam. He and his family are fifth generation farmers in Santa Barbara County, California. He's explaining why Pacific Legal Foundation attorneys are representing them in a federal property rights lawsuit against the county.

Peter and his brothers have been victimized by egregious government misconduct—a bureaucratic scheme that falsely designated nearly 100 of their acres as “wetlands.” For almost seven years, they had to keep paying property taxes, yet they couldn't farm the land.

Before buying the property in 1997, the family inspected it, found that it was farmable, and decided to grow vegetables on it. When they later heard that the county was designating the property as “wetlands,” it didn't make sense, because the land was dry and sandy.

An expert hired by the brothers found that the wetland designation was more than faulty—it aroused significant suspicion of ulterior motives. Could it have anything to do with county plans to site various public facilities on the property?

In 2000, the Adam brothers had had enough. They sued in

state court.

During the litigation, officials admitted they had not followed procedures. The jury found that the county had conspired to deprive the Adam brothers of their Constitutional rights, and had acted with malice, oppression, or fraud. It awarded them more than \$5 million in damages.

An appellate court upheld the judgment that the wetland designation was falsified, and permitted farming to recommence on the property. But the court threw out the money award.

Now, in federal court, the Adam family is seeking financial damages, because it's a Constitutional right to be compensated when government confiscates private property.

Accountability is crucial, too. “The government has to know that it will pay a price when it tramples on people's rights,” says Peter Adam. “Unless the county is made to pay for depriving us of our rights, they have zero incentive to respect the rights of any other farmer or any other landowner.”

*Alissa J. Strong is an attorney for the Pacific Legal Foundation, a public interest group that litigates for property rights, limited government, and a balanced approach to environmental protection. Their website: [www.PacificLegal.org](http://www.PacificLegal.org).*

## It Pays to Show Up

Four LPC candidates won their special district elections before the November race, because they had no opposition.

Three were reelected: **Frank Manske** to the Mt. Diablo Healthcare District; **Norm Westwell** to the Ocean View School District; and **Kate O'Brien** to the Simi Valley Park and Recreation District.

**Brian Holtz** is newly elected to the Purissima Hills Water District.



Norm Westwell



Kate O'Brien



Brian Holtz

## Running for Office

# Reflections of a Rookie Candidate

by Timothy Hannan

I'm running for California's 6th Assembly District seat, which represents Marin County and southern Sonoma County, because I'm troubled by government's drift away from our founding principles of limited government. I believe in freedom.

Running for public office is a new experience for me. I really don't know what I'm doing. I've little money and scant volunteer help. I've done the obvious things. I wrote a Statement of Qualifications for the voters' pamphlets published by the Registrar of Voters. I built a website: [votefortimhannan.org](http://votefortimhannan.org).

But I feel like a new sailor who's not yet found his sea legs.

I was interviewed by a local radio station, and a local newspaper. To prepare, I crammed my head with facts and figures. I was asked about various issues: "How should we solve the budget crisis in Sacramento?" and "How do you stand on Propositions 2, 4, 7, and 8?" and "Do we need to change the way legislative district lines

are drawn?"

Fighting anxiety and self-doubt, I listened to the call of each question. I gave answers based on facts and informed by libertarian principles. My delivery wasn't always smooth. I sometimes failed to speak in sound bites. But halfway through the newspaper interview, I thought: "I can do this. I am doing it! I'm contributing to the political process. I'm saying things that my fellow citizens need to hear."

Being a candidate is scary and lonely—but also exhilarating. I'm carrying the libertarian torch on a marathon race. I'm keeping the libertarian message alive until the voters someday come to their senses and reject big government.

That sense of purpose is enough to sustain me.

Next, I'll appear at a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters. I'm looking forward to it.

**Tim Hannan** can be contacted through his website: [votefortimhannan.org](http://votefortimhannan.org).

### Letters to the Editor

continued from page 3...

To remember that power corrupts -- and boy, has power corrupted!

To demand the government stay within its Constitutionally imposed limits.

To know that I am a 100% sovereign being with unalienable rights -- unalienable by everybody, including the government.

I am proud to say that I am a patriot. And a 100% committed libertarian. Committed to the LP. Committed to liberty worldwide.

I enjoy my new designation. I feel part of the original American Revolution, and the American revolution that continues today.

— Tom Burlingame  
Riverside, CA

### Plan for Victory

I am a survivor of the Ayn Rand and Libertarian Party wars of the 1960s and 1970s. I've had time to think about why third parties do not fair well in the USA.

## Growing the Party

# Prominent Journalists Join LPC

by Kevin Takenaga

On October 11, 2008, the LPC welcomed several prominent new libertarians into our ranks at an event held in San Juan Capistrano.

Among those re-registering Libertarian were Steven Greenhut, senior editorial writer for the *Orange County Register*, and John Seiler, a former editor at the *Register*.

Greenhut has long reported on eminent domain abuses by local governments. He is the author of *Abuse of Power: How the Government Misuses Eminent Domain* (Seven Locks Press, 2004).

Orange County LP Chair Joe Leibrandt greeted the guests, many of whom haven't been to an LP event in a very long time.

Much thanks to Paul Studier for sponsoring the event, and to Chuck McGlawn who helped promote the event through his Liberty Viewsletter, regularly emailed to around 700 subscribers.



Photo: Kevin Takenaga

Steven Greenhut addresses Libertarians

## Raise your Cup to Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

Suzanne Bell  
Ted Brown, Jr.  
Beau Cain  
Audrey Carlan  
T. J. Campbell  
Ed Clark  
Alicia Clark  
Zander Collier, III

Curt Cornell  
Don Cowles  
Bruce Dovner  
Terry Floyd  
John Inks  
Carolyn Marbray  
Chuck Moulton  
Alan Pyeatt

Lawrence Samuels  
Paul Studier  
Kevin Takenaga  
Charles Tolman  
Robert Weber, Jr.

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# Film Review

## Daredevils Gotta Be Free

Review by Laura G. Brown

*Man on Wire. Documentary by James Marsh.*

*Man on Wire* is a documentary that details Philippe Petit's unique wire walking stunt between the Twin Towers of Manhattan's World Trade Center in 1974.

Petit's name fits him: Could anything seem more delicate or tiny than his spindly black form perched 1,300 ft. in midair? This daredevil exemplifies the libertarian idea that a person owns his own life, even to the point of risking it for a cause.

Yet the risk was calculated. The Frenchman was a trained acrobat and tightrope walker who'd planned his "coup" for years. After walking 140 ft. across the span between the towers eight times, and even lying down on the wire, he was promptly arrested for "disturbing the peace."

The Twin Towers are the film's uncredited co-stars, looming over Manhattan like sentinels of America's coast, on par with the Statue of Liberty. A.O. Scott writes for *The New York Times* that people looking up that morning 34 years ago might have worried that this man could fall hundreds of feet, yet would have no inkling that the towers would be the ones to fall, in a balletic crumple, years later. The thread Petit strung between the skyscrapers turned out to be more tenacious than the invisible one holding together the buildings and their inhabitants.

Marsh's thorough account of this adventure includes mundane as well as fascinating details. Petit and an accomplice are surprised by a guard near the skyscraper's roof, and huddle under a dusty tarp for hours. The cable Petit walked on was sent from tower to tower by bow and arrow. His pal, a so-so marksman, shot a line across, which Petit went fishing for in the dark. The cable was then tied to it and pulled over.

Petit's exuberance, undimmed by time, is refreshing. He seems engaging, infectious, enthusiastically enthusiastic, and able to attract a loyal cadre of helpers for his plan. Still, he isn't entirely likable. Upon reading about the towers being built, he says he felt he had to possess them in some way. He lampoons the police and guards. After his historic stunt, he heists one arresting officer's watch. When

a groupie latches on to him at a press conference and offers to share her bed, he gladly accepts, saying he feels entitled to this reward, discounting the feelings of his longterm girlfriend.

The film's many reenactments by actors move the story along nicely. It will appeal to those who like real mavericks—not the McCain-Palin kind. Want to walk a tightrope between the world's tallest buildings? Gather some



like-minded individuals, plan it, do it. Tired of the Democratic/Republican statist machine? Want to start a new political party? Gather some compatriots in your living room, as Dave Nolan did during this same period in 1972, and the rest is

history.

In 2008's crushing conformity and Patriot Act ripples, Petit's breaking of security measures to access the towers could be seen as a terrorist act. And Nolan's wonderful idea is still stuck in the idea stage. But

we can admire dreamers like Petit and Nolan. They remind us that you can dramatically alter the landscape when you push ahead with a creative endeavor.

## Meet Mike Gravel

At an event to be held Thursday evening, November 20th, libertarians will be able to meet former U.S. Senator and LP presidential candidate Mike Gravel.

Please phone the LPC office for details: (818) 782-8400.



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## LPC Activists Fight Prop 8

Although the LPC has yet to win any top electoral offices, LPC officers and activists are advancing liberty in other ways. Angela Keaton and Beau Cain (below) were among the volunteers at a "Prop 8 No" phone bank in West Hollywood. Keaton handled the phones, while Cain and Kevin Takenaga dropped by to pick up signs and literature



Photo: Kevin Takenaga

## Shopping for a home?

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Albert J. Segalla, Realtor  
Chair, LP of Calaveras County



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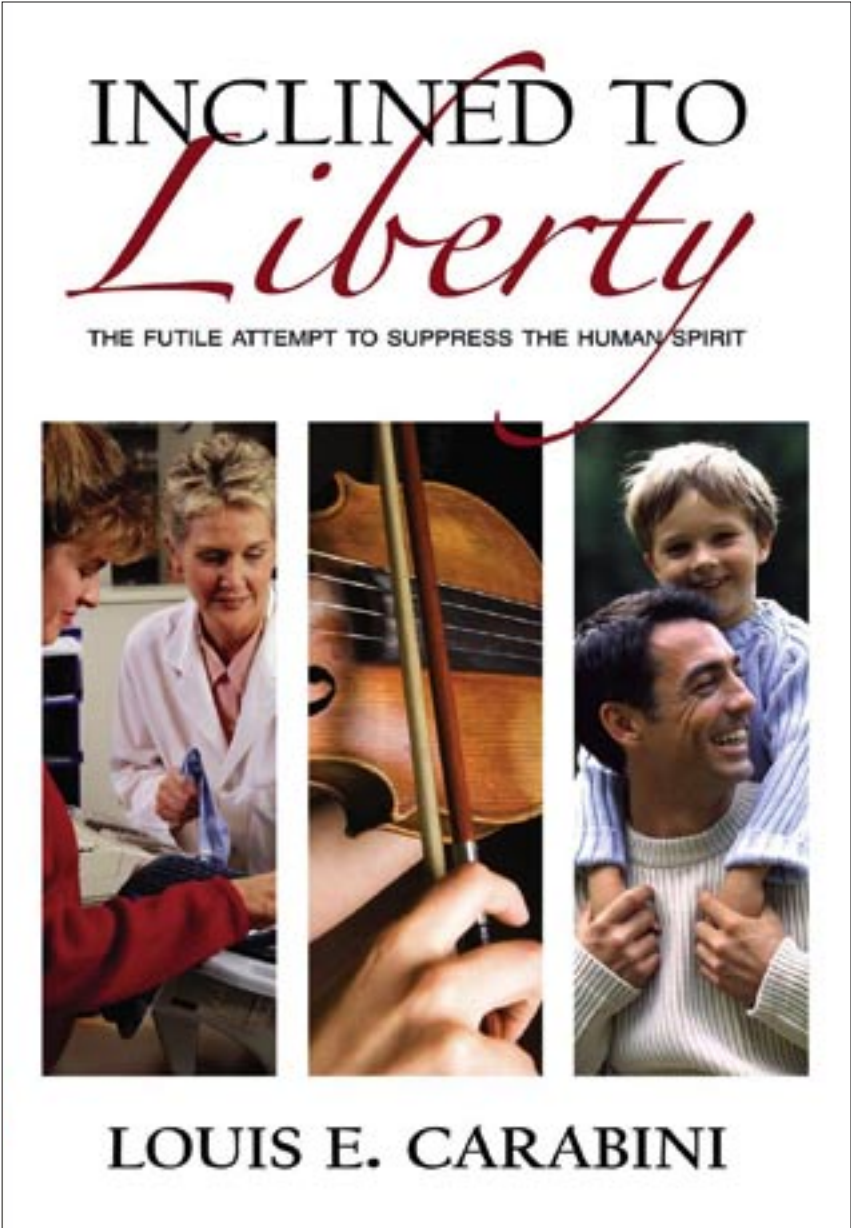
I have often wondered why those with strong opinions about social affairs are always attracted toward one of two opposing poles. There are those inclined to liberty—freedom of the individual to live his or her life in any peaceful way. And there are those who are inclined to mastery—permitting others to live their lives only as another sees fit.

Liberty is not a battle that requires the conversion of others in order to win. Liberty is won when you accept the idea that you are the sole master of your life; when your life is subordinate to none, and no other life is subordinate to yours. When you accept that idea, you are liberated. There will always be those who will claim to be your master, but you will know otherwise.

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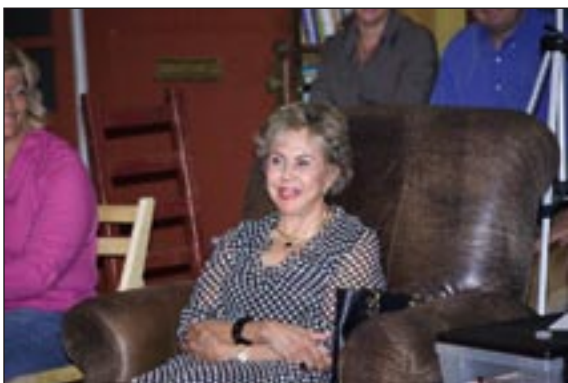
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Alicia Clark at the LPC fundraiser • Page 1

Photo: Kevin Takenaga

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