

Larry Israel: Actions not words

Local Libertarian runs for Woodside Town Council

by Bernie Jackson

Larry Israel is a busy man. Besides serving as a member of the planning commission for the town of Woodside, he is also president and CEO of a Bay Area electronics company with offices in London and Paris. In his spare time, he maintains and pilots his own airplane. But Mr. Israel wants more to do. He is running for a seat on the Woodside Town Council this November.

Politically, Larry Israel says he has probably always been a Libertarian but never realized it until three or four years ago. Before that, he was a frustrated Republican. He regularly read Libertarian publications, and one day he came across the message that "you don't hit what you don't aim at." He decided that Republicans were not serious about decreasing the size of government, and thus was "born" a Libertarian.

As you might expect, Mr. Israel is not an "armchair" Libertarian. That is, when he talks about solving problems through private initiative, he can back up his theories with his own actions. When I interviewed him, he said, "I believe very strongly in private contribution and private charity. I do not believe in forced charity." That very morning, he had flown his plane to a place near Sacramento, picked up a three-year-old girl and her family for a trip to Stanford Hospital, waited several hours while the girl received some special medical treatment, and returned them to their home. Incredibly, he found time for this on a Wednesday morning in the middle of the work week. He made this trip as a member of "Angel Flight," a private group of volunteer pilots helping patients who need special care but cannot afford the travel costs. That's one less government program we "need."

Even in his career, Mr. Israel caters to people with special needs. He describes his company as "the biggest electronics company dedicated to assistive devices for people who are blind or visually impaired." These devices include Braille terminals that allow blind people to use computers. Even the staunchest foe of capitalism and "greedy CEO's" has to admit that this is a noble undertaking and Mr. Israel accomplishes it in the marketplace, without forcing anyone to do anything.

Until recently, Mr. Israel was the only candidate who had filed for Woodside's council race. After the filing deadline, someone else registered as a write-in. Hopefully Mr. Israel's visibility as a current member of his town's government, combined with the obscurity of a write-in candidate, will give him the advantage he needs to achieve victory.

[Editor's note: As of the time of this publication (election evening), Mr. Israel is in a very tight race with the write-in candidate. We wish him the best of luck with the outcome.]

[Webmaster's note: In the end, the write-in candidate prevailed.]

Jefferson Club Lunch with David Boaz of the Cato Institute

On Thursday, November 13 at noon, the [Jefferson Club](#) will hold a luncheon speaking engagement with David Boaz, Executive Vice-President of the [Cato Institute](#), at Ming's Villa in Palo Alto. Mr. Boaz will be speaking on the subject of "The New Intellectual Revolution: Decentralization, Entrepreneurship, and the Information Age". The cost of the luncheon is \$20, payable in cash at the event. This fee covers both lunch and the event itself. Seating is limited, so visit the Jefferson Club's Web site (see above) for reservations.



Jefferson Club Luncheon

Thursday, November 13 at 12 noon

Ming's Villa

1700 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto

(just east of Highway 101)

650/856-7700

\$20 lunch/event fee

Proposition 209: an end to government-forced quotas

by Robert Giedt

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision of non-decision to uphold California's Proposition 209 (the California Civil Rights Initiative) was a positive step forward toward equality for all races and an end to unfair hiring practices and school enrollment quotas. Although, while it seems the battle has been finally won, the legal wranglings of this decision may have ramifications for months, if not years, to come.

Enforcement of Proposition 209 will hopefully lower the barriers in a competitive workplace, ensuring that the company with the best team, the best bid will receive contracting jobs, rather than the company with the "correct" ethnic mix. Caucasian or African-American, Asian or Hispanic, there should be no difference. Whichever company or individual gets a particular job, deserves that job on the basis of

merit alone, and not because of any enforced quotas or hiring practices. Companies realize this. A company won't simply hire a lesser worker because of the color of their skin or their gender if a more qualified candidate is available. They want the best person for the job. Period.

The same can be said about college admission purposes. A person must show proof that they should receive the privilege (notice I didn't use the word "right") to attend a university. Whether that comes from SAT or ACT scores, a high grade point average, or a scholarship based on extracurricular merit is all that should be considered. Nothing more. I'm a prime example of this practice. My high school grades were very poor and my SAT scores were certainly not suitable for framing. I attended junior college until my grades there proved that I was worthy of attending a major college and I made it in. Once there, my grades proved I could stay.

All we ask with Proposition 209 is that there becomes a level playing field an arena not motivated by quotas where the people that have proven their worth will receive their rewards. The only people that should be angered by Proposition 209 are the ones that lack the skills or the motivation to succeed and must rely on "affirmative action" as a crutch for their shortcomings.

"Every man's reason is his own rightful umpire. This principle, with that of acquiescence in the will of the majority, will preserve us free and prosperous as long as they are sacredly observed."

Thomas Jefferson to John Watson, 1845

October meeting notes

by Christopher Schmidt

October's meeting packed significant party business and a guest speaker into just over 90 minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Margret Schmidt had to leave the meeting early, but left us with copies of her Treasurer's report and spending projections for 1998. *[Copies should be available at the November meeting if people are interested Ed.]*

Ratification of Constitution and Bylaws

By an 83 vote, central committee members present voted to adopt Steve Marsland's proposed constitution and bylaws as revised at the September meeting (which I was unable to attend). I moved to amend the newly-adopted documents at the November meeting and distributed written copies of my proposed refinements.

Open Executive Committee seats filled

By votes of 50, 50 and 60, the Executive Committee elected Steve Marsland, Frank Minishak and Barbara Less to fill the newly-created open positions of Fundraising Chair, Speaker's Committee Chair and Activities Chair. A motion to elect a Campaigns Chair was tabled to give voters and potential officers time to consider the demands of the job.

Direct-mail petition circulation

The Executive Committee voted 70 to approve Margret's proposal to spend \$600 on direct-mail circulation of petitions to put our candidates on the June primary ballot. (With any luck, the net cost should be less, as the effort may yield new dues-paying members or motivate other potential donations to the ballot-access effort.)

December caucus

It was decided to hold a caucus at our December 17 meeting to nominate candidates for public office.

October's speaker:

Jane Armstrong, State Chairman of ACTIV

Our October speaker, Jane Armstrong, State Chairman of the Alliance of California Taxpayers and Involved Voters (ACTIV), spoke briefly on the organization she chairs and at length of incidents that helped shape her mostly-libertarian outlook on life (run-ins with the state education bureaucracy; the justice system; her PAC-paid congressman; the EPA; and even tyrannical county arborists!). Although a libertarian by sentiment, she said she was willing to "sleep with the Republicans" to achieve reforms in the areas of politics, education, regulation and the tort system. Her approach, however, is non-partisan. Each month, in her mailing to ACTIV's 23,000 members, she provides something an activist can do: signing an initiative petition, a postcard to legislators, etc. If you wish to be added to her mailing list, contact her at the following address:

Alliance of California Taxpayers and Involved Voters (ACTIV)
2400 Glen Canyon Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-1212
408/438-0301 (voice)
408/438-0389 (fax)

Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:

Wednesday, November 19

Prime Time Athletic Club

1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame (between Broadway and Millbrae Avenue)

Informal chat/dinner: 6:30-7:30pm in the cafe

Business meeting: 7:30-8:00pm in the multipurpose room. Agenda: Approval vote on bylaws/constitution revisions.

Speaker: 8:00-9:00pm in the multipurpose room: Sharon Presley, on:

How to Avoid Being Manipulated, Bamboozled, and Seduced by Experts and Authorities: Tips Even Libertarians Can Use

"Mindlessly going along with authority is easy. All kinds of people do it, including smart people. This talk will help you learn to be more mindful of what experts and authorities say. It suggests techniques for spotting and avoiding manipulation by experts, avoiding the "seduction of the situation," and for standing up to unjust authority. Topics include how to spot situational factors that unconsciously affect you, how to avoid playing the passive role in an unequal power relationship, techniques for avoiding going along with the crowd, seven guidelines for thinking critically about authority, positive strategies for making yourself less vulnerable to authority and persuasion, as well as suggestions for how to deal with unjust authority in the workplace or other institutional settings."

Sharon Presley, Ph.D. is a social psychologist whose speciality is obedience and resistance to authority. A longtime libertarian activist, she is the co-founder of Laissez-Faire Books and is currently Executive Director of [Resources for Independent Thinking](#), a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational organization in Oakland.

The front desk can direct you to either location. Come on by for either or both events!

Entertainment Books still available

There's still time to purchase the ever-popular "Entertainment Book '98" available through our chapter. San Mateo County/San Francisco or Santa Clara County/San Jose books are \$40 each, of which \$8 goes directly to the San Mateo County chapter of the LP (that's us!). These books are stuffed full of discount coupons for movies, fine dining discounts, event entertainment like the symphony, museums and sporting events.

Make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County, 853 Middlefield Road #4, Palo Alto, CA 94301. If you have questions, please call Margret Schmidt at 650/833-1300. Thanks for helping!