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ACLU NEWS

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GOURMET COCKTAIL PARTY SET TO HONOR RETIRING AND INCOMING ACLU EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Ramona Ripston, newly appointed executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, will be guest of honor at a gourmet cocktail party sponsored by the San Diego chapter September 23. Retiring Executive Director Eason Monroe will also be honored at the party to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John McGuane, 3973 Acacia St. in Bonita. The Saturday party will begin at 5:00pm

Ms. Ripston comes to California from her position as head of the Department of Public Affairs for the New York Urban Coalition. She has long been active in civil liberties activities. She served as communications director for the New York Civil Liberties Union in 1965, becoming associate director of the New Jersey CLU the following year. Ms. Ripston became director of press relations for the national ACLU in 1967 and joined the Urban Coalition in 1969. She is also treasurer of the National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws.

The new executive director succeeds Eason Monroe, who will return to teaching at San Francisco State College. Some twenty years ago Monroe was hired by the ACLU after being fired from his teaching position at San Francisco State for refusing to sign a loyalty oath. Recently the California Supreme Court declared the oath unconstitutional and ordered Monroe reinstated. During his tenure the ACLU of Southern California has grown from a few hundred members to over 15,000 card carrying civil libertarians.

A $2.50 per person donation is being asked for admission to the party. Members are requested to donate hors d'oeuvres if they wish. Persons desiring to donate gourmet style hors d'oeuvres should call Pat Clarke, chairperson of the event, at 234-8577. Drinks may be purchased at the party.

DEATH PENALTY, ANTI-BUSING INITIATIVES ACLU TARGETS

Of the several initiatives on the November ballot having civil liberties implications the ACLU has selected two for its primary focus. One is a state constitutional amendment which would restore the death penalty in California. Earlier this year, acting on an ACLU suit, the California Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional. The other initiative which ACLU will actively oppose would ban busing used for the purpose of achieving racial balance in the public schools.

The American Friends Service Committee has announced the formation of a statewide coalition to oppose these two initiatives in particular. The ACLU has announced it will co-operate fully in the work of the coaltion by assisting in raising funds and providing volunteers to oppose the ballot measures.

Please watch your mail for more information about the ACLU campaign to defeat these two anti-civil libertarian measures. The ACLU has worked for 10 years to end the death penalty. The defeat of this measure will make the ACLU victory complete in California. The defeat of the anti-busing initiative is equally important. The ACLU is currently pressing a suit to compel the San Diego City Schools to desegregate. A victory in that suit would be difficult to implement with the adoption of the anti-busing initiative.

STAY-AT-HOME FUNDRAISING VICTORY

The San Diego chapter's stay-at-home fundraiser mailed in June has brought in over $650 to be used by the local organization to meet operating costs this year. The minimum annual operating budget is appoximately $1800. Thanks go to all those members who were so generous in sending a contribution in order to stay at home. There will be other fundraising activities and the ACLU looks forward to the continuing support of its 1000+ membership.

SPEAKERS BUREAU ORGANIZED

In order to provide greater public exposure for ACLU activities in San Diego the local board of directors voted at its August meeting to organize a speakers bureau. Letters will be sent to various community organizations offering ACLU speakers on various topics of interest. The speakers bureau is being organized particularly in anticipation of the initiative campaigns this fall concerning the death penalty and school busing. If you are a member of an organization which would like an ACLU speaker call 223-3863.

PLEASE RENEW

Several hundred local ACLU members still have not renewed their memberships this year. There is an easy way to check if you are renewed by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. If a letter (either a Z, P, or R) appears before your account number you are paid up. If no letter appears you have not renewed for the year. You may renew by mailing the coupon on the following page and save the ACLU money which would have to be spent on sending renewal notices.

THE DOCKET

Carlin vs. Board of Education, the ACLU's five year old suit to compel desegregation of the San Diego Unified School District, will be going to trial on October 2. This suit is the most expensive project to be undertaken by the San Diego chapter of ACLU. Bill Gavin is the ACLU attorney heading a team of volunteers presenting the ACLU position against continued segregation of the local school district. Many expert witnesses will be called and members may find this an interesting case to watch. Trial will be in San Diego Superior Court.

Adcock vs. Board of Education involves a teacher who was transferred from Clairemont High School because of criticism of this political views. The case is now awaiting a decision by the state Court of Appeals. The school district is appealing a Superior Court decision ordering Adcock's reinstatement.

In addition to these suits there are others which have not been filed and therefore are not ready for reporting. The Legal Panel is also organizing a group of persons to observe police activities at local rock concerts. The ACLU has received complaints that police are being unnecessarily rough in their handling of disturbances at concerts at the Sports Arena. Law student Mark Dodge is in charge of this project. The observers will attempt to see if charges of police over-reaction are justified.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

As reported on the preceding page several hundred members have yet to renew their memberships. Membership chairwoman Thelma Silberzweig is in need of volunteers to assist in calling unrenewed members in September. If you will have some free time during that month please so indicate on this coupon. Volunteers will call all unrenewed members and attempt to find out the reasons why they have failed to renew this year.

☐ I am willing to assist in calling unrenewed members during the month of September.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ MAIL TO: ACLU
P.O. BOX 6233
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92106

_____

STILL HAVEN'T RENEWED

☐ I FORGOT TO RENEW AND HERE IS MY MONEY ($10 EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS, WHO PAY $3)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
Mail to: ACLU, P.O. BOX 6233, SAN DIEGO, CA. 92106

NEW BOARD BEGINS WORK

Each summer the local ACLU chapter reorganizes it's board of directors to bring new people into active participation in the organization. The board is responsible for conducting all ACLU activity in the San Diego area. Below is a listing of the new board members and their primary responsibility.

President, Mary Freske; Vice-President, George Haverstick; Secretary, Gene Tendler; and Treasurer, Lois Steger.

This year the Legal Panel chairman is Jim Griffin. The Legal Panel is a group of lawyers and law students who screen civil liberties complaints.

Organizing programs for the membership and the community is Alice Hartsuyker. Frank Phillips writes the newsletter. Responsible for membership recruitment is Thelma Silbersweig. Connie Mullin will be keeping track of pro- and anti-civil liberties legislation on the local, state, and national level. Public Relations work will be done by Patrick Stalnaker. Continuing in charge of the courtwatchers program will be Jane Elliott.

The San Diego Chapter representative to the Southern California ACLU Board of Directors will be Larry Schwartz. William Martin will have the job of raising money for San Diego ACLU activities. Past chapter president Lowell Blankfort will also serve on the local board. Members-at-large are Michael Fry, Alex Landon, David Irving, Bill Burns, and Peg and Bill Jorgensen.

Any local board members may be contacted through the San Diego ACLU office at 223-3863. Ceil Podoloff is our local staff person at that number.

Members may also attend board meetings anytime. They are usually held during the first week of the month and arrangements may be made to attend by calling 223-3863.

REMEMBER TO MARK SEPTEMBER 23 ON YOUR CALENDER

COME AND MEET THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AFFILIATE

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 6233
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