

**December
2008**



PEACE TO YOU IN THIS SEASON OF MIRACLES



Christmas is a magical season, bringing families and friends together to share the much loved customs and traditions which have been around for centuries. It is very important to preserve American Christmas traditions and customs. America is the land of the free, so every culture is here, but American traditions should not be lost in the mix.

Christmas is an annual holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Many secular traditions are associated with Christmas, for instance the legend of Santa Claus which began around 1860. Santa is known to fly around on Christmas Eve and leave gifts for all the good children while they sleep. Santa then returns to his home in the North Pole to begin preparations for the next Christmas. In America it is customary to exchange gifts with friends and family during the holiday season. Decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments, garland, and lights and hanging up lights outside the home is another way to celebrate this festive season

Chanukah is a Jewish holiday which lasts for eight days . Another name for Chanukah is The Festival of Lights. A menorah is a special lamp which has eight candles. On the first night of the holiday, the family lights one candle. On the second night, they light two candles, on the third night, three, and so on for eight days. They say special prayers and tell the story of Chanukah.

On Chanukah, Jewish families enjoy a big dinner and sing songs. Some families give money and gifts to their children for the holiday. One custom which is very popular among children is the dreidel game. A dreidel is a top which has four sides. On each side there is a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. The four letters stand for a sentence which means "A great miracle occurred here."

Christmas and Chanukah are religious traditions that we celebrate with our families.

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President's Message

2008 was another growth year for The Conservative Forum. Once again, we had eight very successful and well-attended regular monthly meetings. Our average attendance for our general meetings is now approximately 100 people. We had three extremely successful big events with John Lott, Daniel Pipes and a global warming debate. The average attendance for these three events was about 350.

We added two special events during the year - a tour of Hoover Institution on the Stanford University campus and a wonderful luncheon with Edwin Feulner, the founder and president of Heritage Foundation. Both of these functions pretty much had maximum attendance; and a great time was had by all who attended.

2009 promises to be every bit as strong. Jack Mallory, our Program Chairman, has the knack of attracting outstanding speakers who are not necessarily well known.

Forum Speakers for the Spring 2009

The Conservative Forum speakers for the first four months of 2009 have been confirmed. They are:

January 6 - *Martha Montelongo*, a conservative Mexican-American writer, radio talk show host and commentator.

February 3 - *Brian Kennedy*, President of Claremont Institute, a conservative non-profit foundation dedicated to restoring the principles of the America's founding.

March 3 - *Aryeh Green*, former advisor to Israel Minister Natan Sharansky and high tech executive and business consultant. Aryeh spoke to The Conservative Forum in February, 2007, and we had an attendance of 225 people. He is currently the CEO of Media-Central for the country of Israel.

April 7 - Terry Moe, Hoover Institute Senior Fellow and Professor of Political Science. Expert in education policy with concerns for school choice and public bureaucracy.

Jack Mallory, our program chair, would like to have some Forum members volunteer to help or advise with the speakers committee. If you are interested, please contact Jack Mallory at Mallory58@aol.com, or call 408-252-7447.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for the first Tuesday of every month for some great conservative speakers. May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday Season, and a healthy and prosperous 2009.

Richard Geno

President

The Conservative Forum of Silicon Valley

Living in Denial by Keith De Filippis

Students are protesting possible tuition increases. The prison guards were contemplating recalling Governor Schwarzenegger over prison cuts. Nurses are protesting possible budget cuts. The California Teachers Association is lobbying for more money. The city of San Jose is looking for \$14 billion. The city of Vallejo is bankrupt. Numerous other cities and counties are in financial trouble. The California state is estimated to be \$28 billion in debt. Apparently 29 or 30 other states are also in trouble. The federal government cannot afford to bail us out. They simply do not have that much cash.

Here in California our elected officials realize we have a problem. They don't seem to understand how severe the problem is. The Democrats are all for raising taxes. They are proposing 1.5 cent increase in sales tax and increasing the vehicle license fees (VLF) again. They should ask Gray Davis about the vehicle license fees. Even if these two very bad ideas pass into law they won't come close to the \$28 billion shortfall. If people aren't making the payments on their cars why should they renew their license plates? If people are buying less the 1.5 cent sales tax will not generate more revenue.

The Democrats are blaming the Republicans for not supporting tax increases. The Republicans are holding out for cost cutting. Meanwhile both Democrat and Republican legislators are driving around in taxpayer provided luxury cars. They are also collecting per diem and other expenses not available to working people.

Porsche, Audi and VW are scaling back. Many businesses in the world are reducing production or shutting down. Porsche shutting down for a week will not affect most of us directly. However the ripple effect will reach us. Companies scaling back means fewer jobs not only at the factories but on down the line. Using Porsche as an example they will need less sales people, distributors, service personnel, less subcontractors, and less sales rooms. This applies to the "Big Three" automakers as well. We have all heard about

the proposed \$25 billion bailout.

The same applies to most businesses in the state and out. Mervyn's and Circuit City are going under. Cisco is cutting back and many more companies are considering the same. Raising sales taxes is not going to stimulate these companies. Even the vehicle license fees (VLF) will increase their costs. Many of them have fleets of vehicles.

The state and local governments must cut back. Their wealth comes straight from our pocket books. They create no product; their only income is from taxes and fees. If we are giving them a bigger share of our money we buy less. If we buy less, producers produce less and need fewer employees. You can see where this is going.

The only way out of this mess is to stimulate business. Lowering taxes and reducing the size of government is the only way. Government programs and rebates will not work. Remember the Great Depression and the failed programs. WPA has become synonymous with boondoggle. The numerous other programs didn't work either. They only prolonged the problem. World War II brought us out of the depression.

Many of our elected officials have worked for the government all of their lives. They have been immune to the whims of the economy. They do not understand the pressures of the market. They are surrounded by lobbyists and provided luxury cars at your expense. They travel on corporate jets provided by lobbyists and other special interest groups. The world that we live in is foreign to them. How can we expect them to understand our problems? They can't. It is our job to inform them.

CPUSA (Communist Party of the USA) Supports Obama and Congressional Democrats by Jack Ward

You can get a sense of what candidates stand for by those individuals and groups that support them. After all if a candidate supports the goals and objectives of an organization it is only obvious that the organization would support the candidate. In past campaigns, the candidates have presented friends and associates from their past. John Kerry introduced Swift Boat veterans from the Viet Nam War. John McCain introduced fellow POW's from a Viet Nam prison. Obama has only presented fellow politicians that support his positions. Where are the friends from Obama's past?

It was no surprise that the National Rifle Association supports Republican candidates since John McCain, Sarah Palin, and most Republican candidates support the 2nd Amendment and the 'right to bear arms'. But I was surprised that the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) supports the Democrats and Barack Obama. The CPUSA website, <http://cpusa.org>, had an article that stated, "The Communist Party USA (CPUSA) called for a landslide in the November 4th elections to defeat John McCain and strengthening the Democratic Party majorities in Congress. We have a chance to sweep the Republicans from power in a landslide." That is a pretty strong endorsement for the Communists to give Obama and the Democrats running for Congress.

If the CPUSA supports Obama, the curious voter would ask why? What is there is Obama's past that would be attractive to the CPUSA? So I began to look for Obama's skeletons. I discover that Barack Obama had a close association with numerous noted Socialists and Communists.

For example:

Saul Alinsky was a well-known Communist sympathizer in Chicago. Alinsky was considered the father of community organizing and urged using existing established institutions such as churches, unions and political parties to slowly create the social paradise Marx, Engels, and Lenin envisioned. As a community organizer Obama utilized Alinsky's methods to accomplish 'Change'.

Frank Marshall Davis was a known member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA). Since Obama's father had abandoned him, Obama's white grandfather selected Davis, a black man, to be Obama's role model and surrogate father. This relationship was

disclosed by Professor Gerald Horne, a contributing editor of the Communist Party journal *Political Affairs*.

Obama's start into politics began when he was hand-picked by the outgoing incumbent, Alice Palmer. Palmer was also an executive board member of a Communist front group, the U.S. Peace Council, a U.S. affiliate of the World Peace Council.

Early political supporters of Obama were Bill Ayers and his wife Bernardine Dohrn. Both were members of the domestic terrorist group the Weatherman. The Weatherman had direct ties to the CPUSA splitter group the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Ayers / Dohrn hosted a fund raiser for Obama's campaign in their Chicago home. Another SDS member, Tom Hayden, is an active supporter of "Progressives for Obama". In Obama's 2000 campaign against Bobby Rush, Obama said, "We're all on the liberal wing of the Democratic party." But in his presidential campaign Obama didn't advertise his Liberal leanings.

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) opposed McCain but doesn't think that Obama is far enough Left. But that doesn't mean that the DSA and Obama have different objectives – just differences in how to get there. The DSA 'Four Pillars' mimic elements of the Democratic Platform.

The CPUSA wants Obama to restore the tax policies of the 1970s. The 1970's were the 'Glory Years' of the Jimmy Carter administration. For those that might have forgotten, the economy was so bad in the Carter years they had to create a new term to describe it – 'stagflation'.

Columnist J.B. Williams asked, "How can so many Americans be so easily duped into rallying behind the most unqualified man to ever seek the Oval Office, who also clearly represents the will of Marxists, Communists and Socialists everywhere?" If Obama wants to convince the American voter that he represents their interests and not a Socialist agenda, he should explain his close association with Communists, Marxists, Socialists, and the assorted fellow travelers from his youth, college, and political life. Until Obama explains his past connections with the unsavory Left we can only assume the 'Change' he wants is the same as the CPUSA.

William Ayers: The Terrorism Continues

by Sylvia Thompson

During the 2008 election campaign, we Americans were inundated with the phrase “unrepentant terrorist” as the ultimate condemnation of Bill Ayers, Barack Obama’s “associate,” or whatever that relationship was. The conservative commentator Sean Hannity of FOX News never missed an opportunity to press the point.

That Ayers was an America-hating, 60s radical, whose well-to-do father made sure he didn’t spend a day in prison for the real crimes that he committed is irrelevant at this point. Lots of elitist people’s children wrecked havoc on our culture and essentially bit the hands of freedom that made their destructive childishness possible. These are the very freedoms that enabled their parents to rise to their elitist positions. Ayers’s wife Bernadette Dorn is from similar elitist circumstances.

What Ayers is doing now with his hatred of America is far more deadly than bombing buildings, and I can’t figure out for the life of me why the Sean Hannity’s in this country aren’t screaming to the High Heavens in protest. Today, Bill Ayers and his ilk are working feverishly to brainwash thousands of minority children in the public school system. The goal, to instill in them a similar hatred of America for the purpose of creating malleable minds that will be receptive to leaders with Ayers’s worldview.

Bill Ayers is now a university professor (as are many of the America-haters of the 60s). He teaches education at the University of Illinois in Chicago. What better way to insert his ideas of “social justice” into the public school curriculum. And just what is “social justice” according to aging radicals? The education journal *Education Week* in a featured article defines it as teaching children to question whoever happens to hold the reins of power at any particular moment. It imparts to gullible, unformed minds that they are not just consumers of information but are “actor-critics” in the world around them. (This, according to an article by Phyllis Schlafly in the November 10, 2008 edition of the news weekly *Human Events*.) This is pretty serious stuff for brains and psyches that are not yet

developed to a point where they can determine *how* to be actor-critics. Especially are these children not equipped to discern if they are being brainwashed into any particular way of acting and criticizing.

This matter should be of vital concern to every American who cares what the next generation is taught.

David Horowitz of the California-based David Horowitz Freedom Center comments that social-justice teaching is shorthand for opposition to American traditions of individual justice and free-market economics. It is a teaching concept that sees American society as inherently oppressive and systematically racist, sexist, and classist. Thus, it institutionally discriminates against nonwhites, women, and the poor. (From the *Human Events* article by Schlafly.)

I am a child of the Jim Crow South for whom the better part of my formative years was spent segregated from all races except American blacks like me, and I say that this notion of present-day America is unadulterated crap. It incenses me that upper-crust whites like Ayers, who no doubt bear huge guilt complexes for being white and upper-crust, are allowed to twist the minds of young black children, effectively rendering them incapable of taking advantage of the real opportunities that this country offers. Nowhere else in the world will they have access to such life-affirming opportunities, and miscreants like Ayers are effectively denying this to them.

Why is this tragedy not being exposed as has been the bombing of buildings? Bill Ayers and his ilk are destroying black youths. Where is the conservative outrage?

Bush is America's Reverse-Gorbachev by Richard Geno

In the late 1980's, Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to move the Soviet Union away from totalitarian Communism to a more open society. His attempts at reform contributed to the end of the political supremacy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Conversely, the American Politburo and President George W. Bush are moving the United States towards a more totalitarian system. Instead of *perestroika* and *glasnost*, the watchwords for the United States government are *bailout* and *government takeovers*.

In the Soviet Union, *perestroika* meant overcoming the stagnation process, breaking down the braking mechanism, creating a dependable and effective mechanism for acceleration of social and economic progress, and providing greater dynamism. In 2008, the American Politburo and President George W. Bush have provided us a reverse-*perestroika* - the tools for economic regression and stagnation.

The Bush Administration has set the stage for all-out government control of the financial markets. Much like in Communist China, the American government is becoming "partners" with financial institutions - banks, insurance companies and investment banking firms. As Thomas Jefferson so presciently warned over 200 years ago, "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered." Perhaps he foresaw institutions like the Federal Reserve, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We have already witnessed \$850 billion in bailout money committed from the federal government, and the estimates for future bailouts recommended by the new administration are approaching \$700 billion. Before the economy truly hit the skids, we already had record deficits that were approaching a half trillion dollars. With reduced government revenues due to the slowdown in the economy and the astronomical bailouts, deficits will be approaching a trillion dollars annually before long. Just eight years ago, we had a balanced budget.

There is no question we needed "change" from the government-gone

-wild spending of recent years; but we have voted to make the change in the wrong direction. We needed to trim the runaway government spending, and we now have an administration-in-waiting that wants to substantially increase government spending.

For the first time in fifty years, the Democrats talked about how terrible deficits were during the Bush years. Now that they are about to have total control, deficits already do not matter. Barney Frank, the powerful chair of the financial services committee, said recently, "I think at this point, there needs to be an immediate increase in spending, and I think this is a time when deficit fear has to take a second seat." Frank also is one of the leaders of the "tax-the-rich" scheme. He is one of the architects of this financial collapse, and now he wants to make sure that the collapse is complete by confiscating the capital that would correct it.

Rather than stand firm on the radical nature of bailouts and government takeovers, President Bush and his cohorts led the way, and provided a strong precedent for virtually any government spending that the next administration might want to attempt. As the standard bearer for the Republican Party for eight years, how can his party argue against such wild spending when the Republican President and the Republican Congress set new records for government spending and deficits? The stage is now set for the Obama administration to use the government in a pro-active way for their pet projects - universal health care, increased welfare, and alternative energy.

Ever since the Roosevelt years in the 1930's, we have been a combination of capitalism and socialism. The Lyndon Johnson administration in the 1960's moved us closer to the socialistic side with the Great Society. George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism" moved us ever closer to the edge. Now with the "government first" leaders waiting at the front door, it is hard to imagine us not reaching the tipping point in the next few years. Combine that with the world's enchantment with our new "citizen of the world" president-elect, the European dream of world socialism is right around the corner. As we try to slow down this runaway train, remember that it was a Republican president and a Republican congress that paved the way.

Supporting Terrorism with Taxpayer Money

by Mary Washington

For the third month in a row, AIG is in the news regarding its promotion of Shariah-compliant finance (SCF) products, which promote the Islamic supremacist, segregationist ideology of Shariah. For a company struggling with its financial survival, it remains astounding that AIG would want to incite its American taxpayer owners by promoting products that are based on an Islamic supremacist political ideology. The U.S. government gave an \$85 billion loan to AIG, without demanding divestment of its business ventures reselling Shariah mutual trusts and its AIG Takaful division selling Shariah-based insurance. The U.S. government purchased \$40 billion in AIG stock, making you as a taxpayer, an owner of a company promoting Shariah through such businesses. This is our company, using our taxpayer dollars, to promote Islamic supremacist Shariah-based products in our country.

Shariah is a legal codification of the political ideology of Islamic supremacism. This Shariah legal codification is intended to enforce discriminatory and segregationist practices against women and non-Muslims and to suppress the liberties of those living in Islamic theocracies. As a legal codification of a supremacist ideology, Shariah is incompatible with democratic values and the inalienable human right that "all men are created equal". In 2001, nearly two months before the 9/11 attacks, the European Court of Human Rights determined that Shariah law was incompatible with democracy and human rights.

This is the same Shariah ideology that has been used by the Islamic supremacist Taliban to murder those who they believe have committed moral crimes, the same Shariah ideology that supports Al Qaeda and Islamic supremacists around the world. It is the same Shariah ideology whose zakat charities have been used to fund jihadist terrorist organizations.

In a nation such as the United States, based on the inalienable human rights of equality and liberty, why would American taxpayers seek to fund a business selling products that promote a discriminatory, segregationist, and supremacist ideology that is "incompatible with democracy and human rights"?

Mattel Toys Marketing "Islam is the Light" Dolls

by Mary Washington

Several retail outlets in the U.S. including Target and Wal-Mart, are selling a Mattel talking doll that says "Islam is the light," a way of inviting someone to join Islam - also known as "Da'wa". The controversial toy is called the *Little Mommy Real Loving Baby Cuddle & Coo* doll, manufactured by Mattel-Fisher Price.

To provide resources for parents to download an information packet to give to store managers a website has been set up. Parents across the country have started asking store managers to remove the dolls from the store shelves, or to put labels on the dolls stating "Notice: this doll says 'Islam is the light,' an invitation to your child to join Islam."

You may have heard about this controversy in the media. It received a lot of print and TV media attention in October and earlier in November. Yet - hard as it is to believe - most stores are still carrying the doll on their shelves for the holiday shopping season. The doll has no warning label letting parents know that it clearly says "Islam is the light." In Virginia where the dolls had the audio disabled and the front packaging panel (where the name is displayed) ripped off, which made it harder for parents to know that this was the controversial doll. A few newer dolls are being distributed without the sound file, but most still say "Islam is the light."

Mattel has flatly denied that the doll audio files say "Islam is the light," and has stated that parents are hearing the phrase "Islam is the light" because of "power of suggestion." Mattel even put up their "version" of the doll's audio file on their investors and media webpage, although an actual recording of the doll's audio appears to be VERY different (see the "audio research" link at www.labelthatdoll.com).

We must educate our communities about the threat of the Islamic legal and political doctrine of Shariah. Shariah is particularly discriminatory and violent towards Muslim and non-Muslim girls and women. This unadvertised use of a doll - without any notice to parents in the doll's packaging - to advocate Islam to children is particularly offensive and inappropriate, given the very real risks to girls under Shariah law.

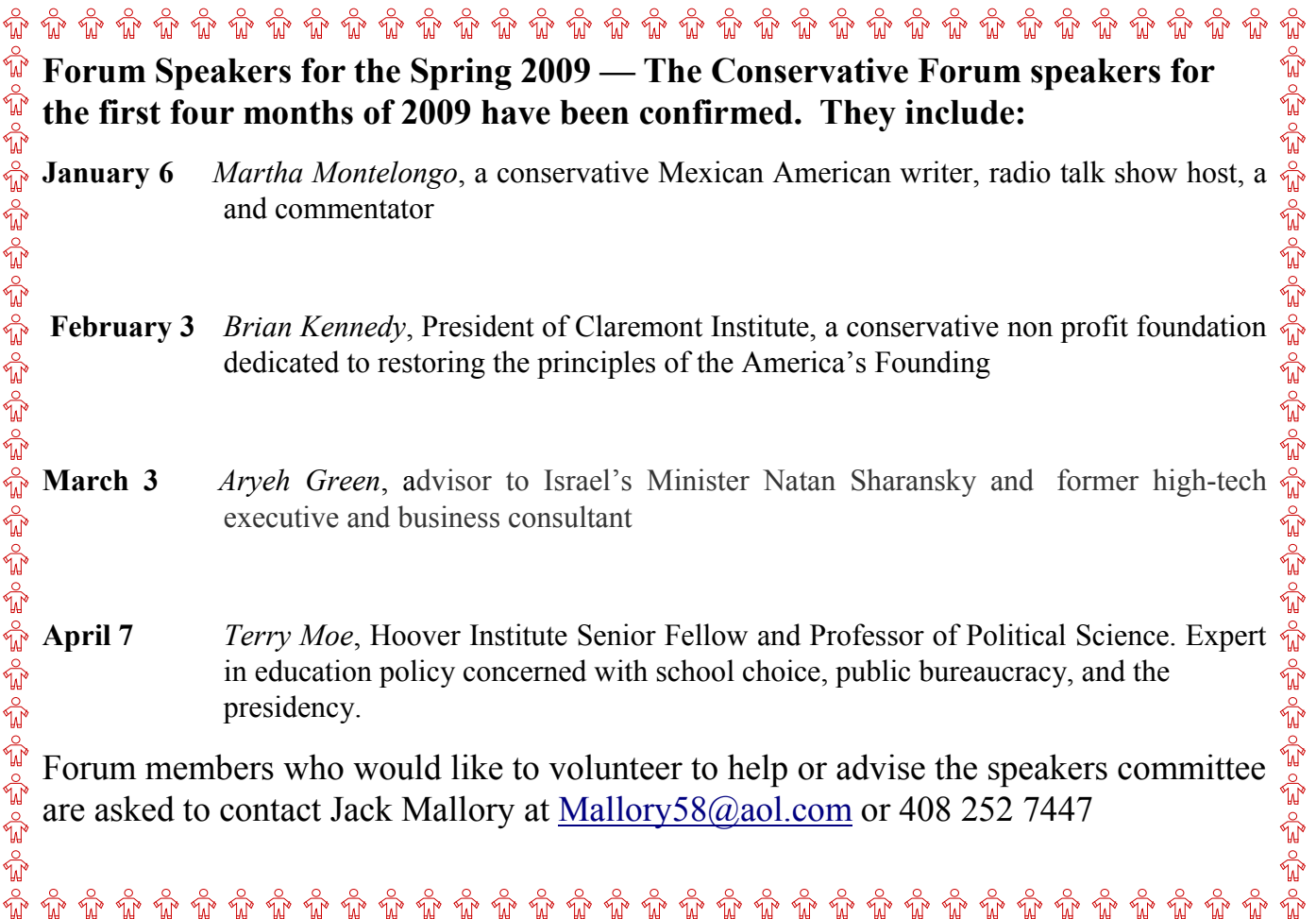
Our own Bill May takes issues with Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman.

Next maybe Bill will take on another Nobel winner – Al Gore.

In a [recent article](#) Paul Krugman says “public debt isn't as bad a thing as many people believe — it's basically money we owe to ourselves — in the long run the government, like private individuals, has to match its spending to its income.”

I heard this in high school, more than 50 years ago. I think we should rethink that assumption. Money we owe ourselves? What does that mean? It really isn't money we owe ourselves, it is money that the government has taken from us and given to somebody else.

The whole concept supposedly is that we are the nation and so when we owe money, we just owe it to ourselves. That is really a dumb concept. Suppose I say I forgive the debt. Since it is debt to myself, does that mean I no longer owe anything? I don't think it works that way. Somebody else, like the government, has spent that money on other people, ones that haven't worked for much of their life-time. That money is gone; I can't pay my debt to myself with that money. Somebody else has it, and spent it.



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April 7 *Terry Moe*, Hoover Institute Senior Fellow and Professor of Political Science. Expert in education policy concerned with school choice, public bureaucracy, and the presidency.

Forum members who would like to volunteer to help or advise the speakers committee are asked to contact Jack Mallory at Mallory58@aol.com or 408 252 7447

A **BIG Thank You** to all The Conservative Forum members who helped to make December's meeting with holiday refreshments a most enjoyable occasion.

Thanks also go out to Richard Geno and Jack Ward for allowing me the opportunity to work with them in acting as The Conservative Forum's Newsletter Editor.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the peace and joy of the Holiday Season and a Happy and prosperous New Year.



Mary Washington, Newsletter Editor