

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
December, 2011**



www.hillsidefederation.org

Special Edition

*Holiday Party
Guests of Honor*



Assemblymember Mike Feuer

Mike Feuer is the Majority Policy Leader of the California State Assembly and chairs the Assembly Judiciary Committee. He previously co-chaired the Assembly's Working Group on Jobs and Economic Recovery and chaired the Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Information Technology. Elected in 2006, Mike has authored many of the most important laws enacted by the Legislature during his five years in office, including legislation to:

Hillside Federation

Holiday Party

Wednesday

December 7, 2011

6:30 - 9:00

Mulholland Tennis Club

2595 Crestview Dr.

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

- transform Los Angeles's transportation system;
- ensure health care coverage for children, including kids with pre-existing conditions;
- reduce cancer-causing toxics in consumer products;
- require major statewide water conservation;
- combat drunk driving;
- reduce gun violence;
- broaden access to justice;
- prohibit state contracts with companies heavily invested in Iran's energy sector;
- insulate Good Samaritans from lawsuits;
- champion the rights of same-sex spouses and domestic partners;
- protect seniors, and much more.

Mike strongly supports federal legislation to curb helicopter noise, writing a letter to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer last month requesting that the *Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011* be included in the upcoming Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization. 17 members of Los Angeles County's Delegation in the State Legislature joined him on this letter. H.R 2677, authored by Representative Howard Berman and co-sponsored by Representatives Brad Sherman, Henry Waxman and Adam Schiff, would require the FAA to issue regulations relating to helicopter flight paths and altitudes.

As a legislative participant on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board, Mike continues to work with hillside organizations and community groups to preserve open green space in Los Angeles. Last year, Mike heard the concerns of both hillside residents and developers, and wrote a letter in support of the proposed Baseline Hillside Ordinance in the City of Los Angeles, which now places reasonable limits on excessive development on the iconic hillsides that define our City landscape without unduly restricting owners' use of their properties.

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest POA Bel Air Ridge Association Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Residents Coalition Canyon Back Alliance Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Alliance Los Feliz Improvement Assn.	Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn. Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.	CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

In 2008, Mike brought Caltrans and the Los Angeles Fire Department together to develop a plan to clear dead brush from 45 acres of Caltrans-managed land in Los Angeles. That year, fire season was off to a worrisome start, and freeways are danger zones where hot cars and tossed cigarette butts can start flames. Clearing sensitive areas remains a top priority to prevent another disaster like the Griffith Park inferno, so this unprecedented agreement was a practical response to a real threat.

Mike previously served on the Los Angeles City Council, successfully leading its Budget and Finance Committee and spearheading a wide range of key initiatives. Prior to his Council service he led Bet Tzedek Legal Services, The House of Justice, which provided free legal assistance to more than 50,000 primarily elderly and disabled clients during his tenure. Mike has practiced law at two of California's leading law firms, taught both law and public policy at UCLA and been a commentator on National Public Radio station KPCC.

Mike is a Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard College and a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gail Ruderman Feuer, have been married twenty-eight years. They have two children.

Newly elected Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh

Alan Kishbaugh is truly a man for all seasons. His years of working with the Federation brought him a great deal of insight. I thought you would enjoy reading the commentary he wrote as he left the office of President of the Hillside Federation.

When I took office in 1992, it was the Federation's 40 Anniversary and we had a big party up at the Mulholland Tennis Club. Lots of people came. It was a great night and I was sworn in by Assemblyman Terry Friedman.

We gave my predecessor, Gordon Murley, an award. It was a piece of rusted pipe on a lucite base with a brass plate that identified it as 'The Gordon Murley Memorial outflow Pipe.' The whole of it was presented to him in a lush blue velvet drawstring bag.

A sincere and affectionate expression of our appreciation for his years leading the Federation, it was also an in-joke based on something Gordon had once said to me. In commenting on all the public facilities named after politicians, he had said, "About the only thing they'd ever name after me would be a sewage outfall pipe."

We dedicated that evening to the memory of Brian Moore, our past president and chairman, who left us and this planet far too early. At the time, of receiving the gavel and stepping into office I remember saying to the room, "Let loose the horses." In other words, let's go for it.. let's do some things. I think we have done a few too, although, like any out-going president, there's unfinished business and a host of things that never got put on the table simply for lack of time.

I wanted to focus on ridgeline laws. I think we are far beyond the time when we should have written and enacted a ridgeline ordinance. But it can still be done and I hope those who feel passionately about the subject will move it along.

In the immediate future there will be the entire matter of the General Plan Framework and the supporting Community Plans to look at carefully. The old Cal Hamilton 'Centers Concept' remains

flawed to this day because the linking transportation was never put in place. Given the current mess at Metrorail and pinched revenues everywhere, it is likely that the envisioned linking transportation in the new General Plan will never be built. Given that possibility, we'd be wise not to give density bonuses around proposed rail lines and stations until the system is in place.

Neighborhoods will continue to be at risk and fighting for their integrity and wholeness because the General Plan and its supporting elements are all about much greater densities in Los Angeles and how to deliver them.

In code streamlining and in the Development Reform Committee recommendations-and in dozens of other seemingly unrelated ordinances and "adjustments"-there is a refashioning of the system. The overriding characteristic of that reinvention is to curtail community input in the planning process in favor of by- right entitlements for projects and developments.

We need to be careful in making Los Angeles attractive to businesses that we don't make uninhabitable for residents.

At a recent Ad Hoc Committee meeting on Development Reform I reminded the committee members that while we all want to make Los Angeles "business friendly," we must not, at the same time, make it "business cozy."

As all levels of government struggle for funding, the temptation to find new monies from fees for services will be irresistible. Some of this has been done already. The trick is not to retire basic services from the tax rolls in favor of new 'fees' levied on taxpayers. That ends up being just another tax, often difficult to see and even harder to rescind.

In violent times with so little common civility we will look for more and more police and the means to fund them. We need more police and it's an important and necessary goal but when the crunch comes, even now, we must not cease to fund libraries, parks, youth centers ..all the activities and amenities that make a city habitable. It's about everything in proportion and perspective.

Mulholland will continue to be too attractive to those who see it as a place to make a financial killing. The Federation's vigilance of Mulholland can never waver. It's our back, front, and side yard and after 22 years of working for its recognition and protection, we need to defend it with everything we have. In so doing, in fulfilling our

role as its caretaker, we will preserve one of our greatest natural treasures for all of Los Angeles.

The Lake Hollywood/Jefferson property will come back soon and we'll have to struggle to preserve that space as parkland. In a time of reduced revenue, this will not be easy. But it naturally belongs as the western edge of Griffith Park and we need to see to its acquisition.

And all kinds of plans for Griffith Park need to be watched carefully, as they do for the Sepulveda Basin, Chatsworth Reservoir, Runyon Canyon and all the other open spaces which some want to fill with projects and facilities. So little parkland exists now that we can ill afford to shrink it further.

I wanted to see a Grading Ordinance, as did others, and I hoped we'd find a way to place meaningful bonds on hillside construction that destroys the terrain and is then abandoned for whatever reason.

The proposed MCA development plans to turn it into a destination resort, "Disneyland North," as coined by our Vice President Barbara Fine, will so congest the Cahuenga Pass, and everything on either side of it, that it must be opposed.

And the DWP's end run around all of us with its automatic rate increases, now under no scrutiny by the Council or the public, have got to be repealed. Water and Power could take a guiding sprintz from the City of Pasadena which rebates all surpluses to ratepayers and is structured to deliver water as cheaply as possible. Our system contains an egregious hidden taxation mechanism that cries out for reform.

All of this is ahead and none it will be easy. Los Angeles is a dynamic and growing city. The prizes fought for, and won here, are enormous and too attractive to be ignored.

But power is in our hands as taxpayers and voters and we need to exercise it. The Federation has provided great leadership in this city for some 43 years.

We'll all have to work a little harder and a little smarter if we are to keep Los Angeles a great place to live in. New leadership in the Federation is prepared to do just that and all our members, and our many friends outside of the Federation, need to join in this coming together to make our city a better place.

-Alan Kishbaugh
1995

Aren't you amazed at how current Alan's words sound in 2011?