

# JAC NewsBreak

VITAL NEWS & RESEARCH INFORMATION FOR JAC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Sept 22, 2010

## On my mind this month...



Gail Yamner

My nightmares continue as the pundits prognosticate that many JAC-supported candidates might be among the 9.6% unemployed. Last night I dreamed

that as I was walking on the streets of New York most of the young women around me were pregnant and pushing babies in strollers while holding the hands of tots. A large picture of Sarah Palin was beamed on Broadway and a ticker ran a message reminding us that our taxes were lower, our spending for the needy was reduced, abstinence was our only contraception and our guns could be worn on our belts. To the right on Seventh Ave. I saw slick limos whisking men to lunch at 21 while on the left I saw boarded up soup kitchens.

Women won the right to vote in 1920. In the late 50s and 60s women like Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem became social and political activists. They worked to promote laws that gave women equal economic opportunities and campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment which was never ratified. Today we take their efforts for granted. Women and men have forgotten that a short time ago abortion was illegal and only the wealthy could afford a safe one. Women and men take for granted reproductive choice, which includes contraception, in vitro fertilization, stem cell therapy and the right to an abortion.

Loss of these rights is one pull of the lever away. Don't let your pocket-book guide you. Don't let the political messages confuse the issues. Work, support and vote for pro-choice candidates. JAC needs your contributions of money and time to keep our friends in office.

## Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have begun direct peace negotiations after a two year lull in talks. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calls these Mideast talks "a moment of great opportunity". Clinton further stated, "the time is ripe' for an agreement and that there is no way the legitimate needs of the parties can be fulfilled outside of a peace accord." President Obama made clear that the United States would like Netanyahu to extend the expiring moratorium on most West Bank settlement building. The Israelis argue against preconditions for the continuation of the talks. However, Netanyahu is asking for the Palestinians to finally, after 62 years, recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

Unfortunately, as the two delegations are discussing important issues, Hamas and other terror groups are trying to sabotage the talks. According to the BBC, just over a week ago at the Bani Nayim junction in the southern West Bank, four Israeli settlers were fatally shot - their car riddled with bullets - in a drive-by attack by Hamas militants. The following day near Ramallah, two Israeli settlers were injured in a similar attack. Both attacks were carried out by Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades. Two of the nine mortar shells fired from the Gaza Strip at southern Israel last week were actually phosphorous bombs, the Israel Defense Forces confirmed. Despite these setbacks, the prestigious Peace Index conducted by the Tamal Steinmetz Center for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University, released in July, shows that more than 70% of Israelis back negotiations with the Palestinians, and nearly the same number endorse the two-state solution. These percentages exist even though multiple Palestinian polls show much less enthusiasm for living side by side in peace with Israel, or that most Israelis believe that international criticism of the Jewish state will continue even if peace is achieved.

## United States

### CHOICE

On September 20, the Senate failed to overcome a filibuster and vote on the Defense Authorization Act. Not only did that quash a vote on "Don't Ask to Tell," it also prevented a vote on the important amendment offered by Dem. Sen. Roland Burris (IL) which would have allowed doctors at military hospitals to perform abortions if women in the military paid for the procedures up front with their own funds. It would have overturned a policy established in the mid 1990s that restricted access to abortions at military hospitals except in cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger. "I feel it is critical that we ensure our men and women in uniform has access to the highest quality of health care...this legislation simply removes a decades-old ban, allowing doctors to offer services and freeing American servicewomen to receive the medical attention they require, all without spending a single federal dollar."

Missouri has declared that "the life of each human being begins at conception." By withholding both his signature and his veto, Dem. Gov. Jay Nixon has allowed Senate Bill 793 to become state law. "Abortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being" is the language providers will be required to prominently display on brochures. The bill makes Missouri the second state to adopt such language. South Dakota passed a similar provision in 2005.

The Fetal Pain law passed by the Nebraska legislature last year takes effect October 15. The law bans abortions starting at 20 weeks based on the claim that fetuses feel pain at that state of development. Current Nebraska law requires doctors to file reports with the state on each abortion performed - when and where the abortion was performed, the woman's age and state of residence, the number of previous births and abortions, the length and weight of the aborted fetus, the reason for the abortion, the type of procedure used and whether there were complications.

JAC NEWSbreak, for JAC Leadership Circle, is a monthly publication of JAC PAC.  
Writers: Joy Malkus, Dana Gordon  
President: Gail Yamner  
Executive Director: Marcia Balonick  
Tel (847) 433-5999 Fax (847) 433-6194  
Email jaccpac123@aol.com  
Web www.jaccpac.org © JAC 2010

continued on page 2

## Research & Races

### ENDANGERED INCUMBENTS

(continued from last month)

**Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-01)** won this seat with 56% in 2008. Her votes on JAC's issues have been excellent. The economy is the major concern in this district with its large Native American population. Her opponent, Dr. Paul Gosar, with no prior political experience, wants to cut the budget, cut government and cut taxes. He was endorsed by Sarah Palin.

**Harry Mitchell (D-AZ-05)** has had two tough races, winning first in 2006 by defeating incumbent GOP Rep. J.D. Hayworth. Mitchell, a high school math teacher by profession, had been the mayor of Tempe and a state Senator. Mitchell faces '08 opponent, David Schweikert, and is being pilloried for voting for the Obama Healthcare bill.

**Ed Perlmutter (D-CO-07)** is in his 2nd term with a perfect voting record on JAC's issues. This should have been a "safe" seat, but the political environment has made Perlmutter vulnerable. He faces Aurora City Councilman Ryan Frazier. As in the Mitchell race,

Frazier is attacking Perlmutter for his "yes" vote on healthcare.

**Phil Hare (D-IL-17)** was first elected in 2006 and ran unopposed in '08 for the seat held by Dem. Lane Evans who retired after 24 years. Hare's votes on JAC's issues are perfect. This district has been hard hit by job losses. GOP opponent, businessman Bobby Schilling, says the district needs a change after 28 years of Dem. representation.

**Leonard Boswell (D-IA-03)**, serving his 7th term, was elected in 2008 with 56%. For years the lone progressive vote in the Iowa House delegation, he faces st. Sen. Brad Zaun whose latest TV ad says, "There's a plan for most of the problems that face America, it's called the Constitution... which means a repeal of Obamacare...."

**Mark Schauer (D-MI-07)** fought hard to win this seat in 2008 with 49%. Schauer defeated ultra-conservative GOP Rep. Tim Walberg who is back for a rematch. Schauer's votes agree with JAC's criteria.

**Gary Peters (D-MI-09)** is the second

endangered Michigan freshman. Peters defeated an 8-term congressman to win this seat with 52%. This affluent and well educated district has a slight Democratic edge. Peters is challenged by former st. Rep. Rocky Raczkowski, who blames Michigan's economic problems on the Obama administration and Rep. Peters.

**John Adler (D-NJ-03)** won this open seat in 2008 with 52%. The seat had been in Republican hands for 26 years and demographics slightly favor the GOP. He will have a tough race against former pro-football player Jon Runyan. A 3rd person on the ballot, self-styled tea party candidate Peter DeStefano, could be to Adler's advantage.

**Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24)** is in his 2nd term in a district that leans Republican. He's had two tight races but the political environment favored Democrats in '06 and '08. His opponent is '08 nominee and millionaire businessman Richard Hanna, who hopes to take advantage of the anger and frustration expressed by voters this year.

## Right Wing Watch

The Tea Party movement began in February of 2009 as a reaction to the bailout of Wall Street banks and the administration's stimulus package. There are six major Tea Party Groups: 1) Tea Party Nation held its first convention in Nashville in February and plans to hold another next year. Sarah Palin was the keynoter. 2) Americans for Prosperity trains activists in many states, helps to organize rallies and spends millions on issue ads. This group was founded by billionaire David Koch and plans to spend \$4 million plus on ads in Democratic congressional districts. 3) Tea Party Patriots is the movement's largest membership (approximately 15 million) organization. It is a 501(c)(4) advoca-

cy group which hosts weekly conference calls and a web site. It does not associate with the National Tea Party Federation, the Tea Party Express or the Tea Party Nation, doubting their grassroots credibility. 4) Tea Party Express is a political action committee that has sponsored three nationwide bus tours and considers itself responsible for the victories of Sharron Angle in Nevada and Joe Miller in Alaska. 5) FreedomWorks facilitates activism by advising and training its members to organize rallies. Its chairman, Dick Armey, adds political savvy to the group. Armey says, "if Republicans take control of Congress in November, changing policies on social issues like abortion will be on their agenda." 6)

National Tea Party Federation acts as a forum for tea party organizers from multiple groups and coordinates responses to attacks on the movement. This is the only organization that ties the movement together.

Sal Russo is a longtime Republican activist who runs the Tea Party Express, now the single largest independent donor with \$5.2 million in donations since January 2009. This cycle the Tea Party Express has spent nearly \$1 million in Nevada, \$547,000 in support of Sharron Angle and \$385,000 in opposing Dem. Majority Leader Harry Reid. The group spent \$350,000 in Massachusetts to help elect GOP Sen. Scott Brown.

### *Israel, continued from page one*

While peace talks are developing, Iran is still trying to evade international sanctions against its nuclear facilities, is openly threatening Israel, and financially backing Hamas and Hezbollah in attacks against Israel. The Iranian President, ahead of his speech to the UN Security Council, also warned the US that an attack on his country's illegal nuclear weapons facilities would unleash a "war without end."

The US administration has plans for an arms deal with Saudi Arabia that is rumored to be the largest US arms deal ever, worth up to \$60 billion. Being touted as a jobs bill creating 75,000 jobs, this package will sell fighter jets, helicopters, and missile defense systems. (WSJ, 9/10/2010) This notification to Congress, expected to be submitted soon, will trigger a congressional review. Many congress-

men have questions concerning the bill - how will the deal affect Israel's qualitative military edge? Will the weapons be staged near Israel? Will the Saudis be encouraged to advance the peace process and how this sale will counter the Iranian threat. The bill is part of a broader policy aimed at shoring up Arab allies against Iran. Upcoming hearings will determine the bill's fate.