

COMMON SENSE

"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder."—George Washington (1732–1799)

A Day to Remember

By MICHELLE TAYLOR-CHINN

On Saturday, Jan. 18, 2013, I flew to Washington, DC, to witness history in the making. It was the second inauguration of President Barack Obama to the oval office.

Before the swearing in, soloists, choirs, poetry readers and other performers entertained the estimated 800,000 to 1 million people of all races and creeds who had gathered on the National Mall.

The ceremony occurred on the steps of the capitol while "we the people" stood in the mall and chanted his name. Precisely at 11 a.m.—as the crowd silenced their celebration—the President, his hand resting on a bible belonging to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and topped by the smaller Lincoln Bible, took the oath of office.

To finish the day, there was a dignitaries' luncheon, a parade and glittery balls, for which First Lady Michelle Obama wore a red designer gown by designer Jason Woo.



The U.S. Constitution

Section 8

The Congress shall have power (:) (3) To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes:

(18) To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Amendment 2

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

The above sections of the Constitution are relevant to the article in this issue by Ben Quiet.

Tax Questions & Answers with Michelle Perkey

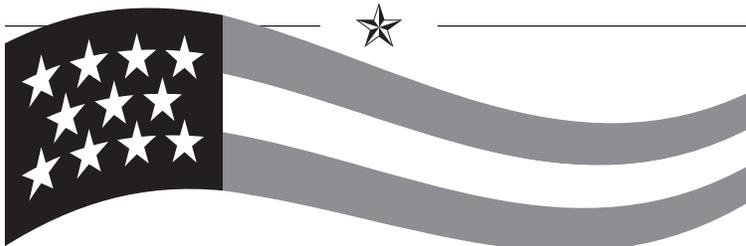
7 p.m. Monday, March 4, 2013
San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts

Michelle Perkey will discuss current tax laws and some of the more challenging changes facing us in 2013. Also, she will answer questions from the audience.

Perkey is administrative partner at Oliver, Rainey & Wojtek. A native of New Mexico, she attended Angelo State University on a Carr Scholarship, receiving her Master of Business Administration in Ac-

counting degree in 1997. Her Certificate of Public Accountancy was attained in 2002.

Upcoming programs: April, Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa will be our speaker. Hinojosa was elected to the office by delegates attending the state convention in June. May, Candidates for San Angelo city council.



A Message to Congress

By BEN QUIET

One of the stated and enacted objectives of the U.S. Constitution is "to ensure domestic tranquility." Crazy gunmen have been shooting and killing people all over the country. Congress—domestic tranquility is not being ensured.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution gives citizens the right to keep and bear arms—provided they are "well regulated." Polls tell us more than 80 percent of the population supports restricting sales of assault rifles and some people should not own guns at all. President Obama has gone on record as ready to sign legislation implementing regulations for gun sales and ownership. Congress, what—pray tell me—is your problem?

Let me help you a bit—shift the burden of proof. Enact legislation making the sale, barter, gift, etc. of firearms and ammunition illegal, a felony, for a period of time during which time those of your number

who are beholden to the gun lobby can start to earn their money by proposing and passing appropriate legislation about gun and ammunition sales. Let those who need guns prove their case. You in Congress seem to be big on passing temporary legislation, so try it out for a good and proper purpose. You don't take anybody's guns; you just confine ownership to those already in possession. "It will put gun makers out of work," you say. Well, only for so long as it takes you and them to work out a solution that puts gun sales in a proper stance. You will be surprised at how quickly you can work; especially if you make the temporary law self renewing until permanent legislation is enacted.

Yes, there would be details to work out for the temporary legislation, but I know it can be done. If I were making as much money as you in Congress I would lay out some details, but I'm not. I am just a good ol' boy who has been quiet for too long.

announcements



■ **Executive Committee Meeting** 7 p.m. March 11 at Los Panchitos at the Paseo de Santa Angela.

■ **Membership Recruitment:** Jo Ann Martinez, club president, designed applications for membership and some honest-to-goodness membership cards! Please plan to pick up a couple of forms and use them to sign up some of your friends.

■ **New Dues Schedule:** By consensus at the February meeting, the executive committee agreed to change the dues schedule from anniversary date to an annual plan, in which membership is due in January. Regardless of your dues date (unless you have paid them in 2013), you need to pay for the calendar year now and you will be credited for the period of which you have already paid. Please contact Mitch Krasney, 325-949-7638 or mitchkras@aol.com, for more information.

■ **Concern Committee:** Please contact Erma Brooks when you know of someone we need to contact with congratulations, friendship, get well, or condolences. sunshine311@netzero.net or 325-651-6423.

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Bring in new members and you can win!

For each guest you invite who then becomes a member, your name will be entered into an end-of-the-year drawing held at our Christmas Party. It works like this: bring in one member, your name is entered once; if you bring in four members, your name is entered four times. It's a win-win situation for you and the club. The more members we add, the stronger our club becomes. Our goal of 100 new members by Dec. 31 is achievable if we all work together. Now get on the phone, Facebook, or whatever your favorite social tool is, and start inviting your friends, family and neighbors.