



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 13, No. 4 **April 2008**

Lunch with the League

Wednesday, April 16

The time for our newest annual event, "Lunch with the League", is almost here! On Wednesday, April 16, we will host Supervisor Mike Reilly (retiring this year) from West County--Fifth District as our guest and we are looking forward to a very informative afternoon. This event will provide an opportunity to hear about current issues in Sonoma County and perhaps to ask some questions about the Board's priorities. Each year the League hopes to invite a legislator to lunch to discuss issues and to better understand his/her priorities.

Please bring along a guest or two and some good questions for Supervisor Reilly.

There is plenty of room and you will enjoy seeing this new restaurant that is getting so much favorable publicity. The total cost for lunch is \$12.

Evelyn Cheatham, the chef, will be with us and we will have the opportunity to see the wonderful work she is doing with at risk youths in Sonoma County.

Please call Sandy de Lorimier at 433-4196 to place your reservation by April 4th. Or you may e-mail her at: vive2@sonic.net.



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of Sonoma County**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Where Have All the
Mental Health Services
Gone???**

I am very concerned about the availability of mental health services, especially in Sonoma County. More frequently than I want, I hear and read about the tragic shootings at our high schools, colleges and in our community. The quick response to these shootings is that we need more gun control. While I am not opposed to gun control, it is not the panacea for these tragedies. It is a shallow, knee-jerk response.

The shootings and violence are merely symptoms of a much larger social problem. When the economy goes into decline as it presently is, we see an increase in robberies, domestic violence, white collar crime and other violence against society. And yet, what do we do? We cut mental health services. Mental health is usually one of the first targets for budget cuts. It does not make sense. This is when individuals and families need support and help the most. *This is just one of the reasons Governor Schwarzenegger's 10% budget cut across the board cannot work.*

Having worked in schools for close to 30 years I have personally seen the demise of our mental health services in Sonoma County. As a high school counselor/administrator, it was very difficult to find outside ongoing referrals for students whether it was drug rehabilitation or psychological support. Parents seeking help frequently had to wait weeks to months for a psychiatric appointment due either to their HMO or over-booked psychologists/psychiatrists. At least then Oakcrest (Sutter Hospital) was available. It is heartbreaking to have a suicidal student and not have a local institution available for immediate intervention. Having students housed out of the county made it much more difficult to keep them connected to the schools for an easier transition back into the system as well as a hardship for the families.

The recent Juvenile Justice Forum held March 1 brought the need for mental health to the forefront even more (not to mention the headlines and stories in the Press Democrat). Again, in my experience as an administrator I found that had these families had earlier intervention many of these juveniles would not be in our Justice system now. Time after time, I would note that the students (as early as grades K-3) had an attendance issue which, like the shootings, was a symptom of other problems in the family. Seldom were they addressed.

Continued second column, page 6

BOOK GROUP CORNER

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, April 17, for a discussion of *New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance*, by Charlayne Hunger-Gault. The book group will meet in the League office, Suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.

Hunter-Gault, the first black woman to attend the University of Georgia, has lived in South Africa since 1997. She has had distinguished career in television, radio, and print journalism. In *New News* she combines memoir and analysis to present a view of sub-Saharan Africa, especially South Africa, that is more optimistic than the usual fare offered by Western journalists.

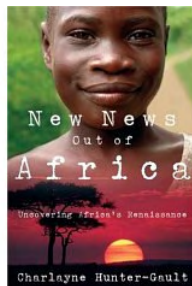
The Book Group meets at 10:30 AM in the League office on the third Thursday of the month. The schedule for 2008 can be downloaded from the [calendar page](#) of the League Website. Go to the monthly entry for the Book Group.

If you have questions about the group, please call or send me a message.

Lynda Hungerford

539-5770

league@lwvsonoma.org





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The International Relations discussion group will meet on **Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 12 noon in the Santa Rosa League office.** It is a brown-bag lunch session.

The topic for discussion is: **U. S. Defense and Security Policy.** The U.S. military is adopting new policies and methods for defending the U.S. and its interests abroad. What should U.S. priorities be? How should its forces be structured and deployed to meet new security challenges?" Check website at www.greatdecisions.org.

The group meets the second Tuesday of the month. The topics are selected from the *Great Decisions* briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association in New York City. You are welcome to join the group discussion with or without the briefing book. We also refer to the most current news items and articles pertaining to the discussion topic.

If anyone has a question about the group, please contact me at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

United Nations Association of Sonoma County Presents Foreign-United Nations Film Nights

Location: Conference Room Santa Rosa YMCA
1111 College Ave. Santa Rosa

The UNA Chapter is continuing a free program of foreign-United Nations Film Nights on, Friday, April 11, Thursday April 24 and Friday May 9. **The film starts at 5:00 p.m.** The program is for UNA members and those interested in the United Nations.

April 11, Hotel Rwanda
April 24, God Grew Tired of Us
May 9, Himalaya

Questions? Call Beth Martinez at 526-4178

ADVOCACY/ACTION



March 2008

At our February meeting, our guest was Rosemary Milbrath, Executive Director of National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). She spoke about NAMI, a grassroots organization of families and their members with mental illness who provide training and support groups. Their aim is to train the mentally ill about their disease and how best to care for themselves. Most of the activities are run by the clients and/or their families.

This month I attended a number of meetings on issues that League may be interested in following. I attended an Immigration Forum sponsored by Shomrai Torah. Their primary goal is to make the County of Sonoma a safe refuge for undocumented workers.

In addition, I attended a joint meeting of the Santa Rosa Planning Comm. and the Board of Community Services. They discussed park requirements and proposed future parks in the Draft Parks Business and Strategic Action Plan to come before the City Council for consideration in the near future.

A rally was held on March 10 to question the building of a Big Box Store on Yolanda Ave. We will follow this issue as it pertains to League positions on sustainable living design and reducing the use of the automobile.

A recent article in the Press Democrat talked about the use of emails and cell phones during meetings. The League has a strong position on open government and will be following the development of this issue.

Seven League members attended the forum on "Public Health and Corporate Greed in the North Bay" on March 6. Stan Gold, a forum speaker, reported on successfully obtaining responses to his quest of computing the savings by using a single payer health plan. Calculations were that the Sonoma County Bd. of Education could save \$1.2 million, and Petaluma City - \$1/18 million. Stan elaborated that this is a method of making the Kuehl bill, SB 840, more visible. The League supports this bill.

Please plan to attend our April meeting to discuss some of the issues listed above.

And on Thursday, May 8 at 10 AM, Grant Davis, Asst. Manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency will speak to us on the latest projects on that agency. Given the many ongoing water issues in the County this should be a most informative meeting.

Reach me: chleleg@sonic.net.
Chlele Gummer, Advocacy Chair

**VOTER SERVICE
REPORT** March 2008



**Voter Service
Activities Re-ignite**

An early start: Before nominations officially closed for June 2008, Rosalie Gillmore and Barbara Parker-Narita had already helped with a program in Novato on 2/29. They served as timers for the Democratic candidates' primary debate for the California Senate Third District.

On March 6 nineteen members attended the Voter Service kick-off meeting in preparation for the June 3 state primary election. Janie Hawker and Sandy Benson provided refreshments. We were pleased to welcome several newcomers. We debriefed the February cycle and we examined the various district maps for the races that may be on the June ballot. Everyone's cooperativeness, energy, and enthusiasm made all the work a pleasure.

Plans in the works: The Voter Service committee has begun to make arrangements for several pre-election events. The Santa Rosa City Council chambers are reserved for April 28, May 5, and May 12; and debates for County Supervisor in District 5 are being planned in Graton and Guerneville.

Two state propositions have qualified for the June 3 ballot; both are constitutional amendments regarding eminent domain. A pros and cons forum will be held on Monday, April 28, in the Santa Rosa City Council chambers. Details will be provided as soon as they are confirmed. Chlele Gummer is the coordinator. See the related article, "Vote with the League", next column

Races: Because there are no challengers within the political parties in several contests, those offices will be on the ballot only in November. This June round determines the party nomination in the following contests:

- U.S. Congressional District 1, Democrats and Greens
- California Senate District 3, Democrats
- Sonoma County Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5

People power: Carol Adams is our PR contact with print media. Sandy Benson will schedule pros and cons presentations. Janie Hawker will coordinate distribution of *Easy Voter Guide* (See article bottom of page5). Gloria Norton leads the voter registration/outreach effort. Will Richards is the LWVSC contact for the Community Media Center and television-related matters. Jane Ernsberger has volunteered to write a Public Service Announcement on how to interpret a state proposition, to notice who sponsors it and who funds it. YOUR help will be needed with forum tasks such as: timing, preparing questions, setting up, bringing League signage and supplies, designing and distributing flyers as well as LWVC publications or voter registration forms.

This is the beginning of the second election season this year. We will keep you informed of plans for forums, pros and cons training, and requests for League assistance. Go online to www.smartvoter.org for current election information.

The League will present a public educational program on State Propositions 98 and 99 on Wednesday, April 28, 2008 in Santa Rosa City Council Chambers at 7:00 pm.

Please attend the next Voter Service meeting on Thursday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the League office.

*Amy Southwick and Rosalie Gillmore
Voter Service co-chairs*

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE
June 3, 2008!**

LWVC Positions on June 2008 Ballot Measures

The June 3, 2008 ballot features two propositions on the subject of **eminent domain**. The first, Proposition 98, The California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act, is similar to Proposition 90, which the LWVC opposed on the November 2006 ballot. However, it goes much further in limiting the ability of public agencies to acquire land to provide water resources, to regulate land use, to protect natural resources, and even to continue rent control laws.

The League OPPOSES Proposition 98, and has signed the ballot argument against the measure. Any League member wishing to work on the campaign should contact Meghan Callahan via email or by calling 916-443-0872.

The second, Proposition 99, The Homeowners Protection Act, simply addresses a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision by clarifying that single-family occupied properties may not be condemned for transfer to other private parties. It reinforces the right of local governments and others to regulate land use and to acquire property for valid government purposes. The League SUPPORTS Proposition 99, and signed the ballot argument in favor of the measure. For more information visit our Web site, <http://ca.lwv.org/>.
LWVC News - June Ballot, Redistricting

BOARD BRIEFS MARCH 2008

- The Board lauded Ann Behrens, Katie Sanchez and their committee for the very successful second Juvenile Justice Forum held March 1 at Chops. The Board looks forward to hearing the summary of the outcomes from the Break-out groups.
- A policy for emailing members will be formalized and included with the operating Policies and Procedures.
- Nominating Committee is still looking to fill a couple positions.

Continued first column page 5

- The LWV is following up with Board of Supervisors regarding their analysis of health care costs for their employees under the proposed SB840.
- The Board decided against hosting international visitors studying the U.S. Judicial System due to overload of present activities, i.e. Voter Service activities.
- Donations from the community continue to come in. We are grateful for the donations.

Opportunities to get Involved...Beyond the League

Registrar of Voters – Work at the polls as a Precinct Officer. You can even split the day with a colleague but should the colleague not show up, you will need to stay. (Go to <http://www.sonoma-county.org/RegVoter/polls.htm> for more information. Or, be an observer when the ballots are counted; and finally, join their advisory team as a representative of LWVSC.

The Superior Court of California-County of Sonoma is now accepting applications for **Grand Juror**. Applications are available at www.sonomasuperiorcourt.com or by sending a request with a self addressed envelope to: Sonoma County Superior Court, Attn: Court Administration, 600 Administration Dr., SR, CA 95403. For further info. call 521-6501. Applications are due April 11, 2008.

League to Interview Legislators

Each year we interview our State Legislators. The purpose is two-fold: to remind the legislators of our presence and to ascertain their positions on issues important to the LWV. Our focus this year is the state budget, with questions about setting priorities for funding various programs, the need to look at revenue increases (and not just spending cuts), and reform of the budget process. Legislators to be interviewed include:

- State Senators: Pat Wiggins and Carole Migden,
- State Assembly Women/Men: Noreen Evans, Jared Huffman, Patty Berg
- (To look up your legislators go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> .)

For those of you who have never done this before, we like to have an experienced Leaguer match up with one or two newer Leaguers to interview a legislator. Questions are provided and can be divided up between the visiting members while another member takes notes that will be written up and sent into the State LWV. It is an easy, informative task. Teams of 3 work best. Hopefully, we can have one team for each legislator.

CAN WE MAKE IT EASIER?

Not everyone is aware of the extent of the California League of Women Voters connection to the invaluable, NON-PARTISAN, free publication EASY VOTER GUIDE

(EVG) available before each election cycle. From pre-publication to distribution, the League, in collaboration with the Secretary of State's Office, the California State Library and others, makes this voter resource possible.

The Sonoma County League has taken most seriously the responsibility of distributing EVG to Sonoma County voters. As it is now, many members do take copies from the League office and place them at locations accessible to the public. (One member, Pat Anton, Santa Rosa, delivers EVGs to nearly two dozen sites she has personally identified. Kudos to Pat!)

We are hoping that each member reading this article might take a second to consider if the area where you live, work or travel could offer a likely site for displaying EVGs. Some suggestions based on reports might include: civic centers and community centers, schools and churches, senior centers, child care centers, veterinary waiting rooms, medical clinics, gymnasium facilities, coffee shops, and hair salons. EVGs are also printed in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish. We would like to add more ethnic sites to our listings.

The question is, would YOU be able to deliver EVGs to that location? One site is fine; two or more even better. All it takes is a quick telephone call to : Janie Hawker, Project Coordinator at 584-5210. She will add you and the sites to a Master List and tell you how we will get copies of EVG to you.

We hope this extra plea for help and your response will make EVG distribution much easier and thus extend the League's efforts to inform and educate the voter in a non-partisan manner.

Janie Hawker

Memorial Tribute Eva Gottschalck Hoffmann

Eva was a wonderful role model for all Leaguers. Her intelligent, calm demeanor was characteristic of one who studies before speaking. She always was present for League events which were usually scheduled in Santa Rosa and entailed a drive from her home in Petaluma. She would make her statement on a position knowing both the local, state and national positions with never a hint of sarcasm or plea for sympathy. It was clear when she was finished because she would demurely smile, tilt her head and almost wink. She was a kind, gentle soul. We shall miss her greatly. I think that she would be very honored to be remembered with a donation to keep our League healthy. She was 94. She was forced to leave her childhood home in Hamburg, Germany, settled in NYC in 1940, received a B.A. in Psychology from Connecticut College. She was a psychologist for the NY State Vocational Advisory Service and taught Counseling Psychology at the City University of NY and at Teachers College of Columbia University. She retired and moved to Petaluma in 1980 with her husband Paul. She is survived by her children, Beth and Andrew.

Marsha Vas Dupre

LWVBA Post Board Summary

February 25, 2008 Meeting

Convention Planning: The Board began planning for the LWVBA Convention on May 31, 2008. It was decided that the event would be located in Santa Clara County and that the charge would be \$10 per person (not per League), so that the event breaks even. Recommendations for By-Laws amendments were received.

Program Planning Reminder: Reports from local Leagues regarding Bay Area program planning for 2008-2010 are due to Judi Bank, Program Vice President on Friday, March 7, 2008 (judibank@aol.com). Please also copy president@lwvbayarea.org. If you did not complete this assignment, we would also like a response to that effect.

Bay Area League Day Evaluation: Attendance by roughly 100 people, including a number of non-Leaguers. Concern was expressed about the ADA accessibility of the round tables, but the venue was a great facility and location. For those interested in seeing copies of the MTC power point presentation, the presentation for the summit on "Bay Area on the Move" is located at www.abag.ca.gov, under Planning; and more information about climate change in the Bay Area is available at [www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/Transportation 2035](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/Transportation%2035).

Redistricting Initiative: Craig reported on training events for signature gathering in the Bay Area and mentioned that petitions are available from (president@lwvbayarea.org) or from Helen Hutchison (helen@helenhutch.com)

Future Meetings: BA Interleague Network - South : Thursday, March 13, 2008 noon – 1:30 pm at 457 Kingsley, Palo Alto
LWVBA Convention- Saturday, May 31 , 2008

George Elleman Bay Area Representative

Report on the Juvenile Justice of Sonoma County Forum –Building Pressure: Looking at Alternatives

Thanks to so many people for all the support for this public event – the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County's Juvenile Justice Forum was a great success. CHOPS proved, again, to be an excellent venue for such events.

Carol Ann Cary did a great job as Moderator and Carol Adams helped considerably. LWV members involved themselves as facilitators of the Community Conversations, and time keepers, and the JJIG committee worked together as a team to get everything done.

As keynote speaker, Jessalyn Nash, founder of Restorative Resources in Sonoma County and now Director of the Restorative Justice Initiative for the American Humane Association, spoke passionately about the need for

rehabilitation. "True justice is restoration – transformation", she said. She spoke of the need for victim/offender conferencing and restorative justice circle work, giving statistics about the present Justice System, and cost effectiveness of Restorative Justice.

Over 100 participants, including four speakers representing successful programs for youth, were grateful for the opportunity to network and display their material.

The Community Conversations were extremely productive in the sharing of ideas and collecting of real life experience to find ways in which we can better serve our troubled youth. The need for early intervention and prevention of juvenile crime became the resounding repetition throughout the forum.

With all the material that has been gathered JJIG will make it available by e-mail and through the LWVSC web site.. It will be valuable in helping the committee derive commendations and recommendations to the LWVSC to finalize the study .in the fall.

A note of interest is that there has been some attention to this work by Julie Rajan, Social Policy Director, LWVC as well as Gail Moss who works with Assemblywoman Patty Berg

Signed – JJIG committee : Railey Album, Ann Berens (Chair), Lynn Camhi, Wes Hicks, Mary Michael, Linda Picton, Claudia Robbins, Katie Sanchez (Vice Chair), Angelica Tercero.

President's Message Continued from page 2

There were no elementary guidance counselors to find out why they were truant and, I believe, there is reluctance on the part of Elementary Administrators to get those students into the Justice System where parents may be mandated to secure help for them and/or their child. Sometimes the Juvenile Justice System has more direct and quick access to mental health than individuals or schools do. Schools need funding to have elementary school counselors to identify and assist these families in need.

The LWV does have a position on mental health that was adopted in 1998: *Supports an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.*

We need to work actively with the State Legislators, Board of Supervisors and health providers to increase, not decrease mental health care in Sonoma County.

Carol Adams, President

NEW LOCAL MEMBERS AND ROSTER CHANGES

Lolly Christiansen Katy
 Madrigal &
 Greg Haims

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Address Change
Carol Ponzio

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.



There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!
Become a member.
Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Emily @ 579-4452 # 108
To Volunteer call Kristi @ 579-4452 ext. 118

or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



LEAGUE TO THE RESCUE AND REARMS: WE LOVE PERANTS



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

I am interested in the following areas:

Program _____ Membership _____

Speakers Bureau _____ Social Policy _____

Natural Resources _____ Voters Service _____

Newsletter _____ Fundraising _____

Cable TV _____ Smart Voter _____

Community Outreach _____ Website _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$60.00 for individual annual membership, \$90.00 for household, and \$40.00 for limited income. The membership year is July 1 to June 30.) Please mail check to LWV Sonoma County, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Thank you.

The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County
100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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Time Dated Material

<p>The VOTER, a publication of The League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County, is published monthly except for the holiday season and during the summer, i.e. nine regular issues per year. The deadline is generally the 10th of the month preceding the issue month. If required, a supplemental issue will be published in January to announce January activities.</p>
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APRIL 2008 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday, April 1, 2008	10:00 AM – 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	LWVSC Board Meeting League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Thursday, April 3, 2008	10:00 AM – 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Voter Service
Tuesday, April 8, 2008	NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	International Relations Study Group U. S. Defense and Security Policy
Thursday, April 10, 2008	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Advocacy/Action Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2008	10:30	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Book Club <i>New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance</i>
Wednesday, April 16, 2008	NOON	WOW 630 Third St. Santa Rosa	Lunch with the League Guest of Honor Mike Reilly
Monday, April 28, 2008	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers 100 Santa Rosa Santa Rosa	LWVSC Education Forum Propositions 98 and 99
Saturday, May 31, 2008		Canine Companions	Annual Meeting PLEASE NOTE: PREVIOUS DATE WAS IN ERROR
Wednesday, June 11, 2008		210 Windsor Drive Petaluma	Theater Party
Friday, June 13, 2008		Portland, OR	National LWV's Convention

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for correct dates and times for meetings.