



# THE VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 9, No. 4 May 2004

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CONTENTS OF YOUR BIG BLUE BIN?

We are planning a tour of both the Empire Waste Management Corporation and the North Bay Corporation materials recovery facilities on May 21. The companies are located across the street from each other on Standish Avenue and both have single stream recycling facilities.

Ken Wells, Director of Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, said that there has been a very large increase in the amount of material that people are recycling since the County started using the blue bins for single stream recycling. Join us to watch how the recycled materials from all over the County are sorted and processed both by automation and by hand, and learn where they go from there.



Meet in the east parking lot of the Veterans Memorial Building across from the County Fairgrounds at 9:30 AM on Friday, May 21, to carpool to the facilities. Parking there is limited. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Bring a brown bag lunch and we will head to Southwest Community Park at 1698 Hearn Avenue for a picnic following the tours.

Please call the League office, 546-5943, by May 15 if you plan to take the tour.

### CONTENTS:

Recycling Center Tours	1	Greenhouse Gas Forum	4
Oakmont Unit Meeting	1	Member Profile - Sandy Benson	4
International Relations Study Group	2	Annual Meeting Information	5-7
Book Club Corner	2	Help Wanted	6
LWV Voter On Line	2	Membership	6
President's Message	3	Education Update Study	6
Board Briefs	3	Federal Marriage Amendment	7
Project Vote Smart Rebroadcasts	3		

### ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION ENCLOSED

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5, at 10 AM in the Gittinger Room at the Canine Companions for Independence Training Center, 295 Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa.

See pages 4-6 for important meeting information.

### OAKMONT UNIT MEETING

April Brings a Special Treat for Oakmont League Members and Their Guests.

Thursday, April 29  
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Berger Center - Fireside Room

Lynda Hungerford will review the book *World on Fire* by Amy Chua and report on the **March for Women's Lives**.

Contact Joy Reynolds (539-9627) or Jean Gilmore (537-1639).

**The League of Women Voters  
of Sonoma County**

100 E Street, Suite 209  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-546-5943  
info@sonco.ca.lwvnet.org  
http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org

Officers:

Nancy Richards, President 575-7160  
Susan Gorin, VP Administration  
Susan Milstein, Secretary  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer

Directors:

George Ellman, Transportation  
Olive Horrell, Membership 539-5515  
Willard Richards, Voters Service

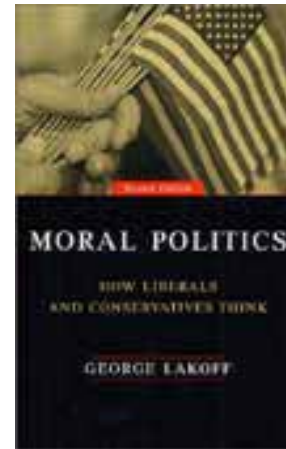
VOTER Team:

Jack & Marsha Dupre,  
VOTER Editors 528-7146  
May Huddleston  
Lynda Hungerford  
Caroline Ramberg

**BOOK CLUB CORNER**

The next meeting of the League's book club will be Thursday, May 20, at 10.30 AM at 2191 Siesta Lane, Santa Rosa. All members and guests are welcome to join in the discussion of the selected book.

The book for May is *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think* by George Lakoff, University of California, Berkeley Professor of Linguistics. Lakoff's 1984



book *Metaphors We Live By* presented the concept that metaphor is a fundamental component of human cognition. *Moral Politics* is the application of Lakoff's long study of the role of metaphor in human cognition to political thinking.

*Moral Politics* has just come out in a second edition. Of the first edition, the Global Business Network says it "reveals the largely unconscious cognitive structures behind liberal and conserva-

tive politics, laying out in detail the incompatible moral systems that lie behind political conflicts."

Whether you are liberal or conservative, this book will help you better understand your own thought as well as the thought of those who begin with a different metaphor. Despite Lakoff's academic credentials, *Moral Politics* is a highly readable book for the general public.

Often, book club members donate selections to the League office after the book club discussion, and many past selections are available for League members to borrow.

Lynda Hungerford

**LWVC VOTER ON LINE**

A reminder that the April *VOTER* for the California State League will not be sent to members but is available online at <http://ca.lwv.org>. Click on *CaliforniaVOTER* and see it in color. There are some interesting articles including lobbying for HAVA, a \$150,000 grant from Hewlett Packard, a Clean Money Bill, ballot measures for the November election, and more. If you would like a printed copy, please call me at 575-7160.



Nancy Richards

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
STUDY GROUP**

The International Relations study group meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11 at 12:00 noon at 2191 Siesta Lane, Santa Rosa. The topic planned for the *Great Decisions* discussion is: "**The Philippines: dilemmas of renewed security ties.**"



In its history, unstable governments and militant groups have plagued the Philippines. The Philippines is now seen as both a major

front and a major partner in the war on terrorism. Will increased cooperation with Washington benefit or harm the Philippines?" Please feel free to bring current material from publications or invite anyone who is knowledgeable about the topic so we can learn more and add to our lively discussion. It is a brown-bag lunch session. All members are welcome.

If anyone wishes to order the 2004 *Great Decisions* briefing book, it may be ordered from the Foreign Policy Association by calling: 1-800-477-5836. If you have any questions, please contact Rosalie Gillmore at 769-8826 or Gillmore\_R@msn.com.

Rosalie Gillmore

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president of our League, many issues come to me via email each month. There are items from the Bay Area, State, and National Leagues, from members of our local League, and from members of community organizations. Recently I have received requests from some local organizations asking that League speak in support of same sex marriage. The League does not have a position on this issue and, therefore, cannot speak for or against it.



However, the League has spoken in opposition to the "Federal Marriage Amendment," a proposed Constitutional amendment. League believes that this amendment would actually restrict civil rights and exclude individuals from the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

Another interesting issue that came across my computer three days after our very successful forum on greenhouse gas emissions was an article from the *San Jose Mercury News*. The article reported that a number of major Silicon Valley companies have formed a coalition with NASA Ames, the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This coalition will work to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the Santa Clara Valley 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. Urging the City Councils and the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County to follow Santa Clara's lead made a good addition to my letter which congratulated them on taking the first step to inventory city and county operations' emissions.

Over the years, the League has spoken out on many issues from marriage amendments to green house gas emissions. In June, the program for our annual meeting will be "League Makes a Difference." We will learn about past issues in our community in which League input has made a difference and we will hear from a prominent community member about upcoming issues where League could work to make a difference. Mark June 5 on your calendar now and plan to attend our great annual meeting to wrap up the year.

Nancy Richards

"League Makes  
a Difference"

### MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## BOARD BRIEFS

The following key items were covered at our April 6, 2004 board meeting:

- Adopted an email and Electronic Communications Policy that allows the board to communicate with the membership through the Internet while ensuring members' privacy.
- Heard a report from Phyllis Stanley on the successful forum on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions held on Saturday March 27. Nancy Richards then sent letters to all the mayors in the County and to the Board of Supervisors urging them to adopt a target of 20 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2010 and to develop specific plans for achieving this target.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Phyllis Stanley as Action Chair. She will continue on the LWVC's Energy Committee.
- Authorized League representative Marsha Dupre to address Sebastopol City Council on League's position on the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution. Also, a representative from our League will speak on this issue when it comes before the Board of Supervisors.
- Authorized LWVSC delegates to the State Leadership Council to vote for the \$2 per member dues increase proposed by LWVC for fiscal year 2004-05.
- Heard a report that Eliza Meyn, representing League, spoke to Sonoma City Council in support of a Living Wage.

Susan Milstein,

Secretary

## REBROADCAST TIMES FOR *PROJECT VOTE SMART SPEAKER*

For those who live in Santa Rosa, rebroadcasts of the talk by Richard Kimball, President of *Project Vote Smart*, will air on channel 70, the government channel on Community Access TV, on the following days: Monday, April 26, at 8:00 PM; Friday, April 30, at 4:00 PM; and Sunday, May 2, at 10:30 AM.

Mr. Kimball talks about how and why *Project Vote Smart* was started. The organization is highly respected for its unbiased and accurate reporting of biographical information, campaign finance, positions on issues, voting records and interest group ratings of lawmakers from the president to local officials. Examples he gives of political advertisements illustrate the lack of information that is sent over the airways to sway voters. Richard Kimball is an entertaining and engaging speaker. This is a program well worth listening to and the website, <http://www.vote-smart.org>, is most informative.

## GREENHOUSE GAS FORUM DRAWS LARGE CROWD

On Saturday morning, March 27, League presented a forum on greenhouse gas emissions to a large audience. Ann Hancock, the director of the Climate Protection Program in Sonoma County, presented information about the effects of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and of her successful mission to convince all 9 cities and the County to do an inventory of the GHG emissions and to pledge to reduce their GHG emissions. Sonoma County set a national precedent with 100% response from the communities.

Ken Wells, Director of Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, and Pam Torliatt, City councilwoman in Petaluma and Association of Bay Area Governments' delegate to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, discussed what the County and Petaluma are doing to reduce GHG emissions. Some of the programs that have been started are as simple as replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, and adding timers to light switches. Larger efforts that the County is pursuing are using the methane gas from the landfill and replacing gas-powered vehicles with hybrids and electric vehicles.



From left to right are Ann Hancock, Pam Torliatt, and Ken Wells. Photo by Willard Richards.

Our League is most grateful to the speakers for presenting a most informative and enlightening program. If you want to learn more about this project, you can read the entire report on the greenhouse gas emission inventories for Sonoma County at <http://www.skymetrics.us/standing-together/standing-together.php>.

## MEMBER PROFILE Sandy Benson



Photo by Todd Cary

Sandy Benson is a relatively new member of League, but a long time resident of Sonoma County where she has recently retired from an elementary school teaching career.

Born in San Francisco, she grew up in Sonoma County, attended local schools and went on to San Francisco State where she earned a

degree and teaching credential. Her favorite grades to teach are four through six, "because there is so much the students can do, and they are so excited about what they can do."

After college, she spent six years moving around with her husband while he was in the military, including two years in Germany where she taught American children for the Department of Defense.

She says it was wonderful to be young and to have the freedom to get on a train headed in a new direction to explore a new city. She comments that even twenty years

after the war, many German cities were still cleaning up. The Berlin Wall was particularly memorable. "Standing on one side," she says, "I knew I was free to move around while people on the other side did not have the same freedom."

In her career as a teacher, she has watched the pendulum of educational philosophy swing back and forth.

While she is concerned that the present emphasis on children and teachers to achieve success in testing is a limited and limiting measure of success, she notes that the bright spot is the quality and dedication of new teachers coming into the system. "They have chosen teaching because they want to make a difference, and they are up to the challenge."

**"Right now, with so many challenges, League provides a clear, honest, steady voice."**

Benson has been active in the American Association of University Women and in the American Cancer Society. She joined the League three years ago because she had relied on it for fair, accurate information, and, in her words, "right now, with so many challenges, League provides a clear, honest, steady voice." Having accepted nomination for the Program Vice President for next year, she will play an important role in how that voice is heard in the coming League year.

**Lynda Hungerford**

## ANNUAL MEETING\*

### Agenda

10:00 AM	Registration & Coffee/Muffins	11:00	Discuss & Adopt Program
10:15	Call to Order	11:45	Nominations & Elections
10:20	Treasurer's Report	Noon	Adjourn to Potluck Lunch
10:30	Budget Report	12:30 PM	"League Makes a Difference" Guest speaker
10:40	Program Report	1:00	Questions
10:50	Break		

\*June 5, 2004, Canine Companions for Independence, 295 Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

## Rules and Procedures

### Proposed Convention Rules

Each speaker shall state name, indicate intention, and speak no longer than three minutes. No one shall speak twice to a question until everyone desiring to speak has had an opportunity to do so.

### Adoption of Local Program

League program shall consist of those issues chosen for concerted study and action. The local program as recommended by the Board shall be presented first. Items not recommended by the Board may be proposed for consideration by members at the Annual Meeting. If a non-recommended item is voted for consideration, it is presented to the membership for decision with the Board-recommended program.

### Required Votes

Adoption of by-law changes requires a 2/3 vote. Adoption of budget and program requires a majority vote.

### Quorum

Twenty percent of the membership as of January 1, 2004 shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting, unless the Board of Directors declares that the quorum is less. The minutes will so state, and any business acted upon will stand, unless written protest is received from any member within 30 days after the Annual Meeting.

**Note:** There are no recommended by-law changes.

## 2004-05 Program Recommendations

The board recommends retaining all **existing positions**. You may view or download our current positions from our website at <http://sonco.ca.lwvnetorg>; you may call the office to request that you be sent a paper copy; or you may pick up a copy at the Annual Meeting.

The board recommends continuation of the **new study** adopted last year at the Annual Meeting:

### General Plans for the Cities of Sonoma County

Develop a position for General Plans for the cities in Sonoma County and review the General Plan for Sonoma County.

The board recommends the following **items for emphasis**:

- 1. Campaign Finance Reform** - Work for campaign finance ordinances in the cities of Sonoma County, especially Santa Rosa and Petaluma.
- 2. Transportation** - Continue to lobby for a local source of income for transportation (self-help County).

The board recommends that we **participate** in the State League's study on K-12 education.

## Nominations

### Officers:

President	Corol Ann Fontana-Cary
V.P. Administration	Nancy Richards
V.P. Action	Will Richards
Secretary	Susan Milstein
Treasurer	Susannah Likins

### Directors:

Membership	Olive Horrell
Program	Sandy Benson
VOTER	Jack Dupre
VOTER	Marsha Dupre
Transportation	George Ellman

**Three important board positions have not yet been filled:**

Development  
 Voters Service  
 Nominating Committee Chair

*Report submitted by Corol Ann Fontana-Cary (Chair), Phyllis Clement, Phyllis Stanley, and Liz Hawthorne on April 14, 2004.*



**The following opportunities are offered at the usual League salary (\$0.00) with benefits (appreciation and a great sense of satisfaction).**

- **Voters Service** - We need a chair for this position and also worker bees to help organize forums and the speakers bureau, distribute Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides, and register voters at schools, fairs, etc.
- A **guru** knowledgeable in computer arts to maintain the roster and to print mailing labels monthly.
- **Education study committee** - We need a chair and a committee. See article below on K-12 Education Update.

Call Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, 773-4510 with your résumé. And hurry! These jobs opportunities won't last long.

## EDUCATION UPDATE STUDY

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund will conduct a study to update its position on K-12 public education. The study will include a review of the existing education position and a study of issues in the area of finance, governance, school district organization, accountability, teaching and curriculum. It will also include a study of the separation of finance and program control, the role of the state in local districts, early childhood education, and a review of the federal *No Child Left Behind* Act.

The state study committee will research and prepare a Study Guide. This guide will include background information, a digest of the committee's research, pro and con articles, information on potential panelists, and information on holding community education fo-

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

Rick and Lettie Swinth

Barbara Douglas

rums. The committee will also supply a *Leaders Guide for Consensus* to establish guidelines for local Leagues to obtain consensus on the questions presented by the study.

The Study Kit will be available in early September. Discussion and consensus meetings will take place from October to December and a consensus report is due January 15, 2005.

If you are interested in participating in this study on K-12 education, please contact me. It would be good to start organizing soon so that a committee is ready to begin as soon as the materials are available in September.

**Nancy Richards**

nancyr@sonic.net

## Proposed Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

	2003-04	2004-05	
	Budget	BUDGET	Notes
<b>Income</b>		<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$8,500	\$8,500	1
Member Contributions	\$1,200	\$2,000	
Nonmember Contributions	\$1,000	\$2,000	
Sonoma County Contract	\$3,000	\$3,000	
League Lodging	\$100	\$100	
Fundraising Events	\$4,500	\$3,500	
Hope Washburn Endowmt	\$2,000	\$1,800	2
Other	\$500	\$100	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,800</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Board Expense	\$200	\$100	
Membership Expenses	\$500	\$500	
Committees' Expenses	\$400	\$200	
Program	\$550	\$550	
Annual Meeting	\$200	\$200	
Conventions, Workshops	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Insurance	\$400	\$650	
Maintenance	\$200	\$200	
Office Supplies, Equipmt	\$500	\$400	
LWVBA Dues	\$155	\$184	
LWVC Dues	\$2,815	\$3,864	3
LWVUS Dues	\$3,713	\$4,232	4
Position Support	\$300	\$200	5
Publications	\$750	\$250	
Communicatons, web	\$400	\$300	
Rent	\$4,800	\$4,800	
Telephone	\$400	\$250	
Voter	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Voters Service	\$500	\$500	
Fundraising Expense			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$21,783</b>	<b>\$22,380</b>	
<b>EDUCATION FUND</b>			
Donations	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Withdrawals			
Smart Voter	\$660	\$500	
Pros & Cons	\$200	\$500	
Easy Reading Voter, etc	\$0	\$50	
Total Withdrawals	\$860	\$2,050	

1. Propose to increase our Dues to Individual \$50, Households \$72, Limited Income \$37. We have to pay full PMP for Limited Income Members. State is increasing dues \$2 a person. We hope National remains the same as last year.

2. Hope Washburn Fund is a restricted Endowment Fund which disbursed \$1,800 this year. Balance as of December 31, 2003 \$47,950.20

3. Proposed State dues is \$21 for Individual and \$31.50 for household ( 1 1/2 time Ind. Rate)

4. National Dues (per member payment) is \$23 for Individual and \$34.50 for household (1 1/2 times Ind. Rate)

5. Bay Area League is \$1 for Individual and \$1.50 for household

Dues are Per Member Payments based on membership figures as of December 31, 2003. Individuals: 139 Households: 30

National PMP due: Indiv=139 x \$23 = \$3197 Household= 30 x \$34.50= \$1035 Total: \$4232

State PMP due: Indiv= 139 x \$21 = \$2919 Household= 30 x \$31.50= \$945 Total: \$3864

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OPPOSES THE FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

**“We, the undersigned organizations of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation’s oldest, largest, and most diverse civil and human rights coalition, urge you to oppose the “Federal Marriage Amendment” (H.J. Res. 56, S.J. Res. 26), a radical proposal that would permanently write discrimination into the United States Constitution.”**

This is the beginning of a letter sent to the members of the Congress of the United States on March 2, 2004. The League of Women Voters, along with 30 other organizations, is a member of the LCCR.



In a speech on February 24, 2004, President George Bush called for the Federal Marriage Amendment.

The League believes that this proposed Federal Marriage Amendment would permanently write discrimination into the United States Constitution. It believes that this divisive amendment is a dangerous and unnecessary approach to resolving the ongoing debate over same-sex marriage, and it would turn 225 years of Constitutional history on its head by requiring that states actually restrict the civil rights of their own citizens.

For the full text of the letter, see <http://interactive.lwv.org/News/News.cfm?ID=1082&c=7>.

**The League does not take a position for or against same-sex marriage.** This issue is an extremely difficult and sensitive one, and people of good will can and do have heartfelt differences of opinion on the matter. However, there are right and wrong ways to address this issue as a matter of public policy. The League is extremely concerned about any proposal that would alter our nation’s most important document for the direct purpose of excluding any individuals from its guarantees of equal protection.

The proposed amendment is antithetical to one of the Constitution’s most fundamental guiding principles, that of the guarantee of equal protection for all. For the first time in history, it would use the Constitution as a tool of exclusion, restricting the rights of a group of Americans. It is so far-reaching that it would not only prohibit states from granting equal marriage rights to same-sex couples, but also may deprive same-sex couples and their families of fundamental protections such as hospital visitation, inheritance rights, and health care benefits, whether conveyed through marriage or other legally recognized relationships.

Constitutional amendments are rare. Since the Bill of Rights adoption in 1791, the Constitution has only been amended seventeen times. The League believes that the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments, were designed largely to protect and expand individual liberties, and certainly not to deliberately take away or restrict them.

**THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!**

Marsha and Jack Dupre in honor of Helen Rudee on her birthday.

Willard and Nancy Richards in honor of Margaret Millner on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Sue Kaetzel, CRS, GRI**  
Realtor®


BUSINESS DIRECT: (707) 636-1605  
HOME OFFICE: (707) 538-4060  
FAX: (707) 523-4489  
Email: [skaetzel@ap.net](mailto:skaetzel@ap.net)  
Web Site: [SUEKAETZEL.COM](http://SUEKAETZEL.COM)



1401 4th Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 523-4444

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT

**alphagraphics®**  
Printshops Of The Future



[www.santarosa430.alphagraphics.com](http://www.santarosa430.alphagraphics.com)  
e-mail: [us430@alphagraphics.com](mailto:us430@alphagraphics.com)

490 Mendocino Ave., Suite C  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(707) 569-8036  
FAX (707) 565-7584

# Join the Gang – Become a member of the Charles M. Schulz Museum



We have a world-class museum as an attraction in our county. Memberships are important to sustain the museum, and every membership level rewards YOU!

Call Maite @ 579-4452 ext. 108  
or visit the Museum web site:  
[www.SchulzMuseum.org](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
Click on Membership.



PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

## YVONNE HORTON

Healdsburg Realty, Inc.  
Healdsburg, California

WINE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

(707) 433-1929  
[yvonneh@sonic.net](mailto:yvonneh@sonic.net)

**Robert Cheal**  
Marketing Services Manager  
Sr. Loan Officer, ASA

## Guaranty

RESIDENTIAL LENDING

120 Stony Point Road, Suite 115  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
ph: 707.569.2653 / 866.562.6985  
fax: 707.578.4951 / cell: 707.849.3896  
e: [robert.cheal@guarantygroup.com](mailto:robert.cheal@guarantygroup.com)  
[www.grlweb.com/rcheal](http://www.grlweb.com/rcheal)



### League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$49.00 for individual annual membership, \$70.00 for household, and \$35.00 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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**MAY 2004 CALENDAR**

*[Click here for the latest calendar](#)*