



# THE VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 11, No. 9

November 2006

### YOU ARE INVITED TO A MID-WINTER CELEBRATION



Something special is scheduled for Sunday, **January 14<sup>th</sup>**! Circle the date right now before other events crowd onto that nice, new 2007 calendar.

With so many members stressed for time and energy in the weeks prior to the November 7 election - and holidays following so soon after - it seemed sensible to schedule our **Annual Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser** to a later date. And that date will be, Sunday, January 14, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, at the home of Alexandra and Dick Benson in Petaluma.



Plan to join your LVW friends and colleagues and bring a guest or two. We will enjoy a gourmet **BRUNCH** and **MIMOSAS**. The next VOTER will include a map, driving directions and additional details. Janie Hawker (584-5210) can answer more immediate questions.

Good food and a convivial setting are important. But, much depends on the success of the **SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**. Phyllis and Bob Clement will again arrange to collect and organize the auction items. Call Phyllis and tell her what quality items you will donate (823-0925). Donate items such as wine, books, fine art, pottery, jewelry, etc. Perhaps you would like to contribute a unique object, a vacation rental, an offer of a service, a gift certificate to See's Candies or to a spa? All proceeds go directly to the operation of the LWVSC office in downtown Santa Rosa.

**Joyous holidays to all! See you on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Bensons'.**

*Janie Hawker*

Hospitality Committee

### UNAFF

United Nations Association Film Festival

#### UNAFF Traveling Film Festival Sonoma County

Co-sponsored by United Nations Association of Sonoma County,  
World Affairs Council of Sonoma County and Santa Rosa Junior College Social Science Department

**Saturday, November 11, 2006**

**Newman Auditorium, Santa Rosa Junior College 1:00 - 5:30 PM**

For more information contact United Nations Association 537-1577 or World Affairs Council 573-6014

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Of Sonoma County**

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Carol Adams, Voter Outreach

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May Huddleston  
Betty Keefauver  
Caroline Ramberg  
Nancy Richards

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY  
GROUP**

The International Relations discussion group will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 12 NOON in the Santa Rosa League office. It is a brown-bag lunch session.

The topic for discussion will be “**Brazil**. After decades of economic volatility, Brazil is finally enjoying steady growth, despite a political scandal surrounding the administration of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Will Brazil continue on a course toward stability? What impact will the scandal have on Brazil's economy, on its South American neighbors and on the U.S.?”

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. All members and friends 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.

The topics for 2007 will be: **Middle East, Climate Change, Mexico, Migration, South Africa, War Crimes, Central Asia, and Children.**

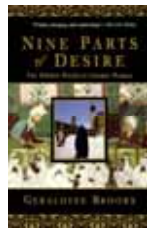
There will be **no** meetings in December and January. The next discussion group meeting will be on February 13, 2007, at 12:00 NOON in the Santa Rosa League office.

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

*Rosalie Gillmore*

**BOOK CLUB CORNER**

Members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM on Thursday, November 16, for a discussion of Geraldine Brooks' *Nine Parts of Desire: the Hidden World of Islamic Women*. The group meets in the League office, suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.



Geraldine Brooks is an award winning journalist and novelist who spent six years covering the Middle East for the *Wall Street Journal*. *Nine Parts of Desire* explores the lives of Muslim women in several different cultures and countries. Its publication in 1995 preceded the World Trade Center attacks.

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

*Lynda Hungerford*  
539-5770  
[info@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:info@lwvsonoma.org)

**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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the election cycle comes to an end, we can all be very proud of the accomplishments of the Voters Service committee. Their report will speak for itself in terms of numbers, but may not tell the full story. Amy Southwick and her crew preformed miracles! The amount of time committed cannot be calculated. I do not know how we could have served the voters in our county any better. Thank you, everyone!

Again, I would like to direct all of you to a very interesting website. LWVBA encourages us to visit <http://www.bayareamonitor.org> to follow issues that are regional in scope.

*Corol Ann Fontana-Cary*

### URGENT REQUEST

Caroline Ramberg is stepping down from her job of mailing the VOTER in November. This is the perfect opportunity for someone with limited time to give to League. The job involves a once-a-month visit to the League office to put the mailing labels on the VOTER and take the mailing over to the post office.

Please call Caroline (538-5188) for details and training. This is a very important duty.

*Corol Ann Fontana-Cary*

### THANK YOU TO PROS & CONS SPEAKERS

Thank you to all the speakers of the nine Pros/Cons presentations the League sponsored this last month. Those speakers are: Betty Ann Bruno, Craig Scheiner, Ethel Schy, Alice Richrdson, Len Swenson, Lynn Camhi, George Ellman, Phyllis Stanley and Chlele Gummer. If anyone was missed, thank you as well. There are the rest of you who are keeping up with our voting process and in your own way helping and encouraging the vote.

### THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

#### EDUCATION FUND

Katherine Sanchez

## POLLING PLACE INNOVATIONS

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POINTS TO ELECTION MODERNIZATION

WASHINGTON, DC — The League of Women Voters today issued a report on innovative polling place practices. The League's report, entitled *Thinking Outside the Ballot Box: Innovations at the Polling Place*, highlights some of the ways that elections officials are making it easier for voters to cast their ballots this year.

Across the country, elections officials are changing the way Americans vote. Some of the changes — such as early voting and the use of vote centers — are dramatic and obvious. Others are more subtle, involving new technologies and changes in the procedures used to get voters in and out of the polling place.

"Innovations in polling place management are among the most critical reforms," according to Mary G. Wilson, National League president. "We hope that these stories about polling place innovations will spur all elections officials to think creatively about how to make voting easier for the American voter," Wilson said.

"We are still voting the same way we did 150 years ago, and we don't live that way any more," said Scott Doyle, who manages elections in Larimer County, Colorado. After analyzing voting patterns and the needs of voters in his county, Doyle developed "**vote centers**" for his county. Larimer County replaced its 143 polling places with 31 full-service vote centers where anyone in the county can vote.

"Modernization is essential," according to Wilson. "We need these new approaches to bring more convenience to the voting process and to help boost voter participation," she said. "Long lines and confusion at the polls must become relics of the past," she said.

Additional examples in the League report include 1) "**early voting**" in Clark County, Nevada where more than 40,000 residents cast their ballots before Election Day at a popular shopping center; 2) "**electronic poll books**" in Seminole County, Florida which eliminated the use of paper poll books and connected polling places to the voter registration database; and 3) "**uniformity and statewide standards**" in Georgia which looked to Kennesaw State University for assistance in technology testing and elections official certification.

"Elections officials are taking a fresh look at how they do their work," said Wilson, "and that should pay off for voters and poll workers alike." The League's report, entitled *Thinking Outside the Ballot Box: Innovations at the Polling Place*, can be found on the League's Web site at <http://www.lwv.org>.

**VOTERS SERVICE**

By the time you read this, our hardy band will have put on seven forums in October to introduce candidates to the public in Cotati, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Windsor and West County. Two studio debates were held with Marin LWV and rebroadcast in Sonoma County. All but one of our forums were video recorded and have been made available at the Smart Voter website, and most were broadcast live on the originating community access station.

Contested offices covered were the 6th U.S. Congressional seat, the 6th California Assembly seat, three regional seats on the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees, several city or town councils, school boards, and a fire protection district. In most cases, LWVSC was invited by co-sponsors to do the organizing and run the event. Our independence and expertise in this area are widely admired and appreciated. We seriously need more member participation if LWVSC is to maintain its reputation for invaluable contribution to citizen government.

We organized three forums with candidates for the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees for the regional seats of Santa Rosa, the Sonoma area, and Analy (West County). Each pair of candidates responded to the same set of questions prepared by LWVSC. All of these programs are to be available on Smart Voter.

Chlele Gummer did an extremely well-organized Pros and Cons training session for the 13 initiatives on the state ballot. Her team made presentations for several area groups.

We distributed 1,750 copies of Easy Voter Guide in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese throughout the county, specifically targeting Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College, community centers, several voter registration events, including the Sonoma County Harvest Fair and the Diversity Festival. Nancy Richardson and Pat Anton coordinated much of the distribution effort.

Carol Adams and her outreach crew maintained 169 voter registration form boxes and supplied Sonoma Vote! voting cards through Sonoma County. This is an important contract service that LWVSC does for the Registrar of Voters.

Also under Carol Adams' leadership, several LWVSC members held voter registration events or provided voting material at many Sonoma County high schools for students who will turn 18 by November 7 (Election Day).

We worked closely with several public television stations including KRCB (channel 22) to provide copies of the forums for rebroadcast in local areas as appropriate: Access Healdsburg, channels 26/27; Community Media

Center of Santa Rosa, channel 70; Petaluma Community Access, channel 28; and Windsor, channel 27. Despite many areas of the county not having cable service, we made Internet access available 24/7, thanks to the Smart Voter project of LWV of California and California Channel, by providing analog copies of our forums to California Channel for processing. From the Smart Voter site, anyone can link to streaming video of any of our recorded programs. See Rosalie Gillmore fearlessly interrogate candidates for Congress and the California Assembly!

Our last Voters Service meeting will be our debriefing, November 9, at 10:00 AM in the LWV office. If you participated in any way in any event, please come and report. We perform a rewarding service, and your feedback is important!

*Amy Southwick*

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE**

On the evening of October 9, Proposition 89 was discussed with Ned Wigglesworth from California Common Cause as the "pro" speaker. Sandra Lowe, Political Activist for California Teachers Association spoke for the opposing side. Unfortunately Proposition 90 was not discussed as a "pro" speaker could not be located.

**BOARD BRIEFS**

**October 3, 2006**

Since President Carol Ann Cary was serving her jury duty, George Ellman led the meeting. Because of illness, accident and vacations there was not a quorum.

Janie Hawker reported on plans for the Holiday Fundraiser, Silent Auction. There isn't enough time to have it ready by December, so, those attending agreed that it be postponed until January. The preferred date was January 14. Janie will work on getting a place and people to help with the Silent Auction.

The board denied a suggested movie project because of the short lead time.

George Ellman commented that the press coverage of measures R and F was very good.

Bay Area League has taken on as a project ways of rejuvenating transportation hubs that need it, in preparation for the SMART train.

Because of the timing and the need to have member approval (the annual meeting vote) the membership committee decided to continue with the old dues amounts on the applications. Time, is needed to redo the old application form.

There were no new members this month. Olive recommended that each board member carry and hand out applications to potential members.

**Proposed agenda items for the next meeting**

During the discussion of various issues, those attending saw the importance of having further discussion with more board members present. The following list includes those issues.

1. The creation of a training video on 'How to Design Forums'
2. Creating a full-time Nominating Committee to fill vacancies as they occur
3. Designing a procedure for people to contact a carpool person for the purpose of increasing attendance and participation at events
4. Creating an online news magazine such as the Bay Area Monitor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chlele Gummer*



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. 116

or visit [www.SchulzMuseum.org](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
 click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS!



**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.

## NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.*

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday November 7	7:00 AM – 8:00 PM	Polling place information is available at 565-6800 and <a href="http://www.sonoma-county.org">http://www.sonoma-county.org</a>	<b>Election Day</b>
Tuesday November 7	10:00 AM – 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Board Meeting</b> League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Thursday November 9	10:00 AM – 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Voters Service Meeting</b> See p. 4.
Tuesday November 14	12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>International Relations Study Group</b> <b>“Brazil”</b> See p. 2.
Thursday November 16	10:30 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Book Club</b> <i>Nine Parts of Desire: the Hidden World of Islamic Women</i> by Geraldine Brooks See p. 2.
Tuesday November 21	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Action Committee</b>
Tuesday December 12	1:00 PM– 3:00 PM	Rohnert Park–Cotati Regional Library 6250 Lynne Conde Way Rohnert Park	<b>One Care Now</b> – Film on single-payer universal health care system

**Please consult the web calendar - <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/calendar.html> for any additional meeting times and locations.**