



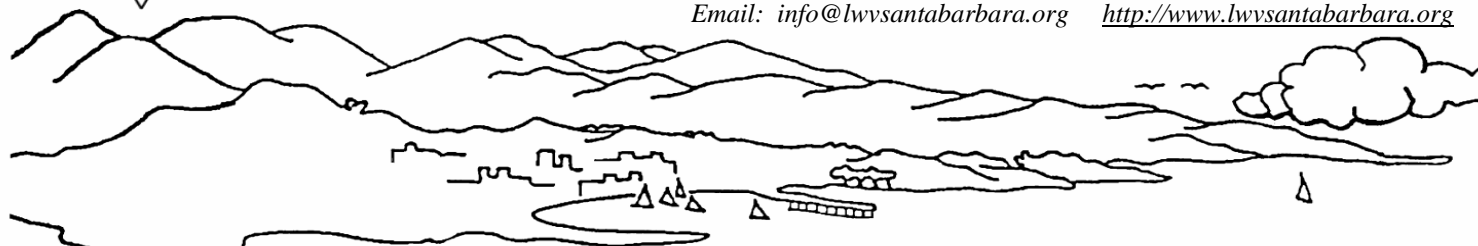
Channel **VOTER**

serving South Santa Barbara County

March 2007

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC. • 328 A East Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>



League Ph/Fax: 965-2422 • Membership Director, Joanie Jones • Co-Presidents, Marlene Neushul & Sheila Kamhi

MARCH COMMUNITY FORUM: IMPORTANT ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS PROPOSED ALONG OUR COASTLINE

Wednesday, March 21, 12:15 to 2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, De La Vina & Victoria Streets

New offshore leases? New drilling into old leases? A floating terminal for supercooled natural gas from the other side of the Pacific? What are these proposals we read about in the newspaper? Come to the League's Community Forum on March 21 for an opportunity to learn more about potential new offshore oil and gas developments along the Santa Barbara coast plus the LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal which may be placed south of Oxnard.

We will hear from a panel of experts. Doug Anthony, Deputy Director of Santa Barbara

County's Energy Division, will give an overview of the current situation in both north and south county. Carla Frisk, representative for Get Oil Out, will describe Venoco projects proposed for the Carpinteria and the Ellwood areas. Linda Krop, Chief Counsel for the Environmental Defense Center, will speak to us about LNG and the Cabrillo Port project. Additionally a representative of the Ventura League will describe their activities in relation to that project. This promises to be an interesting and informative meeting – mark your calendar now!

Jean Holmes, Energy Committee Chair

MARCH DISCUSSION UNITS: "CLIP AND COME"

In March, you direct the discussion.

We will repeat last year's very well received "Clip and Come." Once again we are requesting that unit attendees **clip** an item from one of the local newspapers on a local topic they believe would interest the group. Then **come** to the unit ready to talk about your item and about the items brought by others. There are so many League issues that concern us that there should be no difficulty in picking one, or two, to discuss.

We may learn something new from each other. On the other hand, we may find we want to take

future action based on the news article. Or perhaps, there are differences of opinion or a new viewpoint on a subject. In any event, the talk should be stimulating and local.

Units, of course, are open to all members. Sometimes members may wish to bring guests and that is OK. You are welcome to come to as many of the four units as you wish. Sometimes its a good idea to let the hostess know you are planning to attend, but not necessary. Look in the calendar on the back page of this *Channel Voter* for the times and locations.

Sheila Kamhi, President

A LEAGUE LUNCH BUNCH ALERT! On Monday, March 5, the Goleta City Council will discuss possible changes to the city's newly adopted General Plan. This could have very serious consequences for this area. The League is planning a Lunch Bunch meeting at either lunch or dinner, depending on whether this discussion is scheduled for their 1:30 or 6 p.m. session. At that time, we will discuss the staff report which will come out on March 2. Anyone who would like to go with us should call either Kathy Gebhardt at 968-4853 or Connie Hannah at 967-4720 the weekend before, and we will tell you when and where we will be meeting.

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Co-President
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Marlene Neushul (2008)

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Program
Sheila Kamhi (2007)

First Vice-President
National/State Action
Linda Phillips (2008)

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Connie Hannah (2008)

County Action
Natural Resources
Pat Shewczyk (2008)

From the Co-Presidents' Desk...

We are all much saddened to learn of the death of Marlene, LWVSB's co-president. It all seemed to happen so fast. Below there is information about her memorial service and on how to reach her family. For the remaining months of this League year, the board and other helpful members will take over the duties that Marlene would have filled. On June 9, at Annual Meeting 2007, a new board will be elected.



Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Healthcare Reform. All that and elections besides.

As for State Program Planning, the results of our January units prioritizing our choices for program emphasis for the next two years has been sent to the LWVC Board to be tallied with the results from Leagues throughout the state. Convention delegates will vote in May on the final selection. That doesn't mean that other important

Meanwhile, we have many exciting topics to explore. Some are described in other *Voter* pages, and some are in this article.

Did you know that February 14 was the 87th birthday of the League? We did not celebrate, but I think it is something we all want to note. Eighty-seven years is a long time.

The National League's Immigration Study has been reduced from three years to two years. This is due in part to the very large amount of material already available on all aspects of the issue. Members expressed support for a shorter study, and many Leagues, including ours, have already held educational meetings on the subject.

LWVUS advocacy priorities and election plans were chosen at a national board meeting. The long, impressive list includes Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and

issues that may come up will not receive prompt attention, if required. We recommended that the three issues for education and advocacy be Energy, Health Care, and Redistricting. Our units did express interest in Education Financing, as did many other Leagues in the state, so we may hear more about that issue by the time of State Convention 2007.

In addition, we are planning local forums on oil drilling in Carpinteria and Goleta, open meetings, and the judiciary. Advocacy is continuing on the various county and city land use and housing issues and on the City of Santa Barbara's political campaign reform, plus all the other social and natural resources that we work on. There is something for everyone at whatever level of participation that can fit into your busy lives. See you soon.

Sheila Kamhi, President

Marlene Neushul Memorial Service

Our Co-President, Education Fund Treasurer, and Data Administrator, Marlene Neushul, passed away after a valiant struggle with cancer on February 6, while in the care of hospice and her son, Todd in Portland. Our sympathies go first to her family and to her many friends in the League and at the Unitarian Society where Marlene was a member from 1993. A memorial service will be held in the Unitarian Society Sanctuary, 1535 Santa Barbara St (on the corner of Arrellaga), on Saturday, March 31, at 1 p.m. All are welcome. There will be a time to share your favorite memory during the service and a reception. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 E Carrillo St., Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101

Joanie Jones, Membership Development

PURPOSE STATEMENT CHANGE

Have you noticed the statement on the address page of our Voter? The statement is part of the by-laws of every League in the country. Last year, the word "citizen" was included in the phrase about "informed and active participation of citizens in government." After intense debate at the 2006 LWVUS Convention, the word citizen was dropped. The rationale for this change was that we need to educate those who are not citizens to be good citizens.

Sheila Kamhi, President

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, May 6 - Garden Party
Saturday, June 9 - Annual Meeting

MAJOR PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

As Santa Barbara City begins its General Plan Update in May of this year, there will be a number of issues that League members will want to follow:

1. **The Upper State Street Study** will be released about March. Since many members participated, you will want to watch for this report. The League has supported protection of all mountain views on the north side of State Street and a serious effort to control density and traffic congestion on Upper State.
2. **Santa Barbara Plans** is the new name for the General Plan Update. The first public outreach meetings will begin in May and June. This update will consider some new subjects: energy and peak oil, climate change, green building, and public health. All of the previous plan issues will be considered, with emphasis on "living within our resources." Since this is a key local League position, we will

expect to be very active, and we welcome all members to join us in attending workshops.

3. **Staff Hearing Officer.** This is a new city position, now filled by experienced planner Bettie Weiss. She hears smaller projects, to reduce the work load of the Planning Commission. They feel that the inaugural year has been very successful. The League is concerned that too many modifications of zoning regulations are being made by the City, and we have said so frequently.

On February 20, six members of the League's Lunch Bunch attended a joint Santa Barbara City Council and Planning Commission meeting to hear these three subjects discussed in depth. They will surely determine the future for the City of Santa Barbara.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Director

LWVSB EDUCATION FUND ADDS NEW MEMBER

The Board of the LWVSB Education Fund has unanimously elected Dawn Kirchner as a new board member and new treasurer to fill the vacancy created by the death of Marlene Neushul. Dawn is a Certified Financial Planner, a many-year League member, and has provided financial recommendations to the League in the past.

The Ed Fund Board shares the sadness of all members at the recent passing of Marlene Neushul, who had served as Ed Fund Treasurer and Board Member since its formation, in addition to her other activities with the League. She will be truly missed.

The Ed Fund Board would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of LWVSB Treasurer Jean Reiche, who generously gave of her time and expertise during this transition time. Thank you, Jean.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or recommendations (453-2004).

Irene Stone, LWVSB Education Fund President

*Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to the League office at any time.
Please make checks payable to the "LWVSB Education Fund."*



Those who attended the League's Community Forum on February 21 received a broad overview of programs and services for youth at risk. Speakers included (in the back row): Lennie Kwock from the Probation Department; Margaret Lydon from the SB Mental Health Association; Suzanne Grimmesey-Kirk from the Children's Services Division of ADMHS; and Amanda Pyper of S.A.F.T.Y., a 24-hour crisis intervention program. In the front row: Mariah Messer (l.) and Jennifer Rothman (r.) of Project AFFIRM, a mentoring program for girls on probation, flank Wendy Read (c.), CEO of The Children's Project, a residential academy for foster youth.

Photo credit: Tom Heck

STATE AND NATIONAL ACTION

As you can see below, this promises to be a very busy year on both state and national levels. We'll keep you posted! —Linda Phillips, *First Vice President (State and National Action)*

2007 LWVUS ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

At its January Board meeting, the LWVUS board voted unanimously to adopt the following 2007 Advocacy priorities: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Healthcare Reform. In addition, the Board reaffirmed the League's commitment to maximizing voter education and participation in the months leading up to the 2007 and 2008 election seasons.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE, ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, ETHICS AND LOBBYING REFORMS

Already, bills have been introduced on many of these issues. LWV supports H.R. 776 and S. 436, legislation to fix the presidential public financing system. Working in a coalition with other like-minded reform groups, LWV has also been very active at the national level in pushing for action on ethics and lobbying reform legislation, urging each house to support strict rules, including the contribution "bundling" disclosure language that is in the Senate-passed bill and in H.R. 633. In addition, League and its partners urged the House to establish an Office of Public Integrity to help enforce the House ethics rules.

On February 15, LWV issued an extensive summary of H.R. 811, introduced by Representative Rush Holt (D NJ) on February 5, which would require that all voting equipment produce a paper ballot that can be verified by the voter and that serves as the official ballot in any recount or audit. The League supports the bill's requirement that voting systems provide a voter-verified paper ballot and that said ballot should be the official ballot used for recount or audit purposes. The requirement that a mandatory random audit of some kind be conducted is essential to restoring the voters' confidence in the vote count. However, the League does NOT have a position at this time on the *specific* provisions of the Holt Bill related to mandatory audits.

D. C. VOTING RIGHTS

For many years, League has supported voting rights for the residents of Washington, D.C., who have no representation in Congress except for a non-voting delegate. The DC Voting Rights Act was ready to go to the floor late last year, but the leadership at that time decided not to proceed.

On February 14, LWV's 87th birthday, National League president Mary G. Wilson issued a statement strongly

urging the House leadership and other members of Congress to take immediate action on D.C. voting rights. "With new leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, legislation to provide voting rights in the House for citizens of the District of Columbia, H.R. 328, has a real chance of passage on the House floor," said Wilson. "It is not only in the best interest of D.C. citizens, but in the interest of all Americans, that Congress strike while the iron is hot on this vital equal rights issue."

"We call on the Speaker and the Majority Leader to schedule the bill soon, before the spring recess and before the House is consumed in other business," she said. "...Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation's capital."

The "D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act," sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R VA), provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for D.C. and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Responding to a resolution passed at National Convention last June, LWV appointed a climate change task force in late January, chaired by a Californian, national board member Sarah Diefendorf. The Task Force's first product will be an "Advocacy Statement" which pulls together League's existing positions relevant to climate change (such as energy conservation and reduction of greenhouse gases). This is similar to LWV California's "Action Policies" which have enabled us to more easily act on some far-reaching issues.

OPEN GOVERNMENT/SUNSHINE WEEK

Sunshine Week is March 11-16. This will be the third year with national recognition of the importance of transparency and freedom of information in government. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower citizens to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Journalists around the country are being encouraged to report on this topic during that week.

LWV CALIFORNIA ACTION NEWS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Clean Money/Clean Cities Conferences. The League of Women Voters of California, California Common Cause, and the California Clean Money Campaign will present two conferences designed to give elected officials and activists practical information on how to effect campaign finance reform at the local government level. Morning panels will cover Clean Money basics and the constitutional and legal issues facing clean money systems; in the afternoon, information on how to run a successful clean money campaign and how to govern and fund a local clean money system will be presented.

The dates: March 15 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium; March 23 at the San Jose City Hall. The conferences will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information or to register, visit www.cacleancities.org or contact conference@cacleancities.org or 213-252-4552.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DAY

March 21, 2007
Take Action, Create Change

League members are invited to attend the Reproductive Freedom Day to be held at the Sacramento Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on March 21. At this yearly event, sponsored by the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, we come together to educate our legislators on important issues for the year and to caucus with other women's health advocate groups from all over California. Registration is available at www.ccrf.eventbrite.com. For more information, including registration fee subsidies, call 415-346-0563. We hope to see many of you at this event.

LOCAL ACTION

Statements to Government Bodies on Local Issues December 2006 to February 2007

Cathie McCammon, Connie Hannah, and Sheila Kamhi spoke on the League's behalf on the following issues:

- 12/5/06 **McCammon/Hannah:** To Board of Supervisors regarding Amendments to the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) requesting that all future discussion of this item be at public hearings.
- 12/14/06 **McCammon:** E-mail to SB County Executive Office of Long Range and Strategic Planning on Housing Element action, requesting greater opportunity for public input on items to be included in the EIR.
- 12/19/06 **McCammon/Hannah:** To Board of Supervisors regarding Amendments to the Uniform Rules affecting agricultural lands. We asked for more discussion on the issue and on EIR regulation for lands now under the Williamson Act. The Housing Element should have been addressed in the Rules changes. Much of the discussion was not done in public; the process should have been more open.
- 1/9/07 **Kamhi:** To Santa Barbara City Council Ordinance Committee on Election Reform, agreeing that the League of Women Voters would participate in discussions of "Video Voter," a city-sponsored and fostered use of public access TV programming for election information purposes.
- 2/13/07 **McCammon:** Statement to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the Uniform Rules Update affecting the Williamson Act in rural areas. There is a need for both a workshop and public hearings on the proposed changes before the EIR is ready to be released.
- 2/21/07 **Hannah:** To Santa Barbara City Architectural Board of Review, asking for reconsideration of the plan to add luxury condos to the Whole Foods Project, as it would impact traffic in the Upper State Street area, where other condo and hotel plans are already under consideration.

Compiled by Sheila Kamhi, President

<p>Proud to support LWV-SB Guitare Classique</p> <p>Music for special occasions, by Thomas Heck and friends 805-687-1632</p>	
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UPDATED! Senate Bill 840 (Kuehl)
“The California Universal Health Care Act of 2007”
SUPPORT “OneCareNow” Campaign!

Senator Sheila Kuehl has reintroduced in the California legislature another “SB 840”, emphasizing its key feature, publicly accountable universal health care. According to the California League Board, “Leagues will continue to participate in the OneCareNow campaign of daily city events, petition gathering, health care forums, and educating our elected officials on the benefits of SB 840.”

On March 29, Goleta is the #230 OneCareNow (OCN) California city and the local OCN team has planned a high visibility, media-drawing demonstration at 5 Goleta intersections where advocates will stand on the sidewalks bearing signs demanding real health reform.

Thursday, March 29 “OneCareNow” event
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

We hope 25-40 Santa Barbara League members will demonstrate at the intersection of Patterson and Hollister.

Also, as preparation:

Saturday, March 17, “Sign Making Workshop”
2:30 - 5 p.m.

To be hosted by Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 820 North Fairview, Goleta.

Sign up for these activities and carpools by calling me at 682-1228 or at March units and the March Community Forum.
Carole Marks, Health Care Consultant

League members may be interested in this press release from the California Coastal Commission:

COASTAL COMMISSION GOES LIVE VIA INTERNET

For the first time in the 30-year history of the California Coastal Commission, interested members of the public and the media will be able to watch and listen to the Commission’s monthly meetings, live, via the internet, thanks to a budget augmentation approved by Governor Schwarzenegger. For the next year and hopefully beyond, all Commission meetings will be broadcast over the internet, gavel to gavel at www.cal-span.org.

“Because the Commission meets monthly in different coastal locations from San Diego to Eureka, it has been historically difficult for the public to really follow the Commission’s actions and all of the interesting, complex issues it deals with,” said Commission Chairman, Pat Krueger. “This technology will significantly increase public access to the Commission itself, and we expect it to be a valuable educational tool.” The public will now have access to the deliberations and actions of the Commission on literally hundreds of coastal development issues, from proposed LNG terminals offshore Ventura to new public access trails in Malibu, to desal facilities in Orange County and championship golf courses on the Monterey Peninsula.

The \$100,000 pilot project was initiated by the Legislature and authorized by Governor Schwarzenegger in the 2006-07 budget, and is part of his ongoing effort to expand electronic meeting coverage of all state agencies. The public will also be able to download and view past meetings, which will be archived on the website. All meeting coverage will be gavel to gavel each day, but an advanced indexing system will allow viewers to go directly to items of interest, skip to the final vote or view

the staff report. “It’s the ultimate public outreach” said Steve Mathieu, of AGP Video which won the contract to cover the Commission meetings. “We’ve pleased to increase public awareness of the California Coastal Commission, recognizing that it has does such important work to keep the coast physically and visually accessible to all.”

When the Coastal Commission meets in San Diego February 14-16, it will hear an appeal of a permit to construct desalination test wells on San Simeon State Beach, a permit for a volleyball tournament in Hermosa Beach, an appeal of a cell phone tower on Trinidad Head in Humboldt County, numerous seawall applications and an annual permit review for off road vehicles use at Oceano Dunes, among dozens of other items.

To view the Commission meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day, go to: www.cal-span.org, or the Commission’s website at www.coastal.ca.gov.

 Washington Mutual HOME LOANS	
Catherine Dishion Senior Loan Consultant	
Santa Barbara Home Loan Center 1330 State St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101	
phone	805.560-7351
fax	805.884.8453
catherine.dishion@wamu.net	

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New National Member:

Mercedes Eichholz

New Local Members:

Mary Ellen Hoffman

Jean Kortlander,

Betty and Mike Noling,

NEWS FROM THE NAPLES COALITION

HIKE NAPLES. Beach walk at low tide, March 3 at 12:45 pm (rain date March 4). Haskell's Beach Bacara Parking Lot. Please carpool, as parking is limited.

CASH FOR THE COAST, March 10, at SOHO. Great entertainment and (short) informational talks. Call Cathie 966-0536 for more information.

The long awaited recirculated DEIR on the Santa Barbara Ranch (Naples) Project was to be out to the public on March 1. This date has now been changed to sometime in April.

Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant

IMMIGRATION STUDY SHORTENED TO TWO YEARS

News from LWVUS: At its January meeting the LWVUS Board voted to shorten the LWVUS Immigration Study from a three-year study to a two-year study. Under the new timeline, LWVUS will distribute a Leader's Guide, including consensus questions, in August 2007, and consensus forms will be due back in the national office by February 1, 2008. Using these responses, the Immigration Study Committee will prepare a position statement for board approval at their spring 2008 meeting. The decision to shorten the study process was made for a variety of reasons: Members have expressed widespread support for a shorter study; Immigration Study Committee background materials are already available on the Web site, and many local Leagues are already holding educational meetings and forums on the subject.

If you would like to help LWVSB with this study, please contact me, at 898-0240.

Jessica Dean, Immigration Study

If you know someone who might be interested in the League, please pass along this application:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$60*
- Second member in same household \$30
- Student \$30
- Please send me more information about League
- I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 A E. Carrillo St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Discounted dues are available for special circumstances. Contract Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

CALENDAR - MARCH 2007

Discussion Units: "Clip and Come"

- 6 Tuesday** **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Margaret Roff, 685-4839.
- 7 Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 12:30-2 p.m. Singing Springs Condominiums Recreation Room, 5455 8th St., Carpinteria. Contact: Barbara Godley, 969-9942. Brown bag lunch.
- 7 Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Pat Shewczyk, 5044 Walnut Park Dr., 964-7506.
- 9 Friday** **Board Meeting:** 10:00 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.
- 14 Wednesday** **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead, 964-0886.
- 19 Monday** ***Channel Voter* deadline for April issue.**
- 21 Wednesday** **Community Forum:** "Important Energy Developments Proposed Along Our Coastline." 12:15-2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Speakers will include: **Doug Anthony**, Deputy Director of SB County's Energy Division, **Carla Frisk**, representative for Get Oil Out, and **Linda Krop**, Chief Counsel of the Environmental Defense Center. Brown bag lunch. Cookies and drinks provided.
- 29 Thursday** **Goleta Area OneCareNow Event:** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sidewalk demonstration for universal health care at Patterson and Hollister. Carpools. (See *Voter* article on page 6). Call Carole Marks: 682-1228.
- 31 Saturday** **Memorial Service for Marlene Neushul:** 1:00 p.m., Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St. (at Arrellaga).



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OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.
328 A East Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101**

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. If you would like to join the local League, call the League office at 965-2422.

