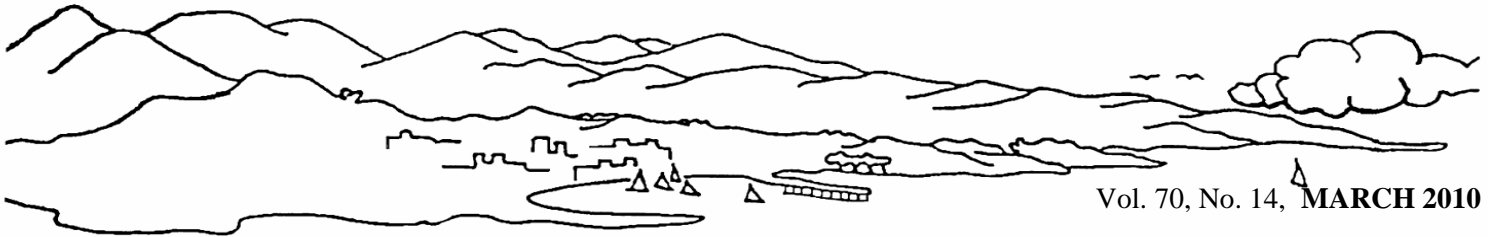




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 70, No. 14, MARCH 2010

OFFICERS

- President
Linda Phillips (2011)
- First Vice-President
Local Action
Connie Hannah (2011)
- Vice-President
Community Education
Stacy Shepherd (2010)
- Secretary
Beth Pitton-August (2010)
- Treasurer
Jean Reiche (2010)

DIRECTORS

- Voters Service
Sandy Stites (2011)
- Membership Development
Joanie Jones (2010)
- Social Policy
Toni Schultheis (2010)
- State & National Action
Bev Herbert (2011)
- Government
Marty Blum (2010)
- Water
Pat Shewczyk (2010)
- Office Manager
Sheila Kamhi (2011)
- Channel Voter Co-Editors*
Martha Lannan (2011)
Jean Phillips (off board)

MARCH COMMUNITY FORUM WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Wed., March 17, 2010, 12 to 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Community Center
De La Vina & Victoria Streets - Free and open to the public.

We've all read the dire predictions about the effects of climate change -- rising sea levels, heat waves and monster storms not to mention melting glaciers and the extinction of multiple species. But what is being done to meet this challenge posed by what is now recognized as the ill effects of our own actions?

The March Community Forum will focus on governmental efforts to cope with climate change. We will hear speakers address a variety of aspects of the topic and have an opportunity to question speakers on local to global aspects of the topic. Terry Dressler, director of the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, will tell us about state legislation and local implementation of the program formulated after the passage of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. This landmark legislation re-

quires the state Air Resources Board to develop regulations that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, no mean feat! Heather Imgrund of the county's Office of Long Range Planning will describe the county's Climate Action Strategy which is just getting underway. A speaker to describe the big picture has been invited from the UCSB Bren School. We expect to hear about the Copenhagen conference and some comments on what actions may be taken in the future.

Combating climate change is a top priority for the League. This will be a timely, informative program. Bring your brown bag lunch; cookies and beverage will be provided. Join us on March 17!

Jean Holmes and Connie Hannah, Energy Committee

MARCH DISCUSSION UNITS: "CLIP AND COME"

In March, you direct the discussion! This will be a "Clip and Come" program, which members always enjoy and where we learn from each other about current issues and the League. Please **clip** an item from one of the local newspapers (or print from an online news source) on a topic you 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 the only difficulty may be in picking only a few to discuss!

If you want to learn more about League's state and national positions and what we're doing about them, see <http://lwvc.org> and <http://www.lwv.org>. At our January units on national Program Planning, we handed out copies of the LWVUS positions in brief. Our local LWVSB positions are in the front of your green membership directory. And this issue of the Channel VOTER has articles about many of the issues League is currently engaged in.

Units are open to all members, and guests are also welcome. "Clip and Come" discussions are different at each unit, and you may come to as many of the four unit meetings as you wish. Look in the calendar on the back page of this *Channel Voter* for the times and locations.

I'm very pleased to announce that our board has appointed a new member, with a new (to our League) portfolio of Government. **Marty Blum**, a long-time member and two-term president (1983-87) of LWVSB, will fill this position. We are particularly pleased to have Marty accept this directorship because she has had so much experience with government. She has just retired from 8 years as Mayor of Santa Barbara and 6 years as a City Planning Commissioner.



LWV may be 90 years old, but its work isn't done yet! We're in the middle of an intense effort toward government reform. At the state level, we recently helped pass Prop. 11, a new method of redistricting - with an independent commission of citizens, instead of legislators, setting legislative district boundaries. Now LWVC is actively participating in its implementation. Leaguers were encouraged to submit applications for the commission, and several of our local League members have done so.

More reforms are proposed, including a pilot program for public campaign financing, Prop. 15, the Fair Elections Act, on our June ballot. LWVC co-chairs its campaign committee. Our state government is broken, and League is in the vanguard of those working to make it function again.

This month you'll receive your census forms. As we discussed in last month's Community Forum and the February VOTER, please be sure to mail back your forms, and encourage others to do so as well. It's vitally important for both our community and state to have a complete count of everyone who lives here.

On the national level, the Supreme Court has ruled that companies may spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns. LWVUS President Mary Wilson said, "[The] Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United vs. FEC* has meant a rough start to 2010. Major corporations may now intervene directly in elections — taking power away from average voters like you and me. Corruption from well-paid lobbyists linked with special interest spending in elections will vastly increase. It is a tragic mistake." A new nationwide [ABC News-Washington Post poll](#) shows that the League is not alone in this fight: 80 percent of Americans of both parties oppose the Court's decision.

Wilson has called on Congress to pass legislation quickly: "With the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, it is critically important for Congress to update campaign finance laws, especially disclosure

requirements governing corporate and union spending. With the 2010 elections fast approaching, delay is simply not a viable option." She adds, "After providing enhanced disclosure, the next most important step for Congress is to do no further harm." You can watch her testimony at a House hearing, and read more details of the LWV response to *Citizens United*, at the LWV website, <http://www.lwv.org>.

Openness in Government: Sunshine Week 2010 - March 14-20

On Friday, March 19, from noon to 2 p.m.(EST), the LWVEF will co-host the 5th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event will be broadcast live via the web. If we're able to arrange a "viewing party" locally, we'll post it on our website and announce it by email. You can also watch it yourself on the Internet. This year's program, "Building Transparency," will focus on transparency in the Obama administration — what has changed and what remains to be done. High-level government officials including Norm Eisen, Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform, and Miriam Nisbet, Director of the new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), will discuss the Administration's new initiatives and their effect on the public. Panelists will also take questions from the live and viewing audience. To learn more about the event, visit our partner organization, OpenTheGovernment.org, or www.sunshineweek.org.

The new Attorney General, Eric Holder, has issued a directive to government agencies to be more open: "The American people have the right to information about their government's activities, and these new guidelines will ensure they are able to obtain that information under principles of openness and transparency." One response, quoted on the Sunshine Week site: "Today's memorandum sends a clear message: when in doubt, let it out. The lights are back on," noted Sunshine in Government Initiative Coordinator [and Marty's son] Rick Blum."

On the local level, we're also concerned about the very large amounts of money involved in recent campaigns. And we always need to be watchdogs for good government issues at every level.

All these issues and more will be in Marty's portfolio. Thanks for joining our board, Marty, and we promise that it won't be *quite* as demanding as being mayor!

Linda Phillips, President

The Channel Voter is published eight times a year, monthly except for January, June, July, and August, by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328A E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org • **Web:** <http://lwvsantabarbara.org>

PLAN SANTA BARBARA - THE FUTURE

It was clear on Feb. 11, when the Santa Barbara City Council first heard a description of Plan Santa Barbara, that there is some hard work ahead. The newly elected council members had serious questions about the draft plan they reviewed, and several agreed that it was going to take a lot of negotiation to complete an update of the General Plan that five members of the seven member council could support. The Plan has been developed over the past five years, and the League and other citizen groups have criticized some of the results.

The League's principal concern has been that the present Plan calls for increased density and larger buildings in the downtown area. Such development could exceed our water, sewer and traffic capacities. Because "living within our resources" is one of the League's strongest local positions and the stated goal of this plan, it seems more reasonable to continue the city's slow growth pattern in the future.

The property and land in the downtown area is the most expensive in the city, and so it stands to reason that any housing built there will have to be very expensive. Expensive downtown housing does not provide homes for local workers, and increases the demand for more low-wage workers.

The present Plan implies that building many units downtown will provide affordable housing and reduce the number of commuters, but that may be an unattainable goal, as past efforts have demonstrated.

A new way of providing less expensive housing will have to be introduced into the Plan if that is really the city's goal. Any changes will have to satisfy five members of the seven-member council and the public. The League will try to suggest alternatives that might help.

Connie Hannah, First Vice President

MAJOR CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT UCSB

Save this Date: Friday, April 9

Our Planet Our Problem; Approaches to a Climate Change Solution

The League will be co-sponsoring a daylong conference on Climate Change, at the UCSB campus on April 9. This conference will bring influential members of the climate change debate to UCSB to present critical thought about the dilemma at hand. The event has been organized by 23 students who attended the UN Conference in Copenhagen in December and recognize the need for constructive action. They have asked the League to co-sponsor, and we are happy to do so as part of the national League's emphasis on climate change. The conference will meet at Corwin Pavillion on campus on Friday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will attract national and state officials who will be dealing with this issue. They will include Mary Nichols, CA Air Resource Board Chair, and State Senator Fran Pavley.

Connie Hannah, First Vice-President

STATE REDISTRICTING DON'T SIGN THIS NEW INITIATIVE

LWV California is opposing an initiative now being circulated for signatures. Initiative 09-0107, the "Lowenstein Initiative," would eliminate the Citizens Redistricting Commission of Prop. 11, which League worked so hard to achieve, and would give redistricting authority for their own seats back to the Legislature. It is in the signature gathering stage, with the goal of qualifying for the November 2010 ballot.

Redistricting is a vital component of government reform. Please do not sign this new initiative, which would undo the progress we've made!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES


Earth Day Festival - April 17-18, Alameda Park

Earth Day, originally inspired by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, turns 40 this year. To commemorate the anniversary, the festival will run for two days. We'll need volunteers to prepare and staff our League's table. Please contact Bev Herbert at 886-6487 if you'd like to help!


Looking Ahead, Annual Meeting in June

The League's Annual Meeting and luncheon will take place Saturday, June 26, at the Holiday Inn in Goleta beginning at 9:30 a.m. A buffet will be served and a guest speaker will address the group at 1 p.m.

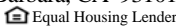
All members are invited to attend and become more aware of the variety of work the League is involved with. Members are also encouraged to bring suggestions and ideas for League in the future. Margaret Roff is coordinating the program and welcomes the help of others. To contact her, call 685-4839. Further details will be in the Channel Voter the next two months.



Catherine D. Dishion
Mortgage Loan Officer



Tel: 805.884.7131 • Cell: 805.705.5773
Fax: 805.715.1527
catherine.dishion@bankofamerica.com

801 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101


**LEAGUE URGES SENATE TO PASS
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW**

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision in the Citizens United case, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson sent a [letter](#) to the Senate urging its members to update campaign finance laws, with particular attention to requirements governing corporate and union spending.

League members from the DC area may volunteer to serve in LWVUS’ Lobby Corps. Lobby Corps members are visiting key Senate offices this month to discuss legislation. Wilson also sent an [email](#) yesterday reminding members and supporters that her Congressional testimony from earlier this month is available in [webcast](#) format online, and pointing to a new nationwide [ABC News-Washington Post poll](#) showing that the League is not alone in this fight: 80 percent of Americans of both parties oppose the Court’s decision.

UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change COP15

by LWVUS Delegation Chair Carole Conors

The Copenhagen convention was not a scientific conference. It was a political conference. While some countries were eager to tackle climate change, others came to negotiate what they could bring home to their countries and how little they’d have to spend in money and effort.

Although there is disappointment among some country delegations and some in the NGO community, an accord of some substance was produced. The agreement states twelve acknowledgments. Every country signing the Accord acknowledges the twelve points, and it is believed that every country but four – Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Venezuela – intends to sign on. Some of those points are:

- The need to reforest, and to stop deforestation and forest degradation.
- The need to commit specific amounts of money to address damage already caused by climate change.
- That emissions must be reduced.
- That there will be a reporting every two years by countries with regard to their emissions reductions, financial contributions and other efforts to address climate change.
- Specific amounts of money needed to bring energy efficiency to developing countries.
- That climate change must be kept below 2 degrees Celsius rise.
- That developed countries must help least developed countries and small island nations in a predictable way.
- The need for technology transfer.
- The need to recognize the scientific information provided by of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

- The need for developing countries to make commitments and contribute.
- A re-look in 2016 including consideration of reducing the 2 degrees Celsius to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Accord ends with two Appendices for countries to complete. Appendix I has three columns: Name of Party (country), Emission Reduction in 2020, Base Year (reduced to 1990 levels or 2003 levels, etc.) These are to be “quantified economy-wide emissions targets.” Appendix 1 is to be completed by “Annex I” parties which are 40 more developed countries and do not include China, India, Brazil and South Africa. Appendix II, entitled Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions of Developing Country Parties, has two columns: “Non-Annex I” (Name of country) and “Actions” (commitment[s] that country is making toward climate change remediation.) Both Appendix I and Appendix II signatories report on what they commit bi-annually. It is hoped all will make their entries by end of January 2010, and most are expected to do so.

Governments have been alerted/awakened to the science and the seriousness of climate change, and the specifics of how to take action and that the action needs to take place.



Celebrating 28 Years

Business - Home - Auto - Life - Health

JANE MACEDO de VEER
Insurance Agency

211 E. Victoria St., Ste. C
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Bus: (805) 962-9146

jane@deveeragency.com

LWVUS 2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORI-

At our January discussion units on national program planning, we also asked you to tell us what you wanted the national League to focus on, as their action priorities, for the coming legislative year. Only fourteen Leagues discussed priorities and sent in group responses, so your requests were certainly heard. Most of the priorities they adopted were very similar to those you suggested. From LWVUS' Feb. 4 *Leaders Update*:

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following **Legislative Priorities** for 2010:

- * *Global Climate Change [continued from last year],*
- * *Health Care Reform [also continued],* and
- * *Money in Elections (campaign finance reform).*

On the **Legislative Watch List** are:

- * *Arms Control,*
- * *DC Voting Rights,*
- * *Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform,* and
- * *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).*

This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

**LWVSB ENDORSES SB 810
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE PAYER HEALTH PROGRAM**

Normally, only the state League - League of Women Voters of California - endorses state legislation. In the case of SB 810, the state league has taken the unusual step of allowing local Leagues to endorse the bill as well.

Because of our local members' intense interest and long history with health care reform, the board voted at its February meeting to endorse SB 810. This bill has the same provisions as that which was carried by former State Senator Sheila Kuehl, and approved by the California legislature twice before being vetoed by the governor. Its primary basis is establishment of a single payer program which will provide universal health care for all Californians.

SAVE THE DATE: "HEALTH CARE REFORM" at THE VIC

On Monday evening March 22, 6:30 p.m. Health Care For All will present "Hot Topic, Health Care Reform – The Way Forward for CA." at the Victoria Theater.

Learn more about the strategy to bring universal single payer health care to California and be part of the launch of the new statewide media campaign in support of CA Senate Bill 810, the California Universal Health Care Act! **SPECIAL GUEST:** Emmy-winning film-maker Don Schroeder. Schroeder is Co-Chair of California OneCare Campaign and is on the Board of Directors of Health Care for All-California. Donations go to the "HCA-CA Media Campaign".

Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County will host this program for the coalition; the Pro-Choice Coalition is also a sponsor.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!

When Stacy Shepherd, the League's Community Education Vice President, learned that 2010 would be the 90th year after the national League was founded, she decided to organize local recognition and a celebration to mark the anniversary. This included three major events: focus on the 19th Amendment and League history in February units, screening of the suffrage film "Iron Jawed Angels," and a festive birthday luncheon Feb. 20.

Stacy and several other newer board members, including Beth Pitton-August, Secretary Beverly Herbert, State & National Action Director, and Sandy Stites, Voter Service Director, made all the arrangements. This was a very special treat for some long-term League board members who are used to working hard on all League events; this time we were the guests!

Our local League is 71 years old this year, and has, perhaps, the most loyal members in the country. Luncheon organizers honored the 23 members who have been in the League for 50 or more years. In talking with some guests from a Los Angeles area League, founded at

the same time as our local League, we learned that their league had at only two 50-year members.

Videographer Larry Nimmer, a League member who regularly films our "Touring with the Candidates," volunteered to film the luncheon speaker, Prof. Gayle Binion, specialist in public law and feminist jurisprudence from UCSB. He also was available to film any of the 50-year members willing to talk with him on camera. We thank Larry for filming such a historic event, and especially for talking with most of our long-term members about their interest in the League. These members have been generous and supportive over the years, enabling the League to be active in community affairs, and have been active in other local non-profit organizations benefiting the South Coast in many ways.

We want to publicly thank Stacy, the committee and everyone else who worked to make the luncheon such a historic event. We will have a film of it to show those who could not attend. All of us who were there will long remember it.

Connie Hannah, First Vice President



Some of our 50-year members.



Members and guests gathered at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion.



Scrapbooks and Memories.

Remember to add these changes to your green Member Directory, and be sure to put the **insert with Board of Directors updates** into your Directory.

New Members:

Mary Ellen Wylie

Michael A. Petretta

Catherine A. Graham

Address Changes: San Luis Obispo LWV, PO Box 4210, San Luis Obispo, CA 93404, 805-782-4040
Virginia Robinson *Joanie Jones, Membership Director*

CALLING ALL COOKS



The Washington D C League, in conjunction with the 90th Birthday of the National League, is creating a cookbook. Goody Braun, whose byline, Goody Solomon, has appeared on food and nutrition articles in the local and national press for years, will edit the book.

"Old Ways Made New" and "Modernizing the Old Fashioned" are working titles for the volume, which will include favorite recipes (often made with heavy doses of fat, sugar and salt) of members and friends converted into modern, healthier, still delicious versions. All categories - appetizers, snacks, soups, salads, entrees, vegetables, desserts, etc. - will be included. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will benefit LWVUS.

To share your culinary skills and interests with others send recipes to Braun at either the e-mail (preferred) or

snail mail address provided. She will update them and return revisions to you for review.

If you have updated and old versions of the same recipe, send both. Brand new 21st century recipes are also welcome.

Please note: these should be recipes of individuals and/or families. If a favorite comes from a cookbook, be sure to give an accurate reference. Also, include any anecdotal information, including family history related to the recipe, and indicate whether or not you want your name on the recipe.

E-mail recipes to goody.solomon@verizon.net or send via regular mail to Goody Braun, 1712 Taylor St. NW, Washington, DC 20011.

MEMBERSHIP FORM to join LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF 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. Contact Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

CALENDAR – MARCH 2010

Discussion Units: Clip and Come

- 2 **Tuesday** **Supper Unit Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St. Lolly Quackenbush.
- 3 **Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Road. Chair: Barbara Godley.
- 3 **Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m., Pat Shewczyk's home, co-chairs: Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 10 **Wednesday** **Maravilla Unit:** 2 p.m., Meeting at clubhouse at 5486 Calle Real, Goleta. Contact: Harriett Phillips.
- 12 **Friday** **League Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., 328 E. Carrillo St.
- 17 **Wednesday** **Community Forum: "What's Being Done About Climate Change?"** 12 - 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, De La Vina & Victoria Streets. Speakers include **Terry Dressler**, Director, S.B. Air Pollution Control District; **Heather Imgrund**, Associate Planner, County Office of Long Range Planning; and a speaker from the UCSB's **Bren School of Environmental Science and Management**. Bring brown bag lunch. Beverages and cookies provided. Free and open to the public.

Looking Ahead to April

- 6 **Tuesday** **Supper Unit Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St. Lolly Quackenbush.
- 7 **Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair: Sheila Kamhi's home.
- 7 **Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. at Pat Shewczyk's home. Co-chairs: Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 16 **Friday** **League Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., League Office, 328 E. Carrillo St. **Note change of date.**
- 14 **Wednesday** **Maravilla Unit:** 2 p.m., Meeting at clubhouse at 5486 Calle Real, Goleta. Contact: Harriett Phillips.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.

328 A East Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Phone/Fax: (805) 965-2422
Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org
Web: <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, CA
Permit No. 120

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

President: Dr. Linda Phillips
Voter Editor: Martha Lannan
Circulation: Herb Linville
Production: Wordesigns

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, 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, send in the form on pg. 7 or call the League office at 965-2422.

Printed on recycled paper.

