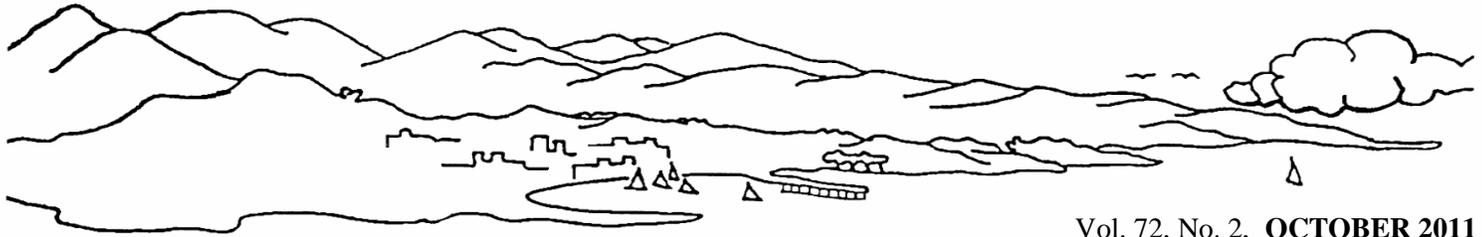




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 72, No. 2, **OCTOBER 2011**

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October Community Forum: Restorative Justice Not Jail for the Homeless?

Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 12 to 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Community Center
De La Vina at Victoria St. - Free and open to the public.

How to provide appropriate, cost effective, and efficient supportive services to the homeless in Santa Barbara--with a focus on restorative justice rather than jail time.

That will be the focus of the League-hosted panel discussion of local experts and stakeholders including: Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown, Ann Detrick, Ph.D., Director, Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), Doreen Farr, Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor, Jeff Shaffer, Common Ground Campaign Leader

On Sept. 13, the Santa Barbara City Council unanimously endorsed the consolidation of three of the primary agencies addressing homelessness issues in the County. The combined organization of Bringing Our Community Home (BOCH), Common Ground Santa Barbara, and the three regional Homeless Advisory Commit-

tees will be organized under a Leadership Council of elected officials, the composition of which is yet to be determined. The region-wide consolidation is expected to allow for a more coordinated effort in addressing the complex spectrum of homelessness issues, provide a more comprehensive continuum of care, and help save money while improving the status of homeless individuals and families, particularly the chronically homeless.

This decision comes on the heels of the 2010-2011 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury report entitled, "HOMELESS MENTALLY ILL INDIGENT RECIDIVISM: This Recycling Is Not Good For The County." The report investigates the particular experiences of a target group considered most vulnerable to recycling in and out of jail, those who are mentally ill, possibly substance-abusing, uninsured, indigent, and

(Continued on page 6)

October Discussion Units: Board and Members to Talk

An in-depth discussion of our strategies and plans for 2011-12. What training would you like to receive? What skills or expertise can you share? See Calendar on back page for dates. Bring your ideas!

November Discussion Units: League Positions on Local Issues

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara has established local positions on Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy (including homelessness, housing and mental health). In our November Discussion Units we will review these positions and consider any updates needed.

These early discussions are in direct response to requests from members to engage in a greater level of deliberation in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Please be sure to come and join in this important opportunity to contribute to the League's positions for program action at the grassroots level.

Beth Pitton-August, Co-President

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October will be a busy month for the League. First off, the Board wants to hear from you! Our unit meetings will focus on receiving input from members as to what you wish to see from our local League. Please come out and let us know - it's your organization, too!

Secondly, don't forget there is an election this year. There are ten candidates running for three seats on the Santa Barbara City Council. If you live within the confines of the city, remember to get your ballots mailed early. As always, the League hosted a candidates forum which will air on SB Channels, along



with "Touring With the Candidates". And, don't forget to consult SmartVoter at <http://www.smartvoter.org>.

We are continuing to upgrade our electronic communications. The Board has decided to do an eBlast once a month near the middle of the month to keep the membership informed of activities and opportunities. If you don't have an e-mail address, consider getting

one so you are kept in the loop. Just let us know your new e-mail address and we'll add you right away. Thank you for all you do.

Stacy Shepherd, Co-President

Plan Santa Barbara Wins City Council Approval

After five years of extensive public hearings and much rewriting, the Santa Barbara City Council voted 6 to 1 on Sept. 8 to approve the General Plan update, called Plan Santa Barbara. That vote involved several major compromises, and Mayor Helene Schneider called it a "bitter pill to take" for many people. Grant House cast the one "no" vote, because he felt that the entire plan was not aggressive enough, and he objected to a trial period for increased density.

The League, which has attended practically every hearing since 2004, was less than pleased with some of the large density increases being offered for smaller units, but we were satisfied that there will be a trial period to test out these new increases, ending when either 250 units have been approved or eight years pass, whichever comes first. The goal of the Plan is to encourage private developers to build more small, affordable units for the city's work force, in designated areas. After the trial period is over, the council will be required to analyze whether the goals have been met, and whether the program should be ended or continued.

Under the new plan, base densities will remain the same throughout most of the city, with only certain areas--selected to promote more affordable residential

infill--being given extra density for building smaller units. Among the more contentious issues was the amount of required parking. The new small units will be required to have only one parking space, in an effort to encourage people to use other modes of transportation.

The Council may have been encouraged by a Towbes Group representative, who said his company has seen a big demand for small rental units, and they believe that one parking space will be adequate for that size apartments or condominiums. There has long been question about market acceptance of small units, and the developer who has the most units available says their recent surveys show that there is a big demand for them. A city survey also found that renters own an average of 1.3 cars per unit so the impact on city parking may not be too serious.

The League is glad to see approval of the plan because now the new affordable housing efforts can be implemented. We have supported adding density for rental and employer subsidized affordable housing, and we hope that some less expensive projects may result.

*Connie Hannah, Chair
Sustainable Communities Committee*

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>

Consensus Workshop: Federal Role in Public Education

Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Marmalade Café at La Cumbre Plaza, \$10 for lunch.

RSVP: Nancy Harter, Chair, Education Committee

Frustrated that LWV can't give input on how to fix No Child Left Behind? Should the League have a say on federal funding for education? Come and participate in the Consensus Workshop on whether and how the LWVUS can have a voice on these important issues. These local consensus meetings are the heart of the League --grassroots members all over the country give their informed opinions on an issue, and the local consensus results are combined to form new positions which League can then act on.

Important Dates for Santa Barbara's All-Mail Election

If you were unable to come to our Forum on September 24, check out "no-spin" information including Channel 21 schedule for forums and "Touring with the Candidates" at www.smartvoter.org.

Vote-by-Mail Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

The City's general municipal election will be a vote-by-mail election.

The City's plan includes five drop-off centers throughout the City, allowing voters the option to vote in person. The plan also includes pre-paid postage for returned ballots.

What's on the Ballot?

City Councilmember (3 seats) Term: 4 years

Drop-Off Center Hours

Saturday, November 5, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Drop-Off Center Locations

Braille Institute

2031 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Santa Barbara Municipal Tennis Center

1414 Park Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Grace Lutheran Church

3869 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Pilgrim Terrace

649 Pilgrim Terrace Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

City of Santa Barbara, City Hall

735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Important Dates

October 10, 2011 – First day City Clerk's Office to mail vote-by-mail ballots

October 10, 2011 - Voter Information packets mailed

October 10, 2011 - Vote-by-mail period begins

October 24, 2011 - Last day to register to vote

November 8, 2011: Election Day - Last day City Clerk's Office can receive vote-by-mail ballots

The City Clerk's Office will be open for election-related business on:

Friday, November 4, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (City offices are open this Friday)

Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Voter Registration Forms Available at...

Santa Barbara City Clerk's Office

735 Anacapa Street

Santa Barbara County Elections Division, 4440-A Calle Real

Various locations throughout the county, including post offices, city and county offices, banks, DMV, and other public buildings

[Online via the California Secretary of State's website](http://www.sbcityvote.org)

Contact and Election Information

City Clerk's Office

735 Anacapa Street, Post Office Box 1990

Santa Barbara, California 93102-1990

Phone: (805) 564-5309 Fax: (805) 897-2623

The City Clerk's Office is open daily, Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (City Hall is closed every other Friday)

The above information was obtained from the City's website: <http://SBCityVote.org>.

Referendum on State Redistricting: Decline to Sign

The League of Women Voters of California urges people not to sign petitions being circulated by groups challenging newly adopted state Senate district maps.

A group calling themselves Fairness and Accountability in Redistricting is collecting signatures to force a referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The League urges you to decline to sign the petition.

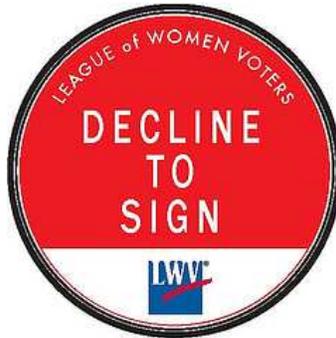
Sponsors of the referendum will need to collect more than 500,000 voters' signatures in 90 days. This referendum petition, if signed by the required number of voters and filed with the Secretary of State, will (1) place the revised boundaries and prevent them from taking effect unless approved by the voters at the next statewide election and (2) require court-appointed officials to set interim boundaries in the next statewide election.

Thousands of hours of open meetings were involved in creating these maps, and they should not be overturned

by special interest groups. The simple reality is that the new redistricting maps reflect what has occurred in California for years — the plan erases the current gerrymandering, which created some safe districts for Republicans and some safe districts for Democrats. Proposition 11 and 20 allowed a bipartisan, non-political approach to Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and Board of Equalization redistricting based upon population shifts, the Voters' Rights Act and geographic integrity all spelled out in the Propositions.

Please note that the petition signature collectors must be accompanied by a "packet" of the maps that were drawn by the Redistricting Commission, which should be offered for viewing. Ironically, they are some of the easiest maps to read but we urge you "Decline to Sign" and tell your friends (sample letters and emails are available on the website: www.ca.lv.org.) Also see www.wedrawthelines.org for more information.

Jane L. Benefield, Director, Observer Corps



California: 100 Years of Women Voting

Oct. 10 marks the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in California.

On the Facebook page, "California: 100 years of women voting," Jessica Truax Oddo wrote from northern California, "This is great. I am transcribing my Great, Great, Grandmother's diaries and she has many entries about attending suffrage meetings in Yreka, CA.

"Here is her Oct. 10, 1911 entry:

"Andrew and George picked apples in forenoon. Kenneth harrowed and sewed grain. Mr. and Mrs. Nine picked plums. Andrew and George went to the Election Vote on Women's Suffrage.

"She lived and worked on a ranch near Macdoel, Ca. in Siskiyou Co. She was 52 yrs old in 1911."

Proposition 4 (Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8) granting California women the right to vote was proposed by the California State Legislature and placed on the Oct. 10, 1911 ballot. In 1911 California became the sixth state to give women the franchise joining Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington.

LWVSB observed the centennial earlier this year at our Garden Party.

*Linda Phillips,
Director, State and National Action*



September Community Forum panelists are: Jean Reiche, Jane Benefield, Emily Allen, Jean Holmes and Connie Hannah

UN Day 2011

“Nuclear Energy – Safe and Sane?”

Saturday, Oct. 22, 1-4 p.m.

Administration Bldg., East Campus, SBCC

This year’s UN Day event, co-sponsored by the LWVSB, will focus on the debate surrounding Nuclear Energy. The safety of nuclear power has been discussed for many years. However, the disaster in Japan brought the discussion to the forefront once again.

Geoffrey Shaw, representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the UN, will come from New York to tell us about the UN's recent nuclear safety summit. Panelists also include Rochelle Becker of San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, who has fought for years against the Diablo Canyon Plant, and Dr. Benjamin Monreal, Assistant Professor of

Physics at UCSB, who speaks widely on the pros and cons of nuclear energy; and the facilitator will be Mary Jo Terrill, UNA and Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue Board Member.

The winner of this year's UNA High School Essay Contest will be a special guest.

Registration will be 1-2 p.m., with exhibitor booths, and refreshments available for purchase, followed by the program, 2-4 p.m.

*Linda Phillips,
Director, State and National Action*

Coalition for Global Dialogue Forum

Rule of Law vs. Rule of Force: America’s Rejection of the International Criminal Court

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 11:15-1:15 p.m.

University Club, Santa Barbara Street

A forum on the policies of our government regarding support for and membership in the International Criminal Court will be presented on Wednesday, Nov. 9 by the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue. Speakers will be Pierre-Richard Prosper, Ambassador at Large for War Crimes in the George W. Bush administration, and Professor David Kaye, Executive Director of the UCLA Law School’s International Human Rights Program.

The event will be held at the University Club on Santa Barbara Street. A buffet luncheon will be served at 11:15. The program will follow at 11:45 and end at 1:15. The public is invited, but reservations are required. Send a check for \$25 to the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue, P.O. Box 91512, Santa Barbara, 93103. Space is limited. For further information, contact Lessie Nixon.

Both speakers are attorneys with wide international law experience. Ambassador Prosper held several posts with the U.S. State Department and later served as lead attorney for the prosecution at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He now provides legal counsel for businesses engaged in international trade. Professor Kaye served as an international lawyer with the U.S. State Department and was a legal adviser to the American Embassy in the Hague. He worked with international criminal tribunals and also acted as counsel to the United States in several cases before the International Court of Justice and the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal.

Lessie Nixon, LWVSB member



Catherine Dishion
Senior Loan Officer
License #297574
Mortgage Bank-Direct Lender
3780 State Street
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105
(805) 898-4234 Direct
(805) 705-5773 Cell
(877) 592-0951 Fax
catherine.dishion@prospectmtg.com
www.myprospectmortgage.com/CDishion



Worried about Privatization?

Privitization of public services is an issue that has concerned some League members for a long time. The LWV Board is supporting establishment of a committee to study this issue. Its formation is expected soon.

Delegates at the LWVUS Convention last year chose this as a national study; the LWVUS board has appointed a study committee to provide information and guidance; and our local League board is recruiting a local study committee so that we can participate in the consensus next spring.

If you would like to be part of the League's national study, contact Co-President Beth Pitton-August (453-8266) or me (964-7506).

Pat Shewczyk, Director, Water

League Members Invited to Youth Forum

The Youth Council and Future Leaders of America will host a forum for the Santa Barbara City Council candidates on Monday, Oct. 17 at the Louise Lowry Davis Center.

League members are invited to attend the event, which will be held at 6 p.m., following a meet and greet at 5:15 p.m.



*Membership Development
Director Amanda Pelch
g greets members*

October Community Forum *(Continued from page 1)*

homeless. The report considers the various laws, public programs, non-profits, and collaborative efforts engaged in homeless issues. While recognizing their individual contributions to addressing homelessness issues, the report criticizes their failure to effectively coordinate services and prevent unnecessary costs to the public, and undue suffering among the target homeless populations.

The Grand Jury Report findings include: Currently, the annual estimated cost (both public and private spending) to respond to and address chronic homelessness exceeds \$12 million, while there does not appear to be an official estimate for the cost of cycling the chronic homeless mentally ill, and indigent in and out of jail. Perhaps not surprisingly for League members who have been following homelessness issues, the report also found that there are over 50 agencies (both public and private non-profit) providing services and support to the target group (mentally ill, indigent, homeless, and jail recidivist).

Among the Report's recommendations are: That a comparison be made of the current total yearly costs of the incarcerated mentally-ill, indigent and homeless, to the estimated total yearly cost of providing housing and supportive service to these individuals. Also finding no centralized, coordinating body with authority to galvanize sufficient support to effectively serve the target group, the Report recommends that the Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) take leadership and responsibility for this coordination.

In addition, in May, Common Ground Santa Barbara released the results of its comprehensive survey of the homeless undertaken in 2010 to identify the 100 most vulnerable, and to develop appropriate, individualized paths to housing and supportive services for each. Its finding reinforces the urgency of the need and includes: "high self-reported rates of mental illness and substance use; significant levels of disease burden, both chronic conditions and infectious diseases; and high levels of illnesses specific to homelessness, such as weather related impacts and exposure to violence."

The forum is free and open to the public. Bring a brown bag lunch, although some refreshments will be provided. Parking is free.

Beth Pitton-August, Current Co-President

Membership News

Following are the changes for our Membership Directory. Please make sure you put them in your Directory; communication is a very important part of our process. We have five new members plus many changes. If you have not renewed your membership please do so.

New Members are:

- Ann W Frank
- Tatzia Langlo
- Diane McQuaire
- Cathleen Grabowski
- Joseph Allen

Please keep us notified of any changes to your information.

Amanda Pelch, Director, Membership Development



Last year's President Linda Phillips and current Co-President Beth Pitton-August

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. Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.*

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2011

OCTOBER DISCUSSION UNITS:

NEW BOARD AND MEMBERS' DIALOGUE

- 1 **Saturday: Consensus Workshop: Federal Role in Public Education**, 9-3 p.m., Marmalade Café meeting room, La Cumbre Plaza, \$10 for lunch. RSVP: Ann Lorimer.
- 4 **Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant**, 3524 State St., Lolly Quackenbush
- 5 **Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m, Sheila Kamhi's house**, 1040 Portesuello Ave., Co-chairs: Pat Shewczyk, and Sheila Kamhi.
- 8 **Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting**, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo
- 12 **Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club**, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair: Barbara Godley, .
- 12 **Wednesday: Valle Verde Unit – 2 p.m.**, North Gazebo, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns.
- 17 **Monday: Youth Forum for Santa Barbara City Council Candidates – 5:15 p.m., Meet and greet, 6 p.m. program**, Louise Lowry Davis Center.
- 19 **Wednesday: Community Forum: Restorative Justice Not Jail for the Homeless?, 12-2 p.m.**, Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, De la Vina at Victoria.
- 22 **Saturday: UN Day: Nuclear Energy—Safe and Sane? 1-4 p.m.**, Administration Bldg., East Campus, SBCC

NOVEMBER 2011

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION UNITS:

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

- 1 **Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant**, 3524 State St., Lolly Quackenbush
- 2 **Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m, Pat Shewczyk's house**, 5044 Walnut Park Dr., Co-chairs Pat Shewczyk, and Sheila Kamhi.
- 8 **Tuesday: Election Day, Santa Barbara City Council, ballots must be received by 8 p.m.**
- 9 **Wednesday: Valle Verde Unit - 2 p.m.**, North Gazebo, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns
- 9 **Wednesday: Coalition for Global Dialogue Forum - 11:15 -1:15 p.m.**, University Club, Santa Barbara Street, Contact Lessie Nixon.
- 12 **Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m.**, League Office at 328 A East Carrillo St.
- 12 **Wednesday: Valle Verde Unit – 2 p.m.**, North Gazebo, 900 Calle de Los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns.

Remember to check the LWVSB web site (<http://lwvsantabarbara.org>) for the latest event information.



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Co-Presidents: Stacy Shepherd,
Beth Pitton-August,
Vicki Allen,
Voter Editor:
Herb Linville,
Production: Wordesigns,
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women and men, encourages informed and
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to increase understanding of major public
policy issues, and influences public policy
through education and advocacy.

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

