



# THE VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 9, No. 9

December 2004/January 2005

### HOLIDAY PARTY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH



**3:00 TO 6:00 PM**  
**AT THE HOME OF ELIZA MEYN**  
**19452 GOIN LANE, SONOMA**



Bring an hors d'oeuvre or a "sweet treat" to share, invite a guest (perhaps a prospective new member) and plan to join your fellow League members for a festive moment as we head into the holiday season. Good conversation, a lovely home, delicious treats, and the fun of finding a 'Treasure' in the Silent Auction—what more do you need!

#### DIRECTIONS

##### From Petaluma:

- Follow Frates Road toward Sonoma
- Turn left onto Arnold Drive
- Turn right at stop light onto Petaluma Avenue
- Following Petaluma Avenue toward Sonoma, watch for Marna Lane on right. Next right will be Goin Lane. The Meyn home is the second house from the end of Goin Lane on the right

##### From Santa Rosa:

- Drive south on Hwy. 12 to Sonoma
- As you come into Sonoma at the triangle intersection (Bonanza Ford will be directly in front of you), get into the right lane and turn right over the little bridge
- Immediately get into the left lane and at the 3-way stop sign, turn left onto Petaluma Avenue
- Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Goin Lane. The Meyn home is the second house from the end of Goin Lane on the right

#### CONTENTS:

Book Club Corner	2	Privatization of Water Resources	4
Member Profile—Betty Ann Bruno	2	Education Consensus Meeting	5
President's Message	3	Kofi Annan's Former Advisor to Speak	5
International Relations Study Group	3	In Memoriam: Aida Hunter	6
November Board Briefs	3	Water Watch in Sonoma County	6
Save the Date for the Next Theatre Party!	3	VOTER Team Works Behind the Scenes	6
Voters Service	4	New Members, Roster Changes, and Contributors	6
January Annual Program Planning Meeting	4		

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

100 E Street, Suite 209  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-546-5943

info@sonco.ca.lwvnet.org  
http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org

**Officers:**

Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, President  
Willard Richards, VP Action  
Nancy Richards, VP Administration  
Alexandra Benson, VP Program  
Susan Milstein, Secretary  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer

**Directors:**

George Ellman, Transportation  
Olive Horrell, Membership  
Rosalie Gillmore, Voters Service

**VOTER Team:**

Jack Dupre, VOTER Editor  
Marsha Vas Dupre  
May Huddleston  
Lynda Hungerford  
Caroline Ramberg

**MEMBER PROFILE**

**Betty Ann Bruno**

What happens to munchkins when they grow up? They join the League, become television producers, hosts, and news reporters, and then move to Sonoma and more League work. At least that's the story line so far for Betty Ann Bruno.



Photo by Craig Scheiner

As a child growing up in Hollywood, Bruno appeared in a number of movies including "The Wizard of Oz," in which she was a munchkin. "It was," she says, "a fantastic experience, a magic world of dancing and singing."

According to Bruno, the great thing about her television career is that it grew directly from her volunteer work with the League.

During the '60s she was active in the League, lobbying for more local programming. When KTVU (channel 2) responded by asking for volunteer help for community programming, she took on that responsibility. Two years later, she was hired to produce community affairs programs. As her career progressed, she moved to hosting talk shows and then to reporting the news. At the time, KTVU was the largest independent station in the United States.

In the mid '90's, when she announced her retirement, her colleagues couldn't believe she could leave something she loved doing, and so she continued working on a part time basis for two years. During that period, she and her husband Craig Scheiner, also a League member and a television cameraman and editor, conducted workshops on interviewing around the state for the League of Women Voters of California. Then, using League members as reporters and footage from KTVU files, Scheiner and Bruno put together a one-hour video on the state propositions to be distributed to cable stations around the state.

Since moving to Sonoma two years ago, she has kept her hand in by moderating some of our local League forums, including the forum on the Patriot Act in November, 2003, the 7th Assembly District forum in the March primary, and the Santa Rosa City Council forum for the November election.

In addition to volunteering for the League, Bruno studies Spanish here and in Mexico, participates in a writers' group as part of assembling a group of stories as a cultural legacy for her family, and volunteers at *La Luz* in Sonoma.

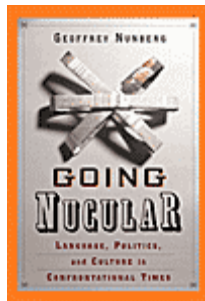
Not Oz, perhaps, but in its own way a rich and varied world indeed.

LYNDA HUNGERFORD

**BOOK CLUB CORNER**

The book group invites you to join them at 468 Hillsdale Drive, Santa Rosa, on December 16 at 10:30 AM to revel in the joy of unraveling the relationship between linguistic tics and politics.

The selection for Thursday, December 16, is Geoffrey Nunberg's *Going Nucular: Language, Politics, and Culture in Confrontational*



Geoffrey Nunberg

*Times*. Nunberg is a senior researcher at the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford, a Consulting Full Professor of Linguistics at Stanford, and Chair of the Usage Panel of the American Heritage Dictionary. In other words, he has serious credentials when it comes to questions on language and usage.

If you listen to "Fresh Air" on KRCB or KQED, you have probably heard at least one of his features on language. You may also have encountered him in the Sunday *New York Times* "Week in Review." In other words, he is anything but dry as dust.

League members and guests are invited to join in our book discussion the third Thursday of every month from 10:30 AM until noon. For information on the January meeting, check the calendar on our website at <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org> or call me.

LYNDA HUNGERFORD

539-5770

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The League of Women Voters of California has its first executive director! Jill Kaiser Newcom assumed the duties for that position on October 1. Her responsibilities will greatly help ease the workload of the dedicated League members in the state office.



Closer to home, as the results of the election become finalized, we are very happy to report that two of our members were elected to public offices. Marsha Vas Dupre will serve on the Board of Trustees for Santa Rosa Junior College and new member, Pamela Torliatt, was reelected to the Petaluma City Council. Also, League supported Measure M, the countywide transportation tax and signed the ballot argument in favor of Measure R, campaign finance reform in Petaluma. Happily, both of these measures passed!

Lynda Hungerford is our County Coordinator for Smart Voter. This website enjoyed tremendous success in both the public and private sectors and we are all very proud of her efforts. Thank you, Lynda.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our wonderful Holiday Party and Silent Auction!

Corol Ann Fontana-Cary

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY GROUP



The International Relations study group meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14, at 12:00 noon in the Santa Rosa League office. The topic planned for the *Great Decisions* discussion is: "Middle Eastern political reform. Regime change in Iraq has brought forth speculation about the future of Middle Eastern governments. Will nation-building in Iraq encourage stability and democracy in the region?"

The January International Relations study group meeting information is as follows:

The International Relations study group will meet in the Santa Rosa League office on Tuesday, January 11, at 12:00 noon. The group will review the 2004 Opinion Ballots from the 2004 *Great Decisions* topics that were discussed during the year and the topics for 2005 will be selected. The *Great Decisions* 2005 topics are: U.S. Intelligence, Russia, Outsourcing Jobs, China,

Sudan's Crisis in Darfur, Global Poverty, Middle East, and Global Water Issues.

Please feel free to bring current material from publications and invite anyone who is knowledgeable about the topic so that we can learn more and add to our lively discussion. It is a brown-bag lunch session and all members are welcome.

If you have any questions or wish to order a copy of the *Great Decisions* briefing book, please call me at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

## NOVEMBER BOARD BRIEFS

At the November meeting of the LWVSC Board of Directors, the following key matters were covered:

- The board voted to co-sponsor a Smart Growth symposium with the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy to be held in early 2005.
- The board voted to co-sponsor a meeting with the United Nations Association of Sonoma County entitled, "The U.S. and the U.N.: Can This Marriage Be Saved?" The meeting will be held on Dec. 2 at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive. Time to be announced.
- The board voted to discuss a proposed amendment to our local position on transportation at our State and Local Program Planning Meeting to be held in January. The proposed amendment eliminates our current position's objections to borrowing to pay for transportation improvements, and, instead, substitutes wording included in the LWVC position on transportation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Milstein

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT THEATRE PARTY!

**When:** Sunday, February 13  
Refreshments at 1 PM, Performance at 2 PM

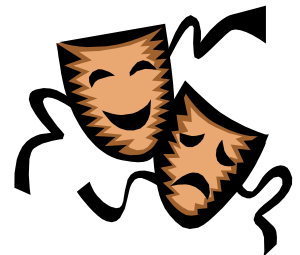
**What:** *Mame*

**Who:** Presented by the Actors Theatre and the Santa Rosa Players

**Where:** 6th Street Playhouse  
52 West 6th Street  
Santa Rosa

**How:** \$25 per ticket for refreshments and musical  
There will be more information in the February VOTER.

Laurie Hall  
823-1264



**VOTERS SERVICE**

The members of the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County may congratulate themselves on a successfully conducted election season of forums, Pros and Cons presentations and voter outreach events.

LWVSC sponsored, co-sponsored, coordinated and performed service as a moderator and/or timekeeper at 15 forums – two were Santa Rosa Measures M and O, one was on State Prop. 72, and the rest were candidates debates. A total of 61 candidates participated.

Janie Hawker coordinated over 26 Pros and Cons presentations and provided the Pros and Cons videotape to 3 additional groups. Valuable feedback was given at the November 16 Voters Service meeting by Pros and Cons presenters on how to improve on the Pros and Cons presentations for future elections.

Liz Hawthorne, Willard Richards and I provided videotapes of forums and Pros and Cons to the community access stations and to KRCB-TV for rebroadcast. Susan Gorin was invaluable in moderating and helping to format and coordinate the forums.

Lynda Hungerford performed a Herculean job of keeping the LWVSC website calendar up to date, minute-by-minute. The Smart Voter website was also an invaluable tool for candidates and voters alike.

All of the members who participated in Voters Service activities have my thanks and appreciation for all your hard work and dedication in educating the voters of Sonoma County. Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Voters Service Committee: Carol Adams, Railey Album, Margaret Alt, Carrie Anabo, Dina Angress, Glenice and Lars Anderson, Joanne Argyres, Ruth Belmont, Carole Bennett, Les Bennett, Marty Bennett, Sandy Benson, Ann and Robin Berens, Betty Ann Bruno, Clifton Buck-Kaufman, Lynn Camhi, Phyllis Clement, George Ellman, Andrea English, Jane Ernsberger, Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, Lucille Foster, Rosalie Gillmore, Jean Gilmore, Stan Gold, Susan Gorin, Chlele Gummer, Janie Hawker, Paula Hawkes, Liz and Bob Hawthorne, Olive Horrell, Yvonne Horton, Lynda Hungerford, Marian Jones, Marlene Kaulum, Jim and Kay Kline, Jerome Kohl, Louisa Leavitt, Nancy Lewis, Susannah Likins, Kay Marquez, Edith Mendez, Leena Merritt, Eliza Meyn, Margaret Millner, Susan Milstein, Barbara Parker Narita, Joan Neff, Patrick O'Toole, Steve Rabinowitsh, Caroline Ramberg, Nancy Richards, Willard Richards, Alice Richardson, Freya Richardson, Nancy Richardson, Bernice Rothberg, Ethel and Stuart Schy, Amy Southwick, Alice Staller, Phyllis Stanley, Adrienne and Len Swenson, Fran Tanti, Barbara Taylor, Barbara Toohey, Bonnie Vegod, Joyce Walker, Leslie Warner, Roger White and Nancy Wilkins.

Rosalie Gillmore

**JANUARY ANNUAL PROGRAM  
PLANNING MEETING**

The League's annual general meeting, the "Bread and Jam Session," has been scheduled!

Would you like to have our Sonoma County League explore such possible study areas:

- An update on our local transportation position
- Biogenetically engineered foods/agriculture, or
- District elections?

This is your opportunity to be among the first to learn the new state position planning issues.

Plan to participate in a stimulating dialog as we look at these and more possible new study areas, and review those areas and positions the League has already studied.

This is an excellent meeting for newer members to attend because it provides a great overview of what the League has accomplished and how the League sets new program goals. It is also a great way to introduce prospective members to what the League is all about in a stimulating format. So do plan to attend plus consider inviting that possible new member to this most informative meeting.

**WHEN:** Monday, January 24  
9:30 AM – Coffee and 'Bread and Jam'  
10 AM to noon – General Meeting

**WHERE:** Rincon Valley Library  
Forum Room  
6959 Montecito Blvd.  
Santa Rosa

**WHAT TO BRING:** A 'Breakfast Bread' or a similar treat to share. Coffee will be provided.

Questions? Contact Sandy Benson, 763-1629.

**PRIVATIZATION OF WATER  
RESOURCES TO BE DISCUSSED**

A meeting will be held on Friday, December 10, at 10:00 AM in the League office to discuss water privatization issues. Please call Phyllis Stanley at 539-1696 if you would like more information.

The League office is located at 100 E St., Suite 209 in Santa Rosa.

## EDUCATION CONSENSUS MEETING

### Governance, Accountability & Assessment, and the Public's Role in Public Education

Monday, December 13, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM  
 Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library Meeting Room  
 6250 Lynne Conde Way  
 Rohnert Park

Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

### Panel Discussion

**Virginia Strom-Martin** Former 6th District Assemblywoman and member of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for California Education will comment on the California Master Plan for Education in California, California Performance Review and accountability & assessment from state & federal perspectives.



**Carl Wong** Superintendent of Sonoma County Office of Education will discuss governance and accountability & assessment from the county perspective and the public's role in education.



**Steve Butler** Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Santa Rosa School District will provide an overview of accountability & assessment (including "No Child Left Behind") and what it all means for our children, teachers, school districts and parents.



**Jim Leddy** Trustee for Santa Rosa School District will comment on governance and accountability & assessment from the perspective of the school district and the state.



The panel discussion will be followed by a League meeting to discuss the consensus questions from the second part of our update of the LWVC Education Position including:

- Responsibilities for funding and accountability among the various levels of governance
- Accountability and Assessment - Does it improve the quality of education and student learning?
- The public's role in public education

Since this is a consensus meeting to help update our state League's education position, we need as many voices as possible to help discuss these important issues facing California.

Susan Gorin  
 525-8335  
 Joan Demitz  
 523-0199

## KOFI ANNAN'S FORMER ADVISOR TO SPEAK IN SANTA ROSA

### LWV and United Nations Association Co-Sponsor Talk: "The UN and the US; Can the Marriage Be Saved?"

Rarely does Sonoma County have the privilege of hosting such a distinguished visitor as Gillian Sorensen, the former Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.



Gillian Sorensen

On December 2 at First United Methodist Church in Santa Rosa, Ms. Sorensen will be speaking on the topic, "The UN and the US: Can This Marriage Survive?"

Sponsored by both the local UN Association and League of Women Voters, Ms. Sorensen's talk will address the critical need for effective US-UN cooperation in the coming years, and whether the second Bush administration might ease the currently contentious relationship.

Ms. Sorensen currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation, established in 1998 with a \$1 billion grant from Ted Turner to support the United Nation's efforts in addressing the most pressing challenges facing the world today. She will speak briefly and entertain questions both on the Foundation and the current US-UN relationship.

"We're thrilled to have someone of this stature visiting Santa Rosa, especially in light of our nation's current international situation," said Tom Arens, Co-President of the Sonoma County United Nations Association.

The event, to be held on Thursday, December 2, at 7:15 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will begin the evening.

### IN MEMORIAM

### AIDA HUNTER 1915 - 2004

League was saddened to learn of the death of Aida Hunter on November 4, 2004. Aida was a long time, active member of League and a valued friend to many of our members. A social activist, teacher and worldwide traveler, Aida will be remembered for her mission in life, "to make the world a more humane and compassionate place," the mission which she practiced daily.

Nancy Richards

## WATER WATCH IN SONOMA COUNTY

*Children of a culture born in a water-rich environment, we never really learned how important water is to us. We understand it, but do not respect it.*

*-William Ashworth*

### After three years of study and writing by the LWVSC Water Committee, our League's newest publication is in print!

Community members active in water issues are very enthusiastic about the information contained in this report.



- Where do we get our water supply?
- How is our water supply managed?
- How do we keep water safe for people, plants and animals?
- How can we provide enough water for future needs?
- How do we balance water needs?

As water becomes an increasingly scarce resource in our community, you will need this report to help you understand water issues.

Copies of the publication are free to League members (one per member) and \$5.00 (plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling) for non-League members. Copies may be picked up in the League office on the mornings of the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at our monthly League meetings, or by special arrangement.

For non-League members, a check in the amount of \$7.00/copy should be sent to the LWVSC Office, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. For more information, call 546-5943.

Susan Gorin

## TEAM WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES TO GET YOUR VOTER DELIVERED ON TIME



Folding, sealing, and labeling the November issue are Caroline Ramberg and Jean Gilmore. Joy Reynolds, Betty Keefauver, Olive Horrell, and Barbara and Bob Douglas have also helped in recent months.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mildred Benioff  
301 White Oak Drive #219  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
538-3561

Margaret Brunn  
840 Mary Street  
Sant Rosa, CA 95403  
545-6001  
brumarg@aol.com

Ronald Thiele  
8905 Oak Trail Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
539-1601

## ROSTER CHANGES

Chlele Gummer  
6899 Montecito Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Jan Hess  
1320 North Street #22  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Phyllis Rosenfield  
prosenfield@listeningforachange.org

## THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Jack and Marsha Dupre in honor of Nancy Richards' and Susan Gorin's birthdays

Margaret Millner in memory of Aida Hunter

Joan Neff

Daphne Smith

**Sue Kaetzel, CRS, GRI**  
Realtor®

BUSINESS DIRECT: (707) 636-1605  
HOME OFFICE.: (707) 538-4060  
FAX: (707) 523-4489  
Email: s<sup><</sup>kaetzel@ap.net  
Web Site: SUEKAETZEL.COM



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

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



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

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



PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

**YVONNE HORTON**

Healdsburg Realty, Inc.  
Healdsburg, California

WINE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

(707) 433-1929  
yvonneh@sonic.net

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

**Guaranty**  
RESIDENTIAL LENDING

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



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$50.00 for individual annual membership, \$75.00 for household, and \$37.00 for limited income. The membership year is July 1 to June 30.) Please mail check to LWV Sonoma County, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Thank you.

I am interested in the following areas:

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Speakers Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Social Policy \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Voters Service \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_ Smart Voter \_\_\_\_\_

Community Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

# DECEMBER 2004/JANUARY 2005 CALENDAR

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

Date	Time	Place	Description
Thursday, December 2	7:15 PM	First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive Santa Rosa	<b>The UN and the US; Can the Marriage Be Saved?</b> Talk by former Kofi Annan advisor, Gillian Sorensen. See p. 5.
Sunday, December 5	3:00 – 6:00 PM	Home of Eliza Meyn 19452 Goin Lane, Sonoma	<b>Holiday Party</b> See p. 1.
Tuesday, December 7	10:00 AM – 12:00 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.
Friday, December 10	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	League Office	<b>Water Privatization Subcommittee</b>
Monday, December 13	10:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Rohnert Park Regional Library 6250 Lynne Conde Way Rohnert Park	<b>Education Consensus Meeting</b> Governance, Accountability & Assessment, and the Public's Role in Public Education. See p. 5.
Tuesday, December 14	12:00 noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>International Relations Study Group</b> "Middle Eastern Political Reform" See p. 3.
Thursday, December 16	10:30 AM	468 Hillsdale Drive Santa Rosa	<b>Book Club</b> Geoffrey Nunberg's <i>Going Nuclear: Language, Politics, and Culture in Confrontational Times</i> . See p. 2.
Tuesday, December 21	10:00 AM	League Office	<b>Action Committee</b>
Tuesday, December 21	10:45 AM	League Office	<b>Voters Service</b>
Tuesday, January 4	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	League Office	<b>Board Meeting</b> League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Tuesday, January 11	12:00 noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>International Relations Study Group</b> 2004 Opinion Ballots See p. 3.
Tuesday, January 18	10:00 AM	League Office	<b>Action Committee</b>
Tuesday, January 18	10:45 AM	League Office	<b>Voters Service</b>
Thursday, January 20	10:30 AM		<b>Book Club</b> Check the calendar on our website at <a href="http://sonco.ca.lwnet.org">http://sonco.ca.lwnet.org</a> or call Lynda Hungerford, 539-5770, for details.
Monday, January 24	9:30 AM – 12 noon	Rincon Valley Library, Forum Room 6959 Montecito Blvd. Santa Rosa	<b>Annual Program Planning Meeting</b> See p. 4.

**LINK TO CURRENT CALENDAR**