



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

HOMELESS IN THE SOUTH BAY

Monday April 26th 7PM to 8:30 Redondo Beach Main Library

Come to the Redondo Beach Library 303 North Pacific Coast Highway to hear a panel discussion of issues facing the homeless. We will be looking at this from many sides. Who are they? What are their needs? What services are available? Harriet Chase, our Social Policy Director, has assembled an impressive group of involved professionals and volunteers to inform us on this topic. See flyer for details.

ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY MAY 8TH 10 AM - 1:00 PM

At the home of Linda Mack - 571 27th Street, Manhattan Beach (310) 545-4738

This is our chance to see what our league has accomplished this year as well as to look ahead to the next year and plot our course for what we (you) want to see happen. We will be having the Chief of Police of Redondo Beach Joseph Leonardi address us on the topic of *Challenges Facing Our Diverse Community*. As always we will be serving our fabulous salad lunch provided by our attending members. Just bring a salad to serve 6 – 8 people and drinks, rolls and desserts will be provided. The Annual Meeting offers members an opportunity to review local program, adopt a new study or decide which position to single out for action or education. Last year members agreed that in the face of the State's financial crisis, local government budgets should be addressed. That decision led to a terrific meeting with officials from three of our League's cities. We urge you to review the existing positions in the enclosed kit and come to the meeting prepared to decide whether to retain, drop or review any of these positions. Do you have an idea for a new local study or want action on a position for next year? The board is not making a recommendation, so your ideas and input are requested. We look forward to seeing you at the annual Meeting and welcome your suggestions.

Jan Nathanson, Program Chair rjnathanson@yahoo.com

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The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The Beach Voter

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

For **membership**. Send check in the amount of \$55.00(**payable to the League of Women Voters –Beach Cities**) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Lasagna Dinner ~ *California on the Brink*

Optimism for California's future ran high at the Tri-League of Women Voters' 20th Annual Lasagna Supper. Dowell Myers, USC School of Policy, Planning and Development, presented a plan for shared success rather than the picture of doom and gloom we've become accustomed to. Myers presented a picture of California caught up in "the old story" of California and needing to focus on a new story. He contrasted the California of the past characterized by accelerating immigration, unassimilated immigrants, a surplus of educated workers mostly from other states and countries, a state swamped by migration and soaring housing prices, with today's California of declining immigration, upwardly mobile immigrants, a "homegrown" majority population with undereducated new workers and a soaring senior population that will be unable to sell their big homes unless California educates its young population.

"California on the Brink" was the topic and Professor Myers asked - "on the brink of what!" A demographer with degrees and studies conducted at Columbia, Berkeley, MIT and Harvard, he informed us that he "knows the answer to everything!" and then proceeded to prove it by helping us understand the current situation in our State and focusing us on the need to "grow more educated people." The first step is for people to look at the "new story" which offers hope for our future and to set the stage for a "new, responsible California." State and Local governments must invest in education and in the young or we will be unable to cope with our economic changes. In order for us all to enjoy our increasing age, we must invest in young people – we need to take responsibility and "pay for education." We've lost track of the typical cycle of roles in which we invest in children who then become workers as young adults, growing into mature adults who can provide the strong support for seniors and the children to come. Professor Myers emphasized the intergenerational connections that many Californians have forgotten and stressed that our ration of young people to seniors is extreme with the boomer generation entering senior citizenship. He noted that this explained why the current Obama administration is so focused on health care!

People are running on the old mythology, he noted. And this is no longer true. Because the key to a solid democracy is a well educated electorate, the role of the League of Women Voters is clear. He encouraged us to "get people on the same page" and "invest in the younger generation" because for every dollar invested in education there is a three-fold return.

Professor Myers' talk stimulated a lively question and answer session and a great deal of thought and optimism for our future. For more information about Professor Myers and for a list of his many books and publications, see his Wikipedia biography: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dowell_Myers. A book he cited is: *Immigrants and Boomers: Forging a New Social Contract for the Future of America*. In that book Myers calls for a new social contract between the older and younger generations, based on their mutual interests and the moral responsibility of each generation to provide for children and the elderly.

Joan Arias, Reporting

Environmental News

By Maggie Wilkinson

El Segundo's Carbon Calculator Program for City Residents

The City of El Segundo is now making available to residents a computer program which allows property owners to measure the amount of carbon they produce from their home and from the amount of traveling they do (their carbon footprint). A local business – CyberCity 3D – has developed this program and by using aerial photographs of a city, the company builds a low cost 3D city model and partners with Google Earth to enhance the content and display capabilities.

CyberCity3D has provided El Segundo with two products: 1) a three-dimensional business map that is accessible via the City's business website. Businesses interested in moving to El Segundo where space is available can then contact the property owners. 2) The Carbon Calculator which provides a website (www.ecocities3d.com) for each property owner to locate their home and register meaningful carbon footprint information associated with that residence. Participation is free and voluntary. Those who join fill out a short questionnaire providing their energy bill totals, car miles driven, plane travel and recycling habits. Using this data, the program calculates the carbon footprint (CO2 emissions) for the household. Citizens can also learn what they can do to "take action" to help reduce their emissions, save money and become more energy conscientious. Citizens can also explore their neighborhood in 3D.

Of the South Bay Cities, at present, El Segundo is the only city using this program, however, on March 25th CyberCity3D is providing a demonstration of their program to the So. Bay Council of Governments (SBCOG) and how it helps to get citizens involved in their cities' Green programs.

Feedback from LWV members attending the Climate Change Copenhagen Meeting

The LWVUS was represented by a team of eight well-qualified delegates who covered specific aspects of the conference and have provided feedback in the Feb. National League Leaders Guide. A sample of the comments from two of our representatives are quoted below:

Ellyn Murphy, PhD, hydrologist and head of the carbon sequestration initiative at Pacific No.West Lab. "Even though the organization of the meeting was chaotic, the negotiations were even more chaotic and the inability of the Council of Parties to reach a binding agreement with meaningful reductions in greenhouse gases was very disappointing. The U.S., now so more than ever, needs to pass a climate bill. Without a strong climate bill, we will fall further behind in renewable energy and become more dependent on foreign sources of energy and energy technology."

Jennifer Searfoss, JD, lecturer on international diplomacy and head of climate awareness in Orange County, CA for the Sierra Club: "We will all watch to see who steps up to support the Accord and how ambitious their committed emissions reductions targets really are. There are also indications coming from the U.S. Special Envoy on Climate Change that they plan to negotiate a binding deal outside the normal U.N. process to escape the negotiation difficulties they experienced in Copenhagen. In all, as we begin 2010, we must pass legislation through the U.S. Senate curbing our carbon emissions. Pres. Obama has challenged Congress to pass legislation by June. My hope is that America sets ambitious emission reduction targets that require the U.S. to stretch ourselves. We are the leaders of the free world; it's time for our country to act like it."

Merci, Danke, Takk, Kamsa hamaida, Arigato, Grazie, Dhanyarada, Toda & Mahalo

Thanks to all our generous League Members the contributions for the Non-Event are still pouring in. All donations, no matter the amount, are welcome. There is still time to respond and be included in this yearly event. We haven't received our usual contributions this year so if you haven't responded please do. Below are the members who have already sent in their contributions. *Peggy Bartlett, Treasurer*

Jane Affonso , Joan Arias, Barbara Arlow, Cecilia Ball, Peggy Bartlett, Mary Lou Brenneman, Paulette Caudill, Harriet Chase, Irma Cohen, Pat Driezler, June Eicker, Janelle Freeman, Susan Grebe, Marion Greenman, Merle Grossman, Barbara Hardwich, Elizabeth Jensen, Robert Johnson, Maureen Kelly, Joann Kennelly, Paul Kratz, Lillian Lunt, Fatima Malik, Penny Markey, Ann Martin, Henrietta Mosley, Michelle Murphy, Jan Nathanson, Wendy Phillips, Doris Rosenberg, Annabel Sims, Jennifer Steffen, Mignon Thiem, Vivian Vallens, April Halprin Wayland, Elaine Weiner, Lance Widman and Maggie Wilkinson.

Gracias, Dank, Sukran, Efkaristo, Obrigada, Spasiba, Ahsante, Mam'noon, Dankon

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Thank You also to LWVUS for their constant lobbying efforts to work for the best Health Care Bill that Congress could pass. Their passion and commitment made a difference. We sent so many emails and made so many phone calls, all made so easy by the efforts of LWVUS. I think that if Leagues across the country responded in the same manner as our League then we can all feel proud of our grassroots efforts. All who participated helped to make a difference. Now in the true spirit of League we hope that this is just the start and this Bill will lead us to a path of true *Universal Health Care* for all Americans.

Susan Grebe, Co-President

Lasagna Dinner—March 2010

A few of our attending members.

Top Row, third from the left Fatima Malik, Wendy Phillips, Mignon Thiem Murphy, Susan Grebe.

Bottom Row from the right, Linda Mack, Irma Cohen and Maggie Wilkinson.



Photo by Hope Witkowsky of

Torrance League

**CALENDAR**

|                                     |                                   |                                  |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April 13th</b><br><b>Tuesday</b> | <b>7 PM</b>                       | <b>Board Meeting</b>             | <b>Home of Joan Arias</b><br><b>Hermosa Beach</b>   |
| <b>April 26th</b><br><b>Monday</b>  | <b>7 PM</b><br><b>8:30 PM</b>     | <b>Homeless in the South Bay</b> | <b>Redondo Beach Library</b><br><b>303 N. PCH</b>   |
| <b>May 8th</b><br><b>Saturday</b>   | <b>10:00 AM</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> | <b>Annual Meeting</b>            | <b>Home of Linda Mack</b><br><b>571 27th Street</b> |
| <b>May 15</b><br><b>May 16</b>      |                                   | <b>LWVC Council</b>              | <b>Sacramento CA</b>                                |
| <b>June 11</b><br><b>June 15</b>    |                                   | <b>LWVUS Convention</b>          | <b>Atlanta GA</b>                                   |

**Remember to vote on June 8th ~ California State Primary**



**League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**  
**701 13th Street**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**