



**League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**

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

# ***The Beach Voter***

## **COME AND BE COUNTED**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD 2010—7 PM MANHATTAN BEACH LIBRARY**

**By Joan Arias**

Have you seen the Census ads on TV? The "blitz" has begun so don't forget that LWV-BC will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening (7PM) February 23rd at the Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland Avenue, to explain the importance of the Census, how we can help make sure our communities are counted and to link the Census to the coming California redistricting initiative! Carlos Vasquez, Partnership Specialist from the official Census organizational team will address all our questions. Please spread the word as widely as possible.

### **THE CENSUS**

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 Billion to states and communities based in part on census data. Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts. We will receive our questionnaires in March 2010 either by mail or hand delivered. The United States Constitution requires a national census every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats states will have in the US House of Representatives. The 2010 Census questionnaire only has 10 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Households will be asked to provide key demographic information such as home ownership or rental, address, names, genders, ages and races of household members. The Census Bureau CANNOT share data with anyone - not other federal agencies, not the police - NO ONE!! So you do not compromise yourself in any way by answering. We hope you'll make a special effort to attend and bring friends and neighbors.

### **LWV 90 and COUNTING**

Also this evening, in conjunction with the census meeting, we will celebrate the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920 following the passage of the amendment giving women the right to vote. It ended the long suffering struggle of suffragettes and others expanding the rights of women on the federal level. A point of interest for our League is that the Los Angeles City League was also founded in 1920 and a long-time member said that they had a unit in Inglewood before Inglewood became

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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.**

<p><b>The Beach Voter</b></p> <p><b>Co-Presidents:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Barbara Arlow</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Susan Grebe</p> <p><b>Editor:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Susan Grebe</p> <p><b>Copy Editor:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Barbara Arlow</p> <p><b>Production:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mignon Thiem-Murphy</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Peggy Bartlett</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sunhee Park</p> <p><b>Circulation:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ann Martin</p>
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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 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LWV 90 and COUNTING**

Inglewood became a separate League. The exact date is not known. The Inglewood League became Inglewood-Hawthorne, then Centinela Valley League, and finally merged with Manhattan Beach LWV to become our current LWV of the Beach Cities. It is possible that with Inglewood as one of our six cities, we can not only celebrate the 90th birthday of the national League, but also our local birthday. There is still much work to do and we wish the League many more years of serving our nation and communities, both through education and action. Come to learn about the Census and enjoy refreshments and birthday cake on this festive occasion. Please bring family, friends and neighbors.

[rjnathanson@yahoo.com](mailto:rjnathanson@yahoo.com)

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### **League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County**

**2010 Winter League Day – January 30, 2010**

#### **Gangs in Los Angeles**

“The gang life is a life that leads to death; there are only two ways out of gang life: prison or death.” That’s how LAPD Chief of Police Charlie Beck concluded his remarks to the more than 100 people who attended the 2010 Winter League Day held by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County. The topic of the day was “Gangs Around the Corner: A look at Street Gangs.” The topic grew from the prison study of the Los Angeles League of Women Voters and included a panel of experts followed by a luncheon and a keynote address by the Police Chief.

The panelists and their topics were: Captain Paul Pietrantonio, LA Sheriffs Department and Supervisor of “Operation Safe Streets, Kim McGill, Co-Founder of the Youth Justice Coalition, LA Police Department Sgt. Curtis Woodle, Gang Liaison Supervisor, Aquil Basheer, Founder of the Professional Community Intervention Training Institute and Father Stan Bosch, Supervisor and Therapist, Soledad Enrichment Action Inc. Scott Gold, LA Times Staff Writer moderated the panel. For complete biographies and an agenda for the day, go to <http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org/files/2010WinterLeagueDay.pdf>

The panelists described gangs and the gang problems in Los Angeles County and addressed solutions to the problems. Kim McGill numbered four categories of problem youth: “The disappeared,” young people who leave school without notice; “the exiled,” young people thrown out from Los Angeles, often into prisons or deportation; “the locked down” who are in and out of schools which are more and more like prisons; and “the taxed,” young people who end up owing the County and the City sums of money based on warrants and arrests. She spoke passionately about the level of incarceration in Los Angeles, higher than any other city, and the need to rebuild communities so that young people have a better life by closing “cages” and investing money where it is needed. She recommended taking a small percentage of the law enforcement budget to invest in communities. Aquil Basheer echoed Kim’s comments and noted that his focus is community intervention rather than “gang intervention.” The key factors that we need to understand in working to re-channel gang members are the level of fear, the need for food, shelter and

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## Gangs in LA (continued from page 3)

education and manhood/womanhood training, sorely lacking among youth. He emphasized the need to build an infrastructure for communities to become self-reliant.

Captain Pietrantonio talked about the Sheriff's Department focus on the most violent gangs, targeting the "heads of the snake" and monitoring these specific gangs to eliminate guns from communities and to reduce the level of community violence. Sgt. Woodle talked about the importance of intervention and "fixing the community" so that gang people come back from prisons to better communities than they left. Gang members seek leadership and respect, he noted. He spoke with optimism, saying, "We can fix this thing." Father Bosch used the story of Rapunzel locked in a tower as a metaphor for the structural isolation of gang members and the inability of young gang members to express their feelings. He has studied this condition, called alexithymia, the inability to put words to feelings. He has established "communities of care," where young people learn how much they have in common with other youth in gangs.

When asked what the best role for the League of Women Voters was, the speakers agreed that our role should be to "get out the vote for youth justice," noting that the voters trust us. We can help youth build a better life and rebuild communities.

Chief Beck related the history of gangs in Los Angeles and summarized the initiatives he feels most important to control the problem of gangs. A broad based coalition to achieve results is the key to the solution. His key change initiatives focus on:

**Prevention:** keeping kids out of gangs with programs such as "Summer Night Lights" which provided young people with places to enjoy the outdoors safely in summer.

**Intervention:** Police collaboration with intervention programs. He did point out that while the job of the police is to find out who committed crimes and prosecute the criminals, the interventionists work to stop the next crime by interrupting violence.

**Suppression:** this is the key job of police enforcement: targeting the most violent gangs and individuals.

**Reentry:** this is the most important and least robust program according to Chief Beck. Los Angeles has an 80% recidivism rate now – that means that 80% of the people released from prison return in a revolving door pattern. He commented that, "the most effective reentry program is the one run by street gangs", and said his goal was to make sure we had something at least as attractive.

He concluded by noting that while the police collaborate on a number of programs including school speakers, gang intervention programs and others, he needed to consider the best use of the officers under his command and challenged the audience to think about what the best use of the police officers should be. Are they the right organization to use for functions that might be better conducted by private non-profit organizations?

We were left with that question in mind and with the challenge of working with all these groups to make Los Angeles County a safer place to life.

Submitted by **Joan Arias**

### Save the Date

Lasagna Supper— Thursday March 18th, 2010, 6PM, Torrance Library

Topic : California on the Brink", Guest Speaker Dowell Myers, USC School of Policy. For more information see the enclosed flyer or call Peggy Bartlett (310) 545-1087

## Highlights of Environmental Activities at the National Level

### A Brief Summary of the Report from LWVUS Delegation to the Climate Change Meeting In Copenhagen:

Included in our January 14<sup>th</sup> Leaders Update email from the LWVUS was a report from the Chair of the LWVUS Delegation to the Copenhagen meeting – Carole Connors. She reported that: “Copenhagen 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, an accord was produced of some substance. Some good things did happen.”

The agreement states twelve acknowledgments. Every country signing the Accord acknowledges the 12 points, and it is believed that every country but four – Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Venezuela – intends to sign on. Some of the points in the Accord 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 emission 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, that climate change must be kept below 2 degrees Celsius rise, and the need for developing countries to make commitments and contribute.

The Accord ends with two Appendices for countries to complete. The Appendices provide a place for countries to sign on, to give their emission reduction by 2020 (quantified “economy-wide emissions targets”) and “Actions” – commitments that the country is making toward climate change remediation biannually. “It is hoped all will make their entries by the end of Jan. 2010, and most are expected to do so.”

### LWVUS Action Regarding Senate Climate Change Legislation:

The LWVUS signed on with 31 other labor, faith, scientific, agricultural, public health, civic, youth and environmental groups to a letter sent to the US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell thanking them for their leadership in promoting clean energy policies but urging, “the Senate to enact meaningful, comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation that will reinvigorate our economy and create millions of new jobs while reducing global warming pollution.”

The letter emphasized how, “Energy and climate legislation must be connected and comprehensive to create the opportunity to build a new clean energy economy ...” and that the legislation needs to be enacted this year.

Anyone wanting an email copy of this letter can call and request it from me. It is included in the information sent in the LWVUS Leaders Update 1/28/10.

-Maggie Wilkinson

**CALENDAR**

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1. February 9	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Home of Peggy Bartlett
Feb 23rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting The Census & Happy Birthday LWV	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach
March 9th Tuesday	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Home of Mignon Thiem-Murphy
March 18th Thursday	6:00 PM	Lasagna Supper "California on the Brink"	Torrance Library 3301 Torrance Blvd Torrance
 <p><i>Happy Valentines Day from your friends in League</i></p>			

*Welcome to new Members Cleone Gable of Manhattan Beach and Katherine Harrison of Redondo Beach*



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**701 13th Street**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**