



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP Roberta Hollimon
408-253-6078, rhollimon2@cs.com

ARYA Restaurant
19930 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014

(between Charles Schwab and Scandinavian Designs)
parking in rear

Speakers from
Cupertino Union School District,
Sunnyvale Elementary School District and
Fremont Union High School District
will address the impact of the state budget crisis
on our local school districts.

Join fellow League members to learn about the status of education in our communities as you enjoy the food at Arya.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Elaine Manley
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
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Off Board	
Dues Secretary	Evelyn Lundstrom

Menu

- **Pollo Fettucine** (Veg or Reg) – Fettuccine pasta in a classic homemade Alfredo sauce, with sautéed chicken, mushroom, garlic and broccoli
- **Lubia Polo** – Basmati rice mixed with green beans, tomato sauce and diced beef. Served with one skewer of ground beef kebab and shirazi salad
- **Boneless Chicken Kebab** – Delicious marinated charbroiled, boneless breast and leg of chicken. Served with Basmati rice topped with saffron and charbroiled tomato
- **Adas Pollo** (Veg or Regular) – Basmati rice mixed with raisins, lentils, dates and saffron, served with boiled chicken

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President, Elaine Manley, has been away for three weeks on personal business. Her President's Message will return next month.

Our League has completed its Program Planning activities. We will be recommending a national study of Education for the next biennium. For the Bay Area, members chose to continue monitoring the Joint Policy Committee (ABAG/MTC/BAAQMD/BCDC) in their guidance of regional land use, transportation and climate solutions and to monitor and comment on Water Supply issues affecting the Bay Area, issues related to the Sacramento - San Joaquin River Delta, and the Bay Area Water Forum as their top two priorities for regional action.

The Nominating Committee and Budget Committee are hard at work preparing for the next League year. We will hear the results of their efforts at Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 7. Be sure to mark your calendar for this important meeting.

Please join us at our March "Lunch With League" meeting. The talks on Education fit in nicely with our emphasis on Education as a national study.

Roberta Hollimon, Editor

LETTER FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT

Dear League Leaders,

[February 14th,] we celebrate[d] the League and its 88 years of proud service. As we laud the generations of Leaguers who made our communities better, I also want to celebrate all of you, the current generation of League leaders, and our members. You are confirmation of our legacy as you continue to provide trustworthy and balanced resources to citizens and lawmakers, particularly in this presidential election year making sure voters are registered, educated and confident in the political process. I believe our democracy is stronger because of the League's work and perseverance. Happy Birthday and thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Mary Wilson

Board Briefs

At its February meeting your board:

- Met Kathee Tyson our new Management Training Advisor, (MTA).
- Postponed the Community Appeal to April.
- Adopted a Membership Scholarship Policy
- Supported the County Council's request to propose an Education Study at National Convention *This was approved at the Program Planning Meetings ed.*
- Learned that we will hold candidate forums for the June election.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Peter Botsford, Delores Carson, Sharon Jenks, Jo and Ted Loer, Alice MacAllister, Frances McDonald, Michael O'Quin,, and Katharine Turner.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Sonja Messner, LaVerne Prentice, Marieann Shovlin.

Welcome new members Dolors Ayala, Ruth Bendler, and David Whittum.

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Charolette Fox, LWVC Natural Resources Director

There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.

Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E.

The conservation of all natural resources is not a concept of recent origin. From the glassblowers of old who depended on stands of mature hardwood forests to heat their furnaces, to the building and construction industries of today, we are experiencing a renaissance in understanding about the impacts of a denuded landscape. Waters flow faster and untamed through our California watersheds and rain water is channeled down our urban streets when it could be saved and reused. Low Impact Development practices are innovative practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The issue is one with several considerations: economic, environmental, and social.

On January 8, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new report, "Reducing Stormwater

Costs Through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices."¹ Seventeen case studies from across North America show the economic viability of LID practices. In explaining the goal of LID, Don Waye of the Nonpoint Source Control Branch of EPA said, "The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gardens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs."

Echoing the sustainable communities concept, new alliances are being formed by county stormwater managers, local water districts, urban planners, and developers to better understand the inter-relatedness of these disciplines. Conservation designs not only address water conservation, but the preservation of open space. Developers can use conservation designs to preserve important features on the site such as wetland and riparian areas, forested tracts, and areas of porous soils by not stripping the topsoil or compacting the subsoil from heavy equipment grading. The social benefit to the community is proximity to open space and the expanded recreational opportunities it affords.

LID is relatively new as a land use and urban planning tool. Two governmental agencies working on a Low Impact Development program are the City of Salinas and the County of San Diego. The program that Salinas adopts could become the model for that region. San Diego County has just completed their program guidelines and released a LID handbook for planners. The handbook is available

at <http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/Resource/3~procguid/3~procguid.html>.

Members intrigued by the efforts of Salinas and San Diego may explore these issues using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outreach tools, available online here: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/toolbox/links.htm>.

¹ The full report, including an Executive Summary and a Question and Answer fact sheet, can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07>.

MEETING WITH MIKE SIMS, MANAGER OF THE WILLIAM F. JAMES BOYS' RANCH COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PROBATION DEPARTMENT

On October 30, 2007, members of the Juvenile Justice study committee of the Los Altos-Mountain View League of Women Voters met with Mr. Mike Sims for a tour of the William F. James Boys' Ranch in Morgan Hill, California, near Santa Clara County's Anderson Lake County Park.

The Ranch is a residential rehabilitation program for 60 boys between the ages of 15 ½ and 18 who have been committed to the facility by the Juvenile Court. They are supervised by probation counselors, full-time teachers in a year-round academic program, instructional aides, a registered nurse, case managers and mental health staff.

The youth are offered programs in substance abuse, mental health, victim awareness, anger management and conflict resolution, as well as life skills, vocational training, sports, community service work and field trips.

The buildings at the ranch have been recently renovated and clearly meant to demonstrate to the boys that taking care of their own surroundings and furnishings is a satisfying experience—one that, hopefully, they will carry out during the rest of their lives. This is a different approach to ordinary internment for civil offenders—an example of good living instead of punishment by discomfort and restriction. The boys live in "pods" of 12 persons each. The living arrangement we visited was attractive and comfortable, with bunk beds, tables and

chairs for study, comfortable chairs for reading and relaxing. They do their own cleaning and laundry, maintaining an atmosphere of attractiveness.

In addition to academic studies, the youth are offered a full vocational training program, including welding, construction technology, auto mechanics, computer technology, culinary arts and horticulture with the goal of equipping them for return to real-world participation.

Mike Sims is undeniably a splendid role model—calm, dignified, friendly, and dedicated to this work with young men in trouble.

As youth become prepared to return to their homes and communities, having completed their sentences successfully, they are assisted in doing so with an Aftercare program similar to the one described at the Muriel Wright Residential Center: a ten-week assisted reentry plan. The Aftercare Counselor checks on the youths' whereabouts and makes sure they are attending school. An educational counselor assists the boys with college enrollment or vocational work and encourages them to stay in touch about any problems they may encounter after release.

*--Reported by Nancy Rogers, League of Women Voters
Palo Alto*

TRANSPORTATION 2035 MOVES FORWARD By Leslie Stewart

"We do this every three years, and every time it's different," said Steve Heminger, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as he introduced a discussion of policies for the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) at a Commission workshop on November 28 last year. This year, regional planning will certainly involve change, as there are significant differences between the 2035 RTP, "Transportation 2035: Change in Motion," and its predecessors.

Transportation 2035 has a larger scope and vision. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), are participating in its preparation. "This plan isn't just about transportation anymore," commented MTC senior planner Ashley Nguyen. "It includes focused growth, climate protection, market-based pricing mechanisms, and technology as well." Nguyen stressed that local communities should look at ways this RTP can fast-forward their plans for new compact development near transit.

To read the whole report on Transportation 2035 Performance Objectives, Policy Challenges, Project Evaluations and Trade-offs, go to www.bayareamonitor.org

LEAGUE NEWS

National – Congress passed an ethics reform bill last year that prohibits lobbyists from hosting convention parties to “honor” lawmakers. The House Ethics Committee has issued “guidance” that the rules only ban a single member of Congress from being “honored.” The lobbyists are allowed to “honor” groups of legislators. The League wrote a letter to Speaker Pelosi informing her that the League had written a letter to the Ethics Committee opposing this new “guidance” and had not received a response.

State – In response to the state budget crisis the League has signed three policy letters with coalition partners, urging sensible cuts, keeping all options on the table (including revenue increases), and structural reforms. These letters, issued by the Budget Allies, Green California, and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition, are posted at <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvc/action/budget/>.

County – the County Council will consider holding an annual County-wide meeting on a particular topic.

LWVC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2008

In the second year of a state legislative session, the LWVC Legislation Committee considers the legislative priorities from the preceding year to see which are still pertinent. The LWVC Legislative Priorities included in this UPDATE were recommended by the committee and adopted by the LWVC Board of Directors at its January meeting in response to challenges emerging for 2008. State and Local Finances/State Budget is a key priority because of the impending \$14 billion budget deficit that affects all program areas the League cares about. The former priority regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Investments is incorporated into this larger issue, as is concern about education financing. Health care reform remains a priority legislative issue.

A new category of “Other Legislative Issues, As Time and Resources Permit” reflects the fact that the LWVC’s primary focus will be on our key issues: the budget, health care, and getting the redistricting initiative qualified for the November 2008 ballot. (Redistricting is thus no longer a “legislative” issue, but is nevertheless a major statewide effort for us.)

If you have questions about this clarification of our priorities, please contact Linda Craig at lcraig@lwvc.org. There will be some up-to-the minute workshops in May at the LWVC Leadership Council on the key topics of health care, redistricting and education reform, as well as training for advocacy effectiveness, including framing the issue, media savvy, using technology and public speaking.

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

____ \$50 Individual member

Name: _____

____ \$75 Two members in a household

Address: _____

____ Contribution \$ _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.