

# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

Website: [www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org) Phone: (650) 325-5780 E-mail: [info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

October 2009

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### BACK COVER

- Upcoming Events

## Timely Topics Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 7:00 PM

### "INDIA TODAY"

Hanson Hall, The Sequoias  
501 Portola Road  
Portola Valley



### Dr. Rakesh Mohan

Distinguished Consulting Professor,  
Stanford Center for International  
Development

Before coming to Stanford, Dr. Mohan was the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for four years, and earlier, the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Indian government. Dr. Mohan holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Yale and a doctorate in economics from Princeton. He is an expert on Indian economic policy reform and liberalization, urban economics, and urban development. His topic will be *India Today*, an overview of recent changes in Indian economic policy and their impact on India and the world.

RSVP to Ellen Hope at (650) 839-8647 or  
[ellenjhope@aol.com](mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com)

(Assistance with transportation is available)


**INVITE A FRIEND! THEY'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Every volunteer organization relies on twenty or so members who do most of the work. Ours is no different. It's not that the work is not rewarding; it's just that we need help, lest we burn out, as I suspect some of you have. That's why I come to you with hat in hand to ask for your help, especially during the upcoming election season. We have a full plate in October, as you see on Page 3. It is heartening that people are stepping up to the public service plate. *In case you were wondering, some races will be filled by appointment without contest.* But we are victims of our own success. Candidates Forums are an essential League mission and we need hands on deck for every one of them. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE volunteer to hand out cards or keep time at one or more of these events. Invite a friend or young family member to come with you. It's one of the best ways to recruit new members of all ages...and genders!

We will be hosting County League Day in February. If you like to plan a party or at least help someone else who does, come on down! We are open to suggestions on location, food, etc. Nor can I stress enough our need for help in fundraising. I know it's the "F" word, but Patti Fry cannot shoulder this task alone. In essence we are all fundraisers simply by being active, aware and visible in our communities. How can we make it FUN and raise funds too? We want to hear from you!

The League is not all-work-and-no-play.  We have a full slate of great speakers this year at our Timely Topics, thanks to Ellen Hope, our Program VP. We have a good time when we are together. Get back into the game!

**Jamie Shepard, Board President**  
867-0885 [jamieshepard@att.net](mailto:jamieshepard@att.net)

## BOARD BRIEFS

There was no Board meeting in September. The next Board meeting is Monday, the 5th of October at 7pm at Lucile Spurlock's.

**Shirley Desmarais, Board Secretary**  
[sdesmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net)

## OUR LEAGUE READS...



**Why Women Should Rule the World** by Dee Dee Myers is our October book. Our discussion is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 pm at Luise Maier's home. League Reads books are available now at Ke-

pler's in store and online. Remember to specify them to credit your purchases to our League for a 10% donation.

**Judy Orttung 234-9837 [jorttung@att.net](mailto:jorttung@att.net)**

## OUTREACH: BEER & DEMOCRACY

In July we took our message to the people by pouring beer at the annual Connoisseurs' Marketplace, Menlo Park's downtown street fair. Resplendent in our red League T-shirts, we displayed our efficiency and joie de vivre, sampled the wares, and collected some well-deserved tips. This year's crew included Sandra and Steve Pursell, Linda Liebes, Shirley DesMarais, Lucile Spurlock, Jamie Shepard, Luise Maier, Lalu Kiesling, Ken Broome and Suzanne Fouche.



# VOTER EDUCATION



## LWVSSMC-Sponsored November 2009 Candidates Forums

All of the events listed below are open to the public – please come, bring a friend, and help spread the word! At press time, some of these events are pending final confirmation, so please check [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org) or [www.lwvcssmc.org](http://www.lwvcssmc.org) or call the League office (650-325-5780) to confirm dates and times:

- **Redwood City Elementary School District**  
Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm  
McKinley Institute of Technology,  
400 Duane Street, Redwood City
- **Menlo Park Fire Protection District**  
Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 pm  
Station 1 Classroom, 300 Middlefield  
Road, Menlo Park
- **Sequoia Union High School District**  
Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm  
District Board Room, 480 James Street,  
Redwood City
- **Woodside Elementary School District**  
Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 pm  
Woodside Elementary School Campus,  
Room 39 (Wildcats Meeting Room), 3195  
Woodside Road, Woodside
- **Redwood City's City Council**  
Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm  
Redwood City Council Chambers, 1017  
Middlefield Road, Redwood City

These events will be videotaped and replayed at various times on local public access cable TV channels, as well as being available on demand at [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org)

For more information on any of these events, and to **VOLUNTEER TO HELP**, please contact Debby Maio, Candidates Forums Co-ordinator. 368-4891 or [dmmaio@mac.com](mailto:dmmaio@mac.com)

*Kathy Armstrong, Voter Service Chair*  
321-3623 or [karmstro@conncoll.edu](mailto:karmstro@conncoll.edu)

## League Treasurer Needed

Due to unfortunate family circumstances, Marlene Sterner, our new League Treasurer, has resigned. Veteran Treasurer Jack Morris has come to our rescue (*again, our thanks*) but we really need someone new to assume this critical position. This person will manage both our operating account and the Ed Fund with monthly reports to the Board. Please contact Jack Morris for details: Call (650) 325-1886 or email [jackhm@att.net](mailto:jackhm@att.net)



## BAY AREA LEAGUE NEWS:

### **SAVING THE BAY** Document- ary to be shown on local TV

“Saving the Bay”, the documentary pre-viewed at our 2007 Bay Area League Day, is now a KTEH telecast, which will be broadcast in October: 1st on KQED on Thursday evenings, October 8 and 15. October 8 covers *Prehistory-1848 and 1849-1906* (two 1-hour parts), and Oct. 15th features *Miracle Workers 1906-1959* and *Bay in the Balance, 1960-Present*. In 1959 and later, LWV member Sylvia McLaughlin, with two other Berkeley women, led this effort. See the [BayArea-Monitor.org](http://BayArea-Monitor.org) for the 2006 article and [Saving-TheBay.net](http://Saving-TheBay.net).

# STATE LEAGUE NEWS & ADVOCACY UPDATES

*If you have questions or need additional information, please contact LWV Palo Alto: 327-9148, [www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org)*



## OCTOBER 24 TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NEW AND SEASONED LEAGUERS

**SATURDAY, October 24, 2009**

9:30 am - Registration opens

2:30 pm - Workshop ends

**LOCATION:** Avenidas, 450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 (*just north of University Ave., off of Alma Street*)

### TOPICS:

- Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of the League's Members' Only Web Page
- Redistricting and Constitutional Reform: What's Happening and What You Can Do To Make It Happen
- How Leagues are Using Their Web Sites, Social Networking and Video to Communicate with the Public

**COST:** Registration includes lunch: \$25, if paid before Oct 16 / \$30 after Oct 16 (\$15 attendance only) Sign up online at the State League's website: [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)

### **Editor's Note:**

*Linda Craig of our local League (at right) will speak on redistricting and on constitutional reform at the LWVC Regional Workshop in Palo Alto October 24th.*



## IMPLEMENTING REDISTRICTING BY COMMISSION

The workshop on Oct. 24 is part of the LWVC's effort to educate League members and the public about implementing Proposition 11, the 2008 initiative that created an independent citizen commission to draw district lines for the Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization. Draft regulations were posted in Sept. by the Bureau of the State Auditor at [www.bsa.ca.gov/redistricting](http://www.bsa.ca.gov/redistricting). The League's comments, done with other redistricting advocates, are posted on the state League website: [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org). Applications for the commission will be due in late 2009 and early 2010.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The National LWV Climate Change Task Force email list, in a note by Chad Tolman, has called attention to a 24<sup>th</sup> October International Day, organized by Bill McKibben's 350.ORG, to have local events all over the world directed at education for global action at the December 2009 United Nations meeting in Copenhagen. This meeting is to address the next international climate change mitigation agreement, which will succeed the (in)famous Kyoto Protocol of December 1997. Local groups are expected to organize events. However, my check on Sustainable San Mateo County and Acterra did not reveal a local event by either of these, as of 20<sup>th</sup> September. The 350.ORG website indicates there are at least two local organizers, one in Menlo Park and another in Palo Alto.

*Evan Hughes, VOTER Editor*

## NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

### **CENSUS 2010:**

The Census is less than half a year away, and Leagues in 31 states are spearheading community efforts to publicize the importance of the Census, while partnering with community organizations to dispel myths that keep low-income families and minorities from participating. As a complement to the League's upcoming 90th anniversary celebration, the LWVUS is seeking state and local Leagues interested in hosting a one-time educational forum on the importance of the Census in February 2010. We also encourage those Leagues currently active in Census efforts to reach out to your public leaders and urge them to get involved in Census 2010 by joining a Complete Count Committee. For further information, including how to receive \$3,000 in support from your local Census office, contact Sergio España (sespana@lww.org).



**From Mary Wilson,  
President, LWVUS:**

### **Excerpts from THE LEAGUE UNDER ATTACK:**

Intentional lies. Disorderly conduct. Threatening and confusing actions. These are the desperate tactics of those who oppose health care reform. . . . the League of Women Voters is under direct attack by the very same people who mislead, confuse, and sow fear in an attempt to stop much needed reform.

A newly formed organization calling itself the "League of American Voters" is conducting an advertising campaign against health care reform that seeks to undermine public support by sowing fear and mistrust.

We sent a letter calling them to task for using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League of Women Voters in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform. We asked them to reveal the major sources of funding for the advertising campaign.

Their response? A blast email to their followers condemning the League of Women Voters. . . . This is just one example of the fight we face in standing up for Americans in the battle for real health care reform. This is an opportunity both to educate people and to always act with civility when championing our causes.

As you know, our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people. We must be vigilant against attack campaigns funded from unknown sources that mislead, confuse and scare Americans.

**HEALTHCARE:** Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans. As a 90-year-old membership organization that is one of the most trusted nonpartisan voices in the United States, we know that health care reform must protect coverage for those who have it, provide coverage for those who desperately need it, and protect us all against skyrocketing costs.


...The League of Women believes that the current state of health care in this country is unsustainable. It is critical that Congress pass comprehensive health care reform to send to the President for his signature.

The health care bill passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will provide access and coverage for most Americans who are presently without coverage, while working to contain health care costs. We support that approach.

# UPCOMING EVENTS on THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER		
5 Mon	7 pm	<b>LWSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile Spurlock's home, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, 323-5358
13 Tues	7pm	<b>CANDIDATES FORUM: Redwood City Elementary School District</b> Location: McKinley Institute of Technology, 400 Duane Street, Redwood City
14 Wed	7pm	<b>CANDIDATES FORUM: Menlo Park Fire Protection District</b> Location: Fire Station 1 Classroom, 300 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
15 Thurs	7pm	<b>CANDIDATES FORUM: Sequoia Union High School District</b> Location: SUHSD District Board Room, 480 James Street, Redwood City
15 Thurs	7:30 pm	<b>LEAGUE BOOK GROUP</b> discusses <i>Why Women Should Rule The World</i> by Dee Dee Myers Location: Luise Maier's home, 101 Alma, #502, Palo Alto 324-0168 <b>See page 2</b>
20 Tues	7pm	<b>CANDIDATES FORUM: Woodside Elementary School District</b> Location: Woodside Elementary School Campus, Room 39 (Wildcats Meeting Room), 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside
21 Wed	7pm	<b>CANDIDATES FORUM: Redwood City's City Council</b> Location: City Council Chambers, 1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City
24 Sat	9:30 am - 2:30 pm	<b>LWVC REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP</b> at Avenidas, 450 Bryant, Palo Alto. Registration includes lunch: \$25, if paid before Oct 16 / \$30 after Oct 16 (\$15 attendance only) <b>See page 4 for info</b>
27 Tues	7pm	<b>TIMELY TOPIC</b> featuring guest speaker Stanford Professor Rakesh Mohan on <i>India Today</i> Location: The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road, Portola Valley <b>See Front Page for info</b>
NOVEMBER		
2 Mon	7 pm	<b>LWSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile Spurlock's home, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, 323-5358
3 Tues		<b>ELECTION DAY</b> (check our website for our local Candidates Forums and <a href="http://SMARTVOTER.org">SMART VOTER.org</a> for candidate information and election updates

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	<p><b>League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County</b>                  713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9                  Menlo Park, CA 94025                  Phone: (650) 325-5780                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org">info @ LWVSSMC.org</a></p>	<p><b>Non-Profit Org</b>                  U.S. Postage                  PAID                  Permit # 256                  Menlo Park, CA</p>
<p><b>Now's A Great Time To Recruit New Members to the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County. By the way, have you renewed?</b>                  Annual dues \$75. Make check payable to LWVSSMC. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Dues are not tax-deductible but contributions to our Education Fund are. Keep democracy alive. SUPPORT THE LEAGUE!</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Street _____</p> <p>City, Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____ Home or Cell</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p><b>Return this form and your \$75 check to: LWV of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9, Menlo Park, CA 94025. (Note: Membership dues are <u>not</u> tax deductible)</b></p>		<p><b>Dated Material</b>                  Please Expedite</p> <p><i>Address Service Requested</i></p>