



# The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

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### **TIMELY TOPICS MEETING**

#### **PARKS FOR THE FUTURE**

Julia Bott, Executive Director  
San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation  
Tuesday, March 21, 2006  
at Jamie Shepard's Home  
930 Nob Hill Road, Redwood City, CA 94061  
6:30 pm potluck  
7:30 pm speaker and discussion.

Please

RSVP by Monday, March 20 to the League office (325-5780)  
and tell us what you plan to bring.

### **San Mateo County Parks Funding Proposal**

For many years, park advocates in San Mateo County have been trying to find a solution to the severe cutbacks in park and recreation funding both by the County of San Mateo, and by cities and special districts within the county. Last year, legislation was enacted to authorize the County to place a measure on the ballot to raise the local sales tax by 1/8 cent to fund parks and recreation needs. This measure will require 2/3 approval of the voters, and is headed for the ballot on November 2006 if all the details come together.

Please join us to hear from Julia Bott about the details of the proposal.



## President's Message

I recently heard Bill Moyers speaking at the Celebrity Forum. He gave an impassioned talk stating that our Government of the People, by the People, and for the People is in grave danger.

The current scandals involving Jack Abramoff, Tom Delay and others are not victimless crimes. The K Street lobbyists are essentially writing most of the legislation for the benefit of corporations and other moneyed interests at the expense of seniors, children, the less fortunate in our society, the environment ...

Mr. Moyer's solution is not just campaign finance reform but publicly financed campaigns for both state and federal offices. He pointed to both Arizona and Maine as models. These states have legislatures and governors whose campaigns were publicly financed. Both have been able to pass meaningful health care reform legislation. Recently, the California Assembly passed the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act (AB583). I, personally, plan to take every opportunity to talk up the idea of Clean Money, Clean Elections to friends and neighbors.

On another note, this month I recently found a place that was happy to take packing popcorn off my hands. New Life Auctions at 1191 Chess Drive, Suite B, in Foster City.



Barbara Boles, President

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### **BOARD BRIEFS:**

At the meeting on February 7:

- Linda Liebes from "Parks for the Future" committee asked our League for support for an upcoming measure to add 1/8 cent sales tax to support county parks. The Board agreed to support the measure in principal, pending review of the actual ballot language.
- The nominating committee provided a report on progress to fill League positions for the coming program year. The position of Secretary is currently unfilled for next year.
- Upcoming program plans were reviewed, including upcoming Timely Topics: Julia Bott on "Parks for the Future" county measure in March, and a discussion on the housing trust in April. Possible speakers for our May 18 Annual Meeting were also discussed.
- The proposed budget for program year 2006-2007 was reviewed and adopted.
- It was announced that Linda Craig will be working with the CA State LWV regarding the League's positions on the Governor's infrastructure proposals. Bond measures are expected to be put before the voters on either the June or November ballots this year.

## **MORE LIVABLE SAN MATEO COUNTY**

On Monday, March 13, 2006, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors with many community leaders have joined together to sponsor More Livable San Mateo County, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at the San Mateo Expo

Center, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Richard Jackson. Dr. Jackson is an internationally renowned public health official, Professor of Environmental Health at the University of California's School of Public Health and co-author of Urban Sprawl and Public Health: Designing, Planning and Building Health Communities. Dr. Jackson will provide us

all with thought provoking insights into the damaging impact that the built environment has on our health. He presents a compelling argument on the nexus between the built environment and health outcomes,

including heart disease, diabetes and child hood obesity—often preventable diseases, but sadly, all on the rise. Most importantly, Dr.

Jackson's message offers us all with an inspiring call to action. The \$15 luncheon event will include an opportunity for lively facilitated discussion on ways we can work together to improve San Mateo County's

livability. For more information about the event go to [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us) click on the Board of Supervisors and scroll down to special events. For your convenience, you can register online at [morelivable@co.sanmateo.ca.us](mailto:morelivable@co.sanmateo.ca.us).

The deadline for registration has been extended to March 8. If you have any questions, please call me directly:

Mary McMillan, Deputy County Manager  
(650) 363-4129

## **WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, PENINSULA CHAPTER & THE LOS ALTOS PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS: JAPAN CONFRONTS A HOSTILE NEIGHBORHOOD**

At: Los Altos Public Library, Tuesday, March 21  
13 San Antonio Rd., Los Altos.

Refreshments: 7:00 pm, Program 7:30-9:00 pm Admission is free.

Speaker: **T.J.**

**Pempel, Director of East Asian Studies, Professor of Political Science, University of California Berkeley.**

Contemporary Asia presents two competing faces. On the one hand, economic and investment linkages, cultural exchanges, environmental cooperation, and high growth serve to bring the countries of the region closer together, and have kept it free from overt conflicts. In this economic arena of cooperation, Japan does well. But at the same time, particularly in Northeast Asia, Japan, China, and the two Koreas have reverted to inward-looking nationalism, and political tensions have grown. North Korea's nuclear program, Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni Shrine, and nationalist demonstrations in both China and Korea all suggest that the region is becoming "ripe for rivalry". And it is this more hostile neighborhood in which Japan must now find its broad diplomatic place. Professor Pempel will examine Japan's situation in the region and how the country is attempting to function in its hostile neighborhood.

## **FUNDS FOR THE LEAGUE!**

Kepler's Bookstore has a Community Donation Program by which 5% of your purchase price of books can be donated to SSMC League if you so request. You do not need to know the specific code number, they will look it up – just remember to ask for this donation every time you shop. We have received some very useful checks from Kepler's

**BOOK GROUP** At our March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Book Group will be discussing ***Freakonomics*** by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner at the home of Barbara Seaney, 2415 Sharon Oaks Drive, Menlo Park at 7:30 pm. At our last Book Group we decided to postpone the discussion of ***Political Genius*** by Doris Kearns Goodwin until September, because of the size of the book. Our selection for April will be ***Unconquerable World*** by Jonathan Schell.

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 7 Tues. Board Meeting. Home of Maria Starr, 601 Laurel Ave. #903, San Mateo
- 10 Fri. VOTER deadline
- 13 Mon. 11:30-1:30 “More Livable San Mateo County,” Keynote speaker: Dr. Richard Jackson  
San Mateo Co. Expo Center, Pavilion Bldg., 2425 S. Delaware St., San Mateo
- 16 Thurs. 7:30 pm Book Group. “Freakonomics” by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner at the  
home of Barbara Seaney, 2415 Sharon Oaks Drive, Menlo Park.
- 21 Tues. 6:30 pm Timely Topics “Parks for the Future”, Julia Bott,  
SM Co. Parks & Recreation Found. at Jamie Shepard’s 930 Nob Hill Road, R. C.
- 21 Tues. 7-9 pm World Affairs Council: Japan Confronts a Hostile Neighborhood.  
Los Altos Public Library, 13 San Antonio Rd., Los Altos.

### APRIL

- 4 Tues. Board Meeting
- 7 Fri. VOTER deadline
- 18 Tues. Timely Topics – San Mateo County Housing Trust
- 20 Thurs. Book Group, “Unconquerable World” by Jonathan Schell.

### MAY

- 18 Thurs. **LWVSSMC Annual Meeting** – Ten Fu Restaurant. *Save the Date*