



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 72 No. 5

May 2008

BALBOA PARK: THE SOUL OF SAN DIEGO **Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century**

Vicki Granowitz, Chair of the Balboa Park Committee, is speaking at the Annual Meeting on May 31st at 10:30 a.m. at the Mission Valley Library.

See the insert in this *Voter* for the details and registration form.

A recent report with the above title was issued by the Center for City Park Excellence of the Trust for Public Land, Keston Institute for Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy at the University of Southern California, the Morey Group, the Legler Benbough Foundation, the Parker Foundation, and the San Diego Foundation. You can find it on the web by searching for Balboa Park Study. Much of the report is a survey of Balboa Park usage done last August and September.

The land for Balboa Park was donated in 1868; it now consists of 1,200 acres containing 85 cultural, conservation, and recreation organizations. There are an estimated ten million visitors each year – 24% from the city, another 50% from the county, another 10% from the state, and 15% from out of state.

Some of the institutions lease the land and buildings as well as maintain their property although this study does not list the amounts that the institutions pay:

- ♦ 120 acres to the Zoological Society
- ♦ 78 acres to the U.S. Naval Hospital
- ♦ 31 acres to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for camps
- ♦ 26 museums
- ♦ Morley Field and Bud Kearns swimming pool
- ♦ 220 acres for the Golf Course

There is also a defunct 77-acre landfill.

The park is owned by the City of San Diego and operated by the Developed Regional Parks Division within the Department of Park and Recreation. The public is able to advise the operation through the Balboa Park Committee and the San Diego Park and Recreation Board. Management of the park also includes scheduling many events. There are a few philanthropic organizations that provide support for the park as well. After the Mayor's re-engineering of city departments, maintenance and opera-

tion of the park has been spread around to different departments so monitoring is less transparent. Balboa Park's budget is also meshed within various city departments. Major repairs and renovations have not been done due to the budget crisis. The park Master Plans and transportation/parking plans have largely not been implemented.

The above studies list needed improvements such as retrofitting for earthquakes, removing asbestos, replacing sewer lines, upgrading the irrigation system, renovating the playground and swimming pool, and reclaiming the landfill. The total cost for these projects is \$238 million – too much to cover with bonds. Most people are not aware of these problems and “the deterioration of the park is proceeding despite the lack of a public outcry.” Currently, there is no official body with the focus on Balboa Park, so governance of Balboa Park also needs to be “effective and transparent in planning and decision-making with clear lines of authority and responsibility, (and) mechanisms for ensuring the availability of adequate funds....” The report suggests that there are three possible ways to resolve some of these issues:

- ♦ The City of San Diego retains Balboa Park and signs an agreement with a private nonprofit partner
- ♦ The City of San Diego signs a Joint Powers Agreement with one or more governmental agencies
- ♦ The City of San Diego creates a new park district to run just Balboa Park.

Ms. Granowitz will elaborate on the report and how this issue will be decided.

You won't want to miss this in-depth look at what is happening in ---and to ---Balboa Park.

Make your reservation for the Annual Meeting now with the registration on the insert enclosed.

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Nov. 2007– June 2008
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Next Voter

**There will be no Voter in June. Deadline
for copy for the Summer Voter will be
June 17.**

Letter from the President

There's a South American folk tale with the moral: Beware what you ask for because you might just get it!

And what do you know, this year's LWVSD board of directors and officers were determined to carve out a vibrant, enriching, enlightening, and relevant role for the League of Women Voters in the affairs of the city of San Diego and we're doing it!

Yes, our activism comes at a cost. It's often exhausting! Frazzling! We've been criticized for being too active, too inactive, too left-leaning, too right-leaning, too bold, too timid. We've been chastised for not playing the game, for not folding into the "old-boys network." Bottom line: we're proud of the independent and unique role we play in the life of our city and have no intention of relaxing our standards and efforts toward citizen education and government reform.

Our work on candidates' forums is in full swing. Our Lunch with League series is a wild success. At this writing, our May 1st Civic Symposium focused on the dire state of city finances is ready to go, with participants from the offices of the Mayor, Independent Budget Analyst, City Attorney, municipal unions, Pension Board, and city retirees association, plus University of San Diego economics expert, all on the dais.

We'll soon be convening our annual membership meeting where we'll elect next year's board, fix up our bylaws, confirm new programs, be alerted to problems in the heart of our city, Balboa Park, and not least, enjoy one another's company.

We're all privileged to have access to the special organization called the San Diego League of Women Voters. Why? Because it lays at our feet the potential for making a positive difference in the future of our city, our region, and who knows...maybe the world. All we have to do is jump on in!

---Norma Damashek, President

ndamashek@ucsd.edu / 858 459-8751

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

City Attorney Debate Moderated by LWV

We have a great opportunity to come and listen to all the candidates for City Attorney. The University City Community Association is sponsoring the debate at the University City High School on Thursday, May 14th @ 6:30 PM. They have invited the League to moderate it. Come and be informed.

HERE'S ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY! This is going to be a big year for debates. We need more moderators. Please call me at 858-674-0909 or email wein2@aol.com if you are interested. I have all the information needed for the job and it is a worthwhile project for the League.

---Betty Weinberger,
Candidate Forums Chair

Mayoral Debate

On May 30th from 6:30-8:00PM at the KPBS studios, a debate will be presented by KPBS, KGTV and Azteca America TV.

Gloria Penner and Hal Clement will be the moderators. Questions will be asked by reporter panelists Amita Sharma, Kimberly Hunt and Matt Hall.

We are asked to have 25 members attend & We must send in the names by May 23rd. There will be questions from the audience. I have a map with directions and parking information.

If interested contact Jeanne Brown,
jhisten@cox.net or 619-857-1807

---Betty Weinberger,
Candidate Forums Chair

Endorsements for the June 3 Election!

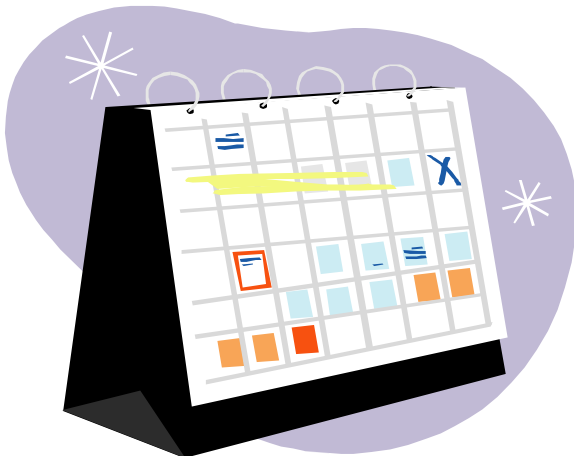
League of Women Voters of California

- ♦ opposes Prop 98
- ♦ supports Prop 99

League of Women Voters of San Diego

- ♦ opposes Prop C

An analysis of the city of San Diego propositions will be mailed to members shortly.



Mark Your Calendar for Events Coming Up!

May 31 Annual Meeting

Mission Valley Library, 10 am - 1 pm

June 7 County League Convention

Pomerado Hospital Conference Room,
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

June 10 La Jolla Unit PotLuck -

Call Alice McCauley for Information

See Unit calendar on page 5 for her phone number.

We Educated Hundreds of San Diegans at Earth Day!

For several years now, the LWVSD has had a booth at the big Earth Day Festival in Balboa Park --- the country's largest free event with an estimated 60,000 in attendance. It provides great visibility for us and a chance to educate people on the chosen topic - this year it was *Recycling and Zero Waste*.

Jill Elsner, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, wrote up a recycling quiz which was very popular among adults and children alike. It was amazing how many people did not know which plastics to recycle!

We gave away 200 Calabrian pine trees donated by **Sherman Nursery** in San Marcos; Catherine Stoll planted each tree in a cup and added a note from the League about how to plant and care for it. The County Water Department gave us toothpaste tube squeezers with a message about saving water on them for handouts in the afternoon. Other League volunteers at the booth included Sharon Allen, Sally Anslyn (Catherine's houseguest), Suzy Bridges, Carol Broman, Jeanne Brown, Beryl Flom, and Roberta Froome.

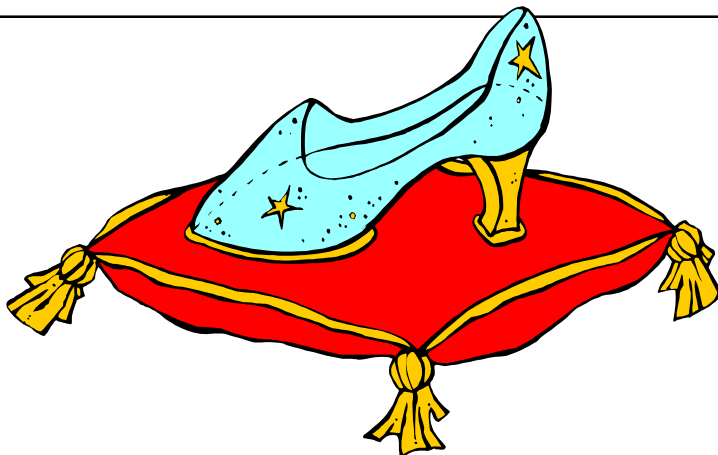
P.S. All the volunteers got their walk in too, as there was little parking close by!

Do You Have a Story for Us?

Storybanks is a new program from National LWV, which has proven successful at interesting new members in our chapter --- and in us! We would like to print your story of how you happened to join LWV. The stories really motivate others to join and become active. Think back to how it happened to you, jot down a few lines and send it to me at the office, LWV, 4901 Morena Blvd., #104, San Diego 92117.

There won't be a Voter in June, but maybe the Summer issue will have your story! We hope to hear from you soon. Thanks for all you do and have done for the League

--- Jeanne Brown VP Administration
jhisten@cox.net



The Smart Voter --- share it with your friends and neighbors!

Do friends rely on you for information on the candidates and ballot measures? If so, this is a reminder to refer them to www.smartvoter.org because precincts are different and therefore their candidates are, too! Encourage your friends to input their address on this website and a personalized ballot for the June 3 election will appear. Smart Voter includes candidates for seats in the U.S. Congress, California Senate and Assembly, Judiciary, and the school districts (County, Community College and San Diego City Schools). The deadline for registering to vote and other election information will also be found there. Please promote it with all your friends and acquaintances!

Together for California's Future

**The LWV Education Committee asks you to support this cause.
We can make a difference!**

California faces a serious budget crisis.

It's been a long time in the making — and it can't be swept under the rug any longer, but cutting the services Californians rely on isn't the solution. As a state, we must face the hard realities of figuring out how to pay for the vital services Californians need and support: quality schools, affordable healthcare, safe communities, help for those who need it and a good quality of life. Deep cuts will damage our state and jeopardize our future.

The mid-year cuts have already hit California schools and healthcare providers hard. The cuts proposed for the next fiscal year will be devastating to California and cause irreversible damage to our state:

- ♦ **Education.** \$4.8 billion in additional cuts to public schools and colleges will result in layoffs of teachers, counselors, special ed assistants, and other critical school staff. Class sizes will increase; schools will be closed; critical programs will be slashed.
- ♦ **Healthcare.** The budget would cut over a billion dollars out of hospitals and the health care system, restricting access for millions and affecting all of us by endangering the healthcare facilities we all rely on, such as emergency rooms and trauma centers.
- ♦ **Human services.** Our most vulnerable populations – the elderly, people with disabilities, abused children, and foster children, would all face deep cuts to services that help them survive.
- ♦ **Quality of life.** One of five state parks would be closed; thousands of prisoners could be released without the support to help them re-enter society safely and successfully, and local economies throughout the state would suffer.

Who We Are

Seniors, parents, teachers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, school employees, healthcare advocates, environmentalists, people with disabilities, caregivers and working families who are united for investing in California's future. Partial list of organizations: AARP, LWV of California, California Federation of Teachers, California Labor Federation, California League of Conservation Voters, California School Board Association (CSBA), California State PTA, California Teachers Association (CTA), Sierra Club of California and many others.

Our Commitment to California

We do not intend to stand by and allow more cuts that would further harm kids and families in California, who are already struggling in this difficult economy. We're committed to educating the public about the effects of the cuts and the need for leadership in Sacramento to find a better way. California can't cut its way out of this budget crisis. California needs all of its leaders to work out a solution that will preserve our schools, communities, and quality of life.

LWVC feels that selective budget cuts, based on need, rather than a reflexive across the board slashing is preferable. Many programs cannot be cut so such cuts fall disproportionately on programs that do not have such mandated protection. LWVC could favor certain tax increases depending on type of tax and use of those tax moneys. It is also very important that the State identify where loopholes - tax incentives/credits - could be plugged, savings in administration costs achieved, and revenue raised. We support structural changes in the way California constructs a state budget including elimination of the two-thirds majority vote now required to pass the state budget.

***The Education Committee asks you to support this cause. Use the information above and write letters under your own name, separate from the LWV, to the Governor, your State Senator and Assemblymember. Modify the ideas if you want, but we can send a landslide of protest!!
We can make a difference!***

May Unit Meetings: PROS AND CONS

Saturday, May. 10 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Note New Unit! SouthEast Unit	Malcolm X Library Market & Euclid San Diego, CA 91945	Vergie Wright (619) 264-6735
Monday, May. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Rm. 2nd Fl. 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Drive San Diego, CA 92128	Betty Weinberger (858) 674-0909 Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, May. 12 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library (in the courtyard) 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (near IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, May. 13 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, May. 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library, off Nobel at Judicial Drive	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, May. 14 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd. Bldg. 100 Ste. 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wednesday, May. 14 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Club House 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, May. 15 9:15 – 11:15 PM	East San Diego	YMCA 8881 Dallas Street La Mesa, CA 91941	Barbara Evje (619)-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — May

May 5/1	Thurs.	5:30 pm	“Shipshape or Mayday?” Forum & Candidate Mixer, Golden Hall, Silver Room
5/2	Fri.	10:30 am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
5/6	Tue.	6:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
5/8	Thurs.	9:30 am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
5/10-15			UNITS - PROS and CONS
5/17-18			LWVC Leadership Council, Sacramento
5/21	Wed.	10.00 am	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
5/21	Wed.	12:30 pm	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
5/23	Fri.	9:30 am	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
5/30	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
5/31	Sat.	10:00 am-1:00 pm	LWVSD Annual Meeting - Speaker on Balboa Park , Mission Valley Library
5/31	Sat.	1:00 pm	Short Board Meeting, Mission Valley Library
June 6/27	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
6/27		12 noon	Program Committee, LWVSD Office

Membership

Currently the LWVSD has 510 members!

Are You Interested in Forming a Unit
Where You Live?

Please welcome these new members!

We have a lot of members in zipcodes 92117 and 92109. If you are one of those that would be interested in helping to form a new Unit, call the LWV Office, 858-483-8696, and leave your name.

NAME	ZIP
Deborah Ahrenstein	92154
Amy Lepine	92101
Peter Manes	92037
Catherine L. Montgomery	92174
Eileen Peggy Whitmore	92101

“Women, Health Care, United Nations, and Talk, Talk, Talk!” Calendar of Events for May!

The International Museum of Human Rights at San Diego (iMoHR) invites you and your friends to a lecture and discussion, ***What Health Care Program Meets the Needs of ALL Americans?*** which addresses the issue of medical care as a universal human right! An eight-minute segment of a DVD (*Salud!*) on the Cuban medical care model will be shown, followed by presentations from a panel of health care professionals: **Jeffrey Bruce Gordon, MD, MPH**, Family and Preventive Medicine Physician; **Stanley Mendoza, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics, UCSD; and **Becky Motlagh, RN**, United Nurses Association of CA/Union of Health Care Professionals.

Sunday, May 4 , 2 pm

Lecture and discussion:

Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway

Free! Light refreshments!

In late February, several League members participated in the annual session (the 52nd!) of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women. To learn about their week at the UN, please join the San Diego delegates for a discussion about **“Promoting Women's Equity and Empowerment: Is the United Nations the Answer?”** Several questions will be addressed: What does the UN do for women's rights? What is the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)? What role does the United States play at the UN's CSW? What role do organizations like the LWVUS, UN Association, AAUW play at the CSW?

Saturday, May 17, 10 am-12 noon

St. Dunstan's Church, 6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San Carlos

Coffee, pastries, and fruit

Hosted by the AAUW, there is no charge, but donations to AAUW's Tech Trek Fund will be graciously accepted! **Directions to St. Dunstan's Church:** I-8 East to College Ave., go North to Navajo Rd., turn right and proceed to Park Ridge Blvd. Take a right. St. Dunstan's is at the second stop sign at Wandermere. The parking lot is just past the church.

--- Anne Hoiberg, Co-Chair, International Relations Committee,
619-223-8074 or ahoiberg@aol.com



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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

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