



San Diego VOTER

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March 2007

March Unit Meetings: International Issues

Another World is Possible

At the World Social Forum convened in Nairobi, Kenya in January the 45,000 delegates agreed that a better world is possible. Speakers for more than 200 workshops and panels concluded that poverty is one of the most serious dangers in today's world. Of a total world population of 6.4 billion, one billion people currently live in slums, which may double by the year 2020. The lack of jobs and of adequate housing world wide are issues that are not being addressed, especially in our country.

Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi, speaking at the WSF, stated that we will never have peace until we confront the problem of poverty. Factors related to poverty are 1) the huge expenditures on militarism and 2) financial corruption, which should be viewed as a crime against humanity. She doesn't think her country, Iran, should spend any of its treasury on armaments nor does she think the U.S. is safer as a result of spending more than \$800 billion last year on its military.

At the 2000 World Millennium Summit, 189 heads of government and state agreed to adopt the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs in an effort to address the universal problem of poverty, which would also have an impact on the war on terror.

The MDGs, to be accomplished by 2015, include: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2) achieve universal primary education; 3) promote gender equality; 4) reduce child mortality; 5) improve maternal health; 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases; 7) ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) develop a global partnership for development.

At the unit meetings, a brief lecture will be followed by a discussion of these questions:

1. Poverty: What is the role of the U.S. and other members of the U.N. in eradicating extreme poverty and the other MDGs? Are these goals achievable by 2015? How is poverty associated with war and with women's and children's rights?
2. War: What other factors are related to war? How can society be re-channeled into peaceful ways? When are wars legal or illegal? How could the international community have prevented the Afghanistan and Iraq wars or the bombings of Lebanon and Somalia?
3. Human rights and international law: What are human rights? How can human rights violating countries and leaders be punished? How effective are treaties, conventions, and covenants in promoting human rights? Is it ever acceptable to dismiss a ratified treaty, e.g., the Convention against Torture? Are women's and children's rights taking a back-seat to the war on terror?
4. Humanitarian concerns: During times of disaster (e.g., the 2004 tsunami), how effective is the international community in providing humanitarian assistance? What efforts are needed to improve the lives of people living in war- or disaster-impacted regions of the world? How can children be protected during and after armed conflict?
5. United Nations: What changes should be initiated at the U.N. to make it more effective? How can we encourage our government to be more supportive of the U.N.?

Another world is possible, and on a quiet day, you can even hear it breathe. — Arundhati Roy

Anne Hoiberg, Co-chair
International Relations Committee

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Phone: (858) 483-8696 FAX: (858) 483-8396

Email: lwwsd@san.rr.com
Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
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Please note the change of date for the Annual Meeting to June 2nd because LWVC Convention is in May.

The League Needs a New Dues Secretary

I've enjoyed being Dues Secretary for six years because keeping records of members is essential to the League, and I got to know many members and officers. The job involves maintaining members' records, processing their dues, and a monthly report. You can do most of your work at home, whenever it's convenient for you. (You do need a computer with Microsoft Word). The Membership Committee helps when needed. Moreover, I intend to work with the new Dues Secretary during the year as needed.

If you like getting to know League members and officers, like working at your own pace and have a head for detail, you will enjoy this work. Please phone or e-mail me if you want more information, or would like to meet with me.

Dee Sacks, 619-226-2252
deesacks@cox.net

Save the Date!

A Lunch with the League sponsored by the Education Committee. will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd at Annex C of the S.D. County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Rd.

The topic will be "The Challenges for San Diego City and County Schools for Educating our Children". The exciting speakers will be Dr. Randolph Ward, S.D. County Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Carl Cohn, S.D. City Superintendent of Schools.

A buffet lunch will be served in Annex C at 11:00 with the program beginning at 11:30. There will be an hour presentation followed by an hour for questions and discussion. The program will end at 1:30.

Cost will be \$15. Space is limited to 60 people. The room is handicapped accessible. Free parking is available on site.

Penny Adler, chair
dadler@ucsd.edu

Please welcome these recent new members.

Sharon Allen	92107	Jean E. Landram	92108
Heather Andrade	92101	Hilda M. Lehman	92107
Sonja G. Dupourque	92118	Verna D. Price	92107
Arline Fisch	92103	Isabel Schon	92037
Zena Grant	92109	Martha A. Wild	92104
Pamalee Hamilton	92037	Donald J. Wood	91941
Susan Hammons	92110	Peter Worcester	92122



Hurry! Tickets are going fast!

We must have your reservation by March 9th!
Call the League office (858-483-8696) to make your reservation and send in a check to hold your tickets!

“Driving Miss Daisy”

Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Alfred Uhry
presented by
Theatre 40, a professional theatre group based in Los Angeles, at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts 15498 Espola Road, Poway, CA 92064

Sunday, March 18, 2007
12:30 Pre-theatre buffet
2:00 Matinee performance

The Poway Center’s production stars Gloria Strook (seen in “Day of the Locust”, “McMillan & Wife”) and Beau Billingslea (“The Great White Hope”, “The West Wing”).

We hope Leaguers and their friends will support our first theatre party!

You probably remember the 1989 film starring Morgan Freeman, Jessica Tandy and Dan Aykroyd. This is the story of an unlikely friendship between an elderly Jewish woman and her African-American chauffeur. The story, based on real people, takes place in Atlanta, Georgia, over a span of several decades. It brings to the surface issues which are sensitive, touching and all too human.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts is a lovely, accessible community theatre for live performances. It is located near Ranch Bernardo, just 7 minutes east of the I-15. You’ll enjoy the drive, easy parking and spacious theatre interior.

The pre-theatre buffet in the Green Room and patio will include your favorites and specialty hors d’oeuvres, gourmet desserts, iced tea and coffee. There will be time to meet and talk with friends before finding our seats in the theatre (good seats, by the way).

Ticket price is \$55.

Come join us for a pleasant afternoon of theatre, good food and good conversation at the lovely Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions:

Interstate 15 North, exit on Rancho Bernardo Road. Go East (right) 3 1/2 miles. Becomes Espola Road, 1 1/2 miles to Theatre, just past Rancho Bernardo High School. Turn right at the Theatre. Park just past Theatre on the right or across the street at parking lot.

Send checks to LWV,
4901 Morena Blvd. Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117!

The League in Action!

The following statement was delivered to the San Diego City Council on Feb. 5, 2007 by the LWV Public Policy Committee. The LWV expressed its interest in a good system of checks and balances between the Mayor and the City Council regarding mayoral changes during the budget process without the approval of City Council.

A few short years ago, the LWV chaired the city transition committee to work out the details of the new mayor-council form of government. We vigorously supported the creation of an independent budget analyst office to ensure that the city council would never again be totally dependent for its decision-making on a city manager's budget figures, interpretations, and recommendations. You wisely created the tool that could place the legislative branch of city government on equal footing with the executive branch, as spelled out in Proposition F.

Why was this so important for the LWV? We've said this to you many times:

The people of this city depend on YOU, our city councilmembers, to hear and respond -- in open public meetings -- to our needs and concerns over the health, safety, and general welfare of our communities and city. The Mayor does not have the same responsibility or obligation to listen or answer directly to the public. What this means is that if your legally constituted powers are eroded, your ability to respond to your constituents is curtailed and the voice of the public gets silenced. This continues to be an overriding concern for the League.

We don't want to move backwards and repeat the follies of past years when top management, behind their closed doors, played shell games with public money. With the help of the IBA, the council is in a better position than ever to provide meaningful checks, balances, and oversight to top management. This is what leads to true efficiency and accountability in this city, from you as well as from the Mayor's office.

For the League, today's debate is very much about protecting the role of the public in local government.

Norma Damashek, Chair
Public Policy Committee

March Unit Meetings: International Relations

Remember, you may come to any meeting: Pick a time and place that is convenient. If you can't attend your customary unit meeting because of another appointment or a family matter, pick another one.

Monday, Mar 12th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Center Drive San Diego, CA 92128	Ethel Palmer (858) 675-0590 Sarah Brown 858-578-1503
Monday, Mar 12th 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (next to IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson 619- 475-8236
Tuesday, Mar 13th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Mar 13th 1:00 – 3:00 PM Note change of starting time.	University City	Home of Susan Betts 2648 Nansen Avenue San Diego, CA 92122	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Mar 14th 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Boulevard, Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Mar 14th 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta & East San Diego	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Drive San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214 Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — March

2	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
6	Tues.	6:00 p.m.	LWVSD Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
8	Thurs	9:30 p.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
9	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	LWVSD Program Committee, S. Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd., 92117
3/12 to 15			UNITS - International Relations
18	Sun	2:00 p.m.	“Driving Miss Daisy” Spring Fund Raiser
20	Tues	6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee, LWVSD Office
21	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
21	Wed	12:30 p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
23	Fri	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office

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.

Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice,
Voices of Women and
Women's Equity Council of the United Nations Association-San Diego Chapter
cordially invites you to

**Third Annual International Women's Day
Celebration Breakfast**

"Global Dispatches: Ending Discrimination and Violence
Against the Girl Child"

Thursday, March 8, 2007

7:00 – 7:30 A.M.: Registration/Buffer Breakfast

7:30 – 8:45 A.M.: Program

**Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice
(Rooms A – D)**

University of San Diego

5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego 92110

\$16.00/person; \$8.00/student

Payments are accepted via credit card or check. Please make checks payable to USD, with IPJ in the memo line, and send to the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, Attention: Lisa Anderson, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492. For additional information or to be listed as a co-sponsor: contact 619-260-7509 or <http://peace.sandiego.edu>

Cosponsors

International Relations Committee, League of Women Voters

International Interests Committee, American Association of University Women

National Organization for Women, San Diego County Chapter

San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women

**51st Annual Session of the United Nations
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York**

Global Dispatches are presented on issues pertinent to the girl child. Every year, representatives from nations worldwide gather at the U.N. to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. This year, topics center on the girl child and include violence, poverty, sexual exploitation, education, and discrimination.

**LWV members attending the CSW-51 will be
Dee Aker, Rebecca Booth, Jeanne Brown, and Anne Hoiberg.**



Community Forum on Health Care Policy "Is single payer the answer?"

A short film, "The Health Care Solution: California OneCare"

Panel discussion

Written questions from the audience.

Monday, March 5, 2007



At Tierra Bonita Elementary School Multipurpose Room
14678 Tierra Bonita Rd
Poway, CA 92064

6:30 refreshments

7:00 film and panel presentations

8:00 written questions from audience

8:30 adjourn

Moderator: Sylvia Hampton, League of Women Voters

Panelists:

- * California Nurses Association, Bella Montgomery, R.N.
- * Health Care for All/CA, Kathy Rallings, Co-Director
- * Physicians for a National Health Plan, Allen Nalbandian, MD
- * District 36 A statement from Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
- * District 75 A statement from Assemblyman George Plescia

Sponsored by:

American Association of University Women, Poway/Penasquitos Branch
Health Care for All/CA, San Diego County Chapter
League of Women Voters of San Diego County




For more information:

Sylvia Hampton at 858-578-8852 or Sylvia-hampton@sbcglobal.net



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.

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**Make History! Join Joan Embry
March 24th at 5pm at UCSD
to celebrate
Six Extraordinary San Diego Women
at San Diego County
Women's Hall of Fame!
(A Partner of LWV SD)**

For more information,
contact www.whmec.org/sd_hof
or Women's History Museum, (619) 233-7963.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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