

## UNIT MEETINGS — BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park will be the topic for the May unit meetings. Although the San Diego League has a local park position, it does not specifically address Balboa Park. We need to decide whether the current park position should be updated to better cover proposed changes in the governance and historical nature of Balboa Park. After receiving more background information from the resource member of the committee, each Unit will discuss these questions at the May and June Unit Meetings:

1) Should League support the vision statement from the 1989 Balboa Park Master Plan “...to nurture and enhance the cultural, recreational and passive resources of the Park to meet the needs of the region and surrounding community, while respecting its physical, cultural and historical environment...”

2) Should League support the position expressed in the Master Plan for Balboa Park wherein City Trustees in 1868 set aside 1,400 acres of Pueblo Lands as a permanent preserve “...to be held in trust forever... for the purpose of a free and public park and for no other or different purpose.”

3) Should League support preserving and enhancing

free and open parkland including plant preservation, maintenance and replacement and with no net loss of open space.



4) Should League support a position encouraging the expansion of parking facilities outside the core of the Park (Prado, Plaza de Panama, and Palisades areas) to enhance the pedestrian experience within the Park core.

5) Should League encourage fiscal decisions that will preserve Balboa Park as an affordable experience for all citizens of San Diego.

6) Should League support public access to meetings and to information regarding the operations and activities of the proposed Balboa Park Conservancy and/or any other public-private Park management and funding organization acting for the City, as required by the Brown Act.

7) Should League support preserving the historic aspect of the architecture, landscape and culture of Balboa Park.

For the current LWVSD position on parks, please see page 6.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Greetings from Sao Paulo and Curitiba, Brazil

Ah, Brazil, the country where women wear tight, tight jeans with stilettos; where the normal greeting of men and women is a buzz kiss on the cheek; where young, handsome men serve in elected office; where a woman is president; where there's samba, still popular after 94 years; and where there is an overall sense that Brazil will continue to grow economically, politically, and socially. Brazil, of course, will flourish because it is extremely self-sufficient, supplying most of its own needs in terms of food, primary resources, energy, and manufactured products.



As members of the LWVUS Legislative Fellows Program, five of us from the U.S. arrived on April 9 in Sao Paulo for twelve days to greet and meet with the five young Brazilian legislative fellows who had visited the U.S. during 2010. While in the U.S., these Brazilian women learned about our legislative process and various programs developed by nongovernmental organizations. San Diego's legislative fellow, Michely Ribeiro da Silva, met with representatives at the local, county, state, and federal levels (e.g., the offices of Donna Frye, Pam Slater-Price, Lori Saldaña, Denise Moreno Ducheny, and Susan Davis). She also exchanged ideas with representatives from nongovernmental organizations in areas of interest to her, in her work with African-Brazilian youth and in health and HIV/AIDS. Michely was graciously hosted by Jeanne and Alex Brown in their home during her three-week stay in San Diego.

Similarly, the five of us from the U.S. met with or observed Brazilian representatives from the same levels of government and with leaders from numerous nongovernmental organizations. The most impressive presentation was delivered (without notes) by the Brazilian minister of education who emphasized the importance of quality education taught by teachers who, as professionals, should receive a high salary. Two state-elected officials and two municipal leaders concurred with the minister in that quality education and well-paid teachers are the most important issues facing Brazil.

At a "Women in Politics" morning session, Parana' state-elected women senators (three women of a total of 54 in the legislature) discussed the difficulty in identifying women who will run for office—to fill the 30% quota. LWVUS's Zaida Arguedas broadened the discussion by highlighting the five barriers women in politics face: 1) filling the quotas, 2) reaching out to women of color to run, 3) providing sufficient campaign funds, 4) educating the public about the importance of electing women, and 5) encouraging women to support each other. Zaida's Brazilian partner, Maria Goretti from both the federal and state ministry of health and Women's Space, summarized her organization's efforts to train women to run, to provide candidates with a newly-published campaign manual, to pursue free time on the radio for exposure, and to encourage the numerous political parties to recruit and support women.

Other important issues raised at a political party convention (on Sunday, the 17th) and during meetings with NGOs, the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo, and elected officials centered on crime, gangs, graffiti, poverty, jobs, women's 30% quota (why not 70%?), violence against women, racism, improved free health care, and industrial development. Concerning environmental issues, the city of Curitiba was honored in 2010 as the Best Sustainable City in the World and the third smartest city worldwide by Forbes. Comparable to San Diego in size, Curitiba concentrates efforts on the creation of parks (35 parks and forests to date), municipal transportation, and recycling programs. To the outsider, Curitiba truly is the "City for the People." During visits to several of Curitiba's parks, I thought of our own Balboa Park and the League's efforts to ensure that it remains the "Park for the People." During all of our many discussions, no mention was made of the military; it seems the people, health, education, environment, and jobs far outweigh funding of national defense. Hmm, now there's a concept we all can embrace!

— Anne Hoiberg, President

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# UNIT CALENDAR — May — Balboa Park

**Note changes in Bold Typeface**

Saturday, May 7 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Frances Bumpus 619-263-7335 La Quita Robbins 619-470-9095
<b>Monday, May 9 Luncheon 12 noon</b>	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	<b>The Pearl Restaurant 11666 Avena Place, San Diego CA 92128 858-487-3388</b>	Claire Weiner 858-679-7350 Betsy Stevens 858-451-5653
Monday, May 9 2 – 4 p.m.	Coronado	Coronado Police Dept. Community Room; 700 Orange Ave. Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy 619-437-4597
Tuesday, May 10 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	La Jolla	Riford Center 6811 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA 92037	Joan Dahlin 858-454-5019 Sherry Bloom 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Tuesday, May 10 1 – 3 p.m.	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Shirley Larson 858-272-9752 Marianne Kobrak 858-450-1521
Wednesday, May 11 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Mission Valley	Meeting Room Mission Valley Library, Fenton Pkwy Ikea side of shopping center San Diego, CA 92108	Debra Blum 619-225-0353 Amy Garapich 858-270-7645 (while Debra is traveling)
<b>Wed., May 11 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (different day)</b>	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter, (858) 279-5474
<b>Cancelled for this month only</b>	East San Diego	<b>Conflict with May 12 meeting. Members are encouraged to attend another unit of your choice!</b>	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

## LWVSD CALENDAR — May

3	T	LWVSD Board, LWVSD Office, 5:30 p.m.	
5	Th	Unit Council, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.	
6	F	County League Board, LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.	
5-11		<b>Units — Balboa Park — see pages 1, 5, 6</b>	
11	W	Education Committee — Marvin Elementary, Transitional Kindergarten, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	
12	Th	<b>BALBOA PARK: THE NEXT FOUR YEARS</b> 9:30 - 12:30 pm (see page 5)	
16	M	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.	
18	W	Education Committee — Supervisor Pam Slater Price, County Administration Bldg, 10 a.m.	
27	F	Program Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.	

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership In League



Exercises

Your

We expect to attract a lot of potential members at Earth Day which occurs at the same time that articles are due to the *Voter* editor. This month we have one additional member; **Melisa Moriarty** from the 92131 zip code - hopefully you will meet her at a Unit meeting. I have invited nearly 200 new and potential members to the next Introduction to League meeting in Coronado on April 30th. During the summer, many activities of the League take a break, but the membership committee works on getting everyone to renew their dues; no increase is expected at the Annual Meeting. Look for your letter at the end of June. We are scheduled to receive a very nice donation from the estate of **Estella Mysels**, a long-time member of the La Jolla Unit. She served on the Board in the late 1970's as treasurer, human resource director, and vice president of program. Sherry Bloom says Estella participated in the LWVSD Mental Illness Study Committee in 1993 and the LWVSD Co. study on Housing for Seriously Mentally Ill People in 1995. Then she moved to Saco, CA. Estella and her husband Karl were chemists at UCSD. She was honored by the American Chemical Society as a 50-year member in 1997. The League is eternally grateful for gifts received through planned giving and for Estella's forward thinking about our needs. Her support is very much appreciated.

— Beryl Flom VP/Membership, edflom@sbcglobal.net or 858-459-4406

## EARTH DAY WAS A BIG SUCCESS

Jeanne Brown is now working with interns from the government class at High Tech High School/International. They designed our display on Miramar Landfill for Earth Day — a tri-fold poster with pictures and facts and a wheel to spin. They wrote questions about the landfill facts and quizzed each person who came to the booth. If the person got the right answer, they were given a plant to take home; if they got it wrong, they were asked to study the poster. It worked really well and we talked to probably 1,000 people about the landfill. The wheel game and the free plants particularly attracted young people and many children, but everyone was involved. League volunteers included Jill Elsner who did set-up and arrangements, Catherine Stoll and Jeanne Brown who got the plants (Sherman Nursery has been donating a couple of hundred for years), Chris Gommel, Carole Porter, and Beryl Flom. Students were Isaac Casteneda, Denzel Crittinen, Dustin Hill, Kyle Fairbrother, and Charlotte Mansour. Their teacher is Eli Cameron. LWVSD continues to be working with a coalition trying to find out more details on the managed competition proposal for Miramar Landfill.

— Beryl Flom, VP/Membership



Jeanne Brown and Carole Porter

A Panel and Discussion Sponsored by  
the League of Women Voters of San Diego

# **BALBOA PARK: THE NEXT FOUR YEARS**

**Thursday, May 12th, 2011**

**9:30 - 12:30 pm**

Recital Hall in Balboa Park  
(West Side of Palisades Parking Lot)

**Presenters**

- Stacey LoMedico - City of San Diego Park and Recreation Director
- Ron Buckley - Former City of San Diego Senior Planner, Land Use Consultant
- Carol Chang - Vice-Chair, Conservancy Organizing Committee
- Craig Vickers - Civitas, Inc., Principal Consultant for Plaza de Panama Project

Moderator: Nan Valerio - Director, Regional Governance LWVSDC

Question and Answer Session

Light Refreshments at No Charge

**Limited Seating, Reserve Early 858-454-5019 or 858-483-8696**

or email [joandahlin@yahoo.com](mailto:joandahlin@yahoo.com)

### **Another San Diego LWV Unit?**

We have been asked by a number of individuals to start another unit in the North Park/Downtown area.

If you would be interested in attending and/or helping to organize this potential unit, please contact Dolores Nelson at 619-421-9094 or [prncpl@cox.net](mailto:prncpl@cox.net).

Special thanks to Fran Venn of the education committee and ACSAR Region 18\* for distributing our luncheon flyer 'Closing the Achievement Gap' with their quarterly newsletter

\*Association of California School Administrators, Retired, San Diego and Imperial Counties

## CURRENT LWVSD POSITION ON PARKS:

- Local government has the responsibility to provide a public park system for the citizens of San Diego. Planning should include evaluation of all available methods of acquiring and retaining parklands. There should be improved procedures for citizen participation in decisions regarding the park system. (before 1971)
- The city government should employ a qualified individual, whose sole responsibility is to promote and coordinate the various facets of parklands, excluding recreation. ('83)
- Parkland Acquisition: In evaluating methods of financing parkland acquisition, additional bonding should be considered; assessment districts should be used as a last resort. (before 1971)
- Parklands should be acquired early and city government should implement the ordinance requiring a builder to contribute money or land appropriate for parks. (before 1971)
- Streets should be vacated as a means of adding to parkland. In order to prevent loss of parklands, local government should provide for dedication of parks at the time of acquisition or designation. ('76) The League supports the continuation of development of local park and recreational facilities with emphasis on providing services to those areas that currently are deficient. ('91)
- The City Charter should be amended to remove authority from the Council to place through roads in parks, retaining the need for a vote by 2/3 of the electorate to use parklands for a non-park purpose such as through roads or mass transit. Similarly, open space owned by the City and acquired for park purposes should also be dedicated and protected from use for through roads or mass transit. ('76)
- Parkland, including open space acquired for park purposes, should not be used for long-term leasing to non-profit recreational organizations or to commercial enterprises. ('83)
- Citizens should participate in the formation of park policy with improved procedures for making their needs and recommendations known to those responsible for making final recommendations and policy. ('83)

### SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, June 4, 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
ANNUAL MEETING, Mission Valley Library

Details in the enclosed insert. Please bring it with you to the meeting.



**Saturday, June 11, Poway, ILO County Convention**  
"The Healthy Works Project and the League"

Tracy Delaney, County-wide Director of the Healthy Works Project San Diego County  
Health & Human Services Agency's (HHS) "Healthy Works"

As one of several sites funded by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Healthy Works" will engage partners throughout all levels of the community to reduce chronic diseases (cardiovascular, pulmonary and cancer) by promoting physical activity, better nutrition, and elimination of tobacco by producing sustainable, positive, and improved health outcomes <http://www.cdc.gov/CommunitiesPuttingPreventiontoWork/about/index.htm>

**Wednesday June 29, LWVSD Luncheon "Democracy in Crisis"**  
Steve Freeman, University of Pennsylvania

## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

### Nancy Witt, Secretary

I grew up on a dairy farm in the little town of Rudolph, Wisconsin. My mother was a schoolteacher for four years in a one-room schoolhouse marrying my father who was working in a cranberry bog. He took over the family dairy farm that my mother was living on. The fifth of 12 children, I was the first to go to college and attended Wisconsin State University at Stevens Point, now under the UW system. I had no clue what I wanted to do so took the primary school teacher path until I practice-taught in the first semester of my senior year and after three weeks, decided teaching was not for me. The psychology teacher I was working for pointed out that if I took five psych classes in the second semester, I could graduate with a psychology degree, as I already had enough for a psych minor. That was the path I took, and I passed the federal government test to be a claims representative for the Social Security Administration rather than go on to graduate school. I had my three months training in Indianapolis, IN.

My first duty station was in South Bend, IN, which is where I met my first husband. We moved to San Diego in February 1971, I started with the El Cajon office three months later, and I ended up retiring from the downtown SD office in August 2002. I enjoyed my 34 years working first in the Social Security program, and then for the last 25 years or so just in the SSI program; three of those were as a supervisor. SSI, Supplemental Security Income, was the new federal program started in 1974 that took over all of the states' welfare programs to standardize them with the same rules and money amounts that states could add money to also. There never was a dull moment with the varying clientele and regulations that came up along the way.

I divorced my first husband but remained his best friend until he passed in 1998; he was the father of my only

child, a son born in 1977 who graduated from Wharton, U of PA and is living in San Diego; I had thought he'd end up in NYC when he went to college there; luckily, he realized how much he liked San Diego after working one summer here. He is married and after working almost six years in an investment company, he prefers being self employed in editing and writing. I have a granddog, Buddy, a cute blind shitzu that we are happy to dogsit.

Though I've always been interested in politics, I could never be politically active as a federal employee until President Clinton signed an executive order letting us join political clubs. In the mid-90's, I met Anne at one such meeting, and she told me about the National Women's Political Caucus that I also joined until it disbanded. I was the president of my local political club four years in the 90's and three and a half years in the last 10 besides being a volunteer in the county office since the mid-90's and a delegate to the state political convention for six years.

I've been married to Stewart since 1991; he retired as an appraiser for the county of San Diego. We enjoy travelling, going to movies, eating out, ushering at different theatre venues at least 8-10 times a month, and we've worked at a polling place for every election until the last two, for the last seven years. I enjoy gardening, walking, and reading.

I retired in August 2002 and had seen a notice earlier that summer about the LWVSD having an open house for new members. I had been telling myself that I wouldn't join anything more until I was retired for six months, but decided to attend the meeting, and that's when I joined the League. It's caused me to focus more on what's going on locally, in addition to politics beyond San Diego. I've been very impressed with the energy and enthusiasm I've seen in so many Leaguers, and I am





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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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.

### PLEASE JOIN LEAGUE

Individual Membership \$50       Additional Household Memberships \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to join at this time, but I am enclosing a tax-deductible\* contribution of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_  Please contact me with more information

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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