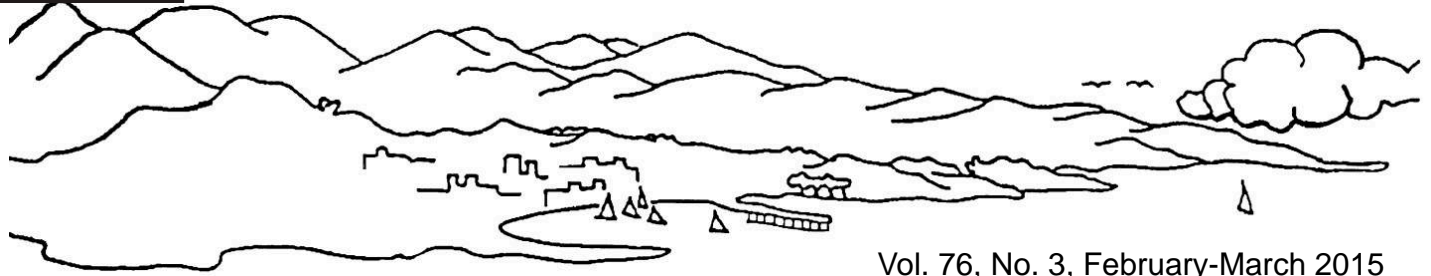




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 76, No. 3, February-March 2015

Hot Topics:

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Wednesday, Feb. 18 Community Forum:

Crimes Against Women: Rape, Trafficking and Domestic Violence

According to the World Health Organization, 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. An average of 30 percent of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of sexual abuse by their partner. Globally, as many as 38 percent of murders are committed by an intimate partner.

The February forum will address this critical societal breakdown--Crimes Against Women. Six prominent Santa Barbara proponents for women and men's safety have agreed to join our panel. They will define the scope of their expertise and tell us what we can do as citizens to stem the tide of these abusive behaviors. The panelists are:

Joyce Dudley, Santa Barbara County District Attorney and longtime advocate for women's rights

Marsha Marcoe, Associate Executive Director for Domestic Violence Solutions

Elsa Granados, Director of the Rape Crisis Clinic

Megan Riker-Rheinschild, Director of Victim-Witness Assistance Program for the DA's office.

Emily Allen, managing attorney for the Homeless Education Legal Project of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County and Common Ground Santa Barbara County

Elizabeth Diaz, supervising attorney of Legal Aid's Family Violence Unit

Let me add a personal note: along with thousands of other participants, I attended the 2012 Convention on Violence Against Women at the United Nations for the League of Women Voters. What an eye-opener! What I thought I knew, I didn't; what I thought I could do was altered, and I learned that what is happening worldwide is both gratifying and horrifying. You will learn much more about this topic from our panel.

Jane Benefield, Publicity Co-Chair

Wednesday, March 18 Community Forum

Why is Housing the First Priority for the Homeless?

You may have seen the coverage of Housing First on the Daily Show or read about it in a recent article in the Economist. At the March Community Forum you will learn more about solutions for ending homelessness in Santa Barbara County and you will hear the results of the January 2015 Vulnerability Survey that was conducted throughout the county.

Panelists will include Santa Barbara Mayor **Helene Schneider**, who will discuss **the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**. This challenge is a way to solidify partnerships and secure commitments to end veteran homelessness from mayors across the country. (Continued on Page 5)

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street, from noon to 2 p.m. They are always free and open to the public. You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Parking behind the center is free during the forums.

A Message from Co-President Joanie Jones

Thank yous and kudos: The holiday gathering with speaker Joe Holland was both fun and informative. He covered the many aspects of his position as Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor, as well as Registrar of Voters. The statistics Mr. Holland presented and the records of property transfers, voter registration and votes cast, and SB records of the national poll tax (which was abolished in 1914) gave our members and guests a real history lesson during our usual Community Forum time. We all enjoyed a lovely holiday luncheon with homemade desserts. Thanks go to our League Hospitality Co-Chairs Suzanne Brothen and Bonnie Jensen and a team of volunteers for the lovely luncheon. Thanks to Jane Benefield for inviting Joseph Holland to be our presenter.



Observer Corps: Our League is blessed with so many talented individuals. At this time I especially thank members who are officially acting as Observers—Jane Benefield, Cheryl Rogers and Lindsey Baker. Others continue to observe as part of their committee work. You are tireless in your observing, either live or by television, the various meeting that our city and county governments hold throughout the year. By observing and reporting to the board and various relevant League committees what you have observed you help the League speak to the important issues that continue to need public input. When the League is absent from these meetings, governmental bodies miss us and give us a call. It is never too late to become an Official Observer for the League. Contact Cheryl Rogers, 957-1987, for more information.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: We were well represented at the annual Martin Luther King parade and program by our League board members Jane Benefield, Janice Rorick, Amanda Pelch, Linda Phillips, Bonnie Jensen and Janet Wolf. Thank you to all who supported this year's "Drum Majors for Justice." As our US League President Elisabeth MacNamara said, "In light of recent protests of the treatment of racial minorities by police departments around the country, we should take the opportunity on this solemn occasion to renew our commitment to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls."

Ed Fund Thank You: Finally, this is a special thank you for our local LWVSB Education Fund. The Ed Fund is our Voter Education financial support team. Most of you saw a note from the Fund in December. This annual letter is their only request to replenish and build the Fund. Please contribute what you can to the LWVSB Education Fund. This 501(c)(3) nonpartisan entity supports community education through citizen information/voter service programs by the local League. It facilitates informed and active participation in government. (The Ed Fund thanks you, Page 7.)

Joanie Jones, Co-President, Administration, Membership & Community Education

Discussion Units

February: Update on Water

Even with one heavy rain, we are still in a drought. Find out why—and what problems the three-year dry spell has caused—at the February Discussion Units. The focus will be on the issues that the different districts face as they deliver water to their customers. There will also be a discussion of the new desalinization proposals for the California Coast. Information about our monthly water committee meetings can be found on page 5.

March: Goleta and Carpinteria Issues

In response to the acute shortage of rental housing on the South Coast, close to 1000 units of rental housing are planned or are being constructed in Goleta. Concerns about impacts on traffic, water and greenhouse gas emissions will be discussed, as well as potential reduction in commuting from Ventura and North County. Similar issues for Carpinteria will be the focus of the Carpinteria Unit.

April: Local Study on District Elections The April Discussion Units will discuss our Local Study of At-Large v District Elections. We will talk about the January Community Forum and other information on this very timely topic. These discussions are in preparation for the Annual Meeting where members could be asked to change our League's position (adopted in 1968) in support of At-Large Elections.

For times and locations of the units, see Calendar on Page 8

The Channel Voter is published four times a year (in September, November, February and March by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101.

Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org; Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org

Inside the League

Fracking In California

The first volume of a scientific study of oil well stimulation practices in California has been released. The following are notes gleaned from the introductory webinar. There are interesting differences with other states.

- About 20 percent of the state's oil is produced with the aid of fracking.
- In California wells do not have to go as deep as wells in other states to reach oil.
- Fracking takes place only in a vertical well bore because our strata are not flat as in other states so there are no horizontal extensions
- In California high volume fracking actually uses much less water than in fracking in other states.
- However, chemical concentrations in the fracking fluid are greater.
- Fracking from offshore platforms is hampered by lack of space for the needed equipment.
- Acid fracking is not used much in CA because we have little carbonate rock, which can be dissolved by the acid.

The webinar, the report and its executive summary, as well as information on the study process, are available on the website of the California Council on Science and Technology, www.ccst.us.

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

Action Report: Local Energy

Since my last report on League activity in the oil patch we have been following several local issues:

Carpinteria Zoning

In late November the Carpinteria City Council considered changing the zoning on an area which includes the site where Venoco has proposed an oil project (Paredon). The site has a processing facility on it now, built long before the city grew to its present proximity to the plant. Our League statement supported rezoning to a more appropriate category than Coastal Dependent Industry and pointed out such an action could clear up the present inconsistency with the city's Local Coastal Plan. That LCP recognizes oil facilities to be incompatible with established residential neighborhoods.

Goleta's Oil Processing Plant Policy

In Goleta the site of that city's oil processing plant (also Venoco owned) has long been zoned for recreation. There, the City Council in December considered an ordinance to re-work the procedure for terminating so-called non-conforming uses, such as this one. The new procedure is clearer and allows continued use--under certain circumstances--for up to 20 years.

Accompanying this was a proposal to update the study done by the county in 2001, which analyzed whether the operator of the Ellwood facility had received a reasonable return on its investment.

The League supported both of these measures since we see them as a possible path to removing the health and safety risks of an oil processing plant so close to many homes and businesses. Once again what seemed like a suitable place at one time is clearly not so now.

Meantime the State Lands Commission was moving along with its consideration of reactivation of Venoco's old Pier 421 well at Ellwood. Approval was granted to the project, which intends to process the oil at the Ellwood facility. That in turn requires the company to receive a permit from the City of Goleta. In late January the City of Goleta sued the State Lands Commission over the Ellwood well. The lawsuit claims the commission violated environmental laws in approving the Venoco oil project. Stay tuned!

If you would like to participate in discussions of energy (and other) issues, come to the Sustainable Communities meetings on the second Friday of the month. For information on time and place, contact Connie Hannah (967-4720) or Jean Holmes (687-8260).

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

How to Help the League--by Shopping

If you shop on Amazon, please access the web site through our account: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0535840>. The LWVSB Education Fund will receive 0.5 percent of your purchase price at no cost to you.

Inside the League

Central Coast Sustainability Summit: Community Choice Aggregation Update

The 4th Central Coast Sustainability Summit was held Nov. 13 at UCSB on sustainable water and energy. A major topic was progress on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) where a local district is set up to purchase renewable electric power with delivery being handled by the local power company--PG&E, or Edison here.

There are several reasons for interest in CCAs. They provide for a faster, deeper push to reduce green house gas than the utilities have been pursuing. They provide long term, stable funds needed to develop local renewable energy sources. This puts money into local jobs and the local economy, with local control. It also moves us toward a safer, more stable local grid delivery system.

CCAs have been talked about locally for years without action. This year there seemed to be some motion. The state has mandated that the local governments develop plans for reducing greenhouse gasses and the first reduction milestone is in 2020. Our local governments have used CCAs as part of their plans. If they want to meet the 2020 benchmark, they are realizing they need to start CCAs now. What has held them back has been the cost of doing the feasibility studies and the worry about having to fight PG&E and Edison in court and at the ballot box.

Several things have changed to help CCA adoption. First, CCAs have now been set up in Marin and Sonoma counties and the city of Lancaster. Example feasibility studies, CCA structures, and formation help are now available. Second, the utility companies are now cooperating with the CCAs, not fighting them. Most important, however, is the economic shift. The cost of renewable energy has now dropped to the point that the CCAs in Marin, Sonoma, and Lancaster are now providing electricity at about five percent lower cost than the utilities.

For the first time the conference was attended by a number of local government representatives. If this is taking off, the League has an important role to play in educating the public on the reasons to support forming a CCA district locally. There will be a LWVSB April forum on this topic.

Colin Jones, Sustainable Communities Committee Member

National Action

The LWVUS Blog "*Right Now: Voices of the League*," at lww.org/blog, gives up-to-date information on the League's most important advocacy and action alerts. You can also subscribe to receive news and alerts by email; there's a form on any blog page. This is a great way to learn about, and participate in, League's advocacy--either through legislation or by commenting on proposed regulations.

Here are brief summaries of three January posts. Also see "2015: Full of Opportunities for League Work and Influence," lww.org/blog, for a preview of what may happen this year.

Administration's Proposed Limit on Methane Emissions: Important Step Against Climate Change

On Jan. 14, the Obama Administration proposed limits on methane emissions from new sources within the oil and gas industry as part of the President's Climate Action Plan.

"We are pleased that the President has taken this additional step ... in his broad-based attack on climate change," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of LWVUS. "While limiting methane emissions is a critical step forward ..., the Administration must go further and include cuts to emissions from existing sources of this pollutant. We stand with the President to protect people, not polluters." She concluded, "The League is eager to work with this Administration to protect our children, our nation and our world from the damaging effects of climate change. League members and supporters across the country continue to work for and support the President's Climate Action Plan."

Nearly 30,000 Supporters Join LWVUS in Fighting Secret Money

LWVUS has been pushing the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to pass critical campaign finance reforms to protect our political system from corruption. After months of work, we're pleased to report that -- with your help -- the League submitted a total of nearly 30,000 public comments to the FEC in support of stopping the flood of dark money into our elections! Our comments called for stricter disclosure regulations as well as narrowing the definition of coordination between candidates and outside groups.

Continued on Page 6

Inside the League

The Future of Desalinization

Whether Lake Cachuma is full or not, water issues have always concerned our League. The League supports desalinization as an option. Cambria has recently won approval for a desal plant that will also treat wastewater. California now has 11 other desal plants and 16 more are proposed, including ones in Montecito and Santa Barbara.

Our water committee usually meets at noon on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the League office. Participants bring articles or their concerns to discuss. If you would like to know more, join our lively discussions. Contact Pat Shewczyk (964-7506) or Joan Kerns (kernsbruck@cox.net; 687-7035) to have your name added to the call list.

Pat Shewczyk, Water Committee Co-Chair

Tuesday, March 24 Special Community Forum on Immigration

Margaret Sands Orchowski, Ph.D, the Washington D.C. correspondent for Hispanic Higher Education Magazine, will be our speaker Tuesday, March 24, at LWVSB's Special Community Forum on Immigration. Her talk will emphasize the history of immigration, the 1965 Immigration Act and the effects of immigration on our country.

She is currently writing a new book on the Immigration Act authored by Senator Edward Kennedy, which changed the face and focus of immigration for the last 50 years. Dr. Orchowski, who is from Santa Barbara, has also written a book titled *Immigration and the American Dream*. More information about the time and place of the event, will be available soon.

Amanda Pelch, Treasurer

TGIF in March

Bonnie Lassen, who manages the LWVsantabarbara.org website, will host our first informal, intimate, TGIF for the purpose of fundraising and enjoying a social time around a topic. This pilot project co-hosted by the Communications Committee, "A Chat With Hannah Brown," will celebrate the newest member of our local League's Communications Committee. Hannah will graduate from UCSB in March.

We will also introduce our latest communications medium--our own YouTube channel that Hannah created. We will meet at Bonnie's on Friday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m. Watch for an announcement in the LWV Santa Barbara news by email, postcard or on our website.

Joanie Jones, Co-President



Why is Housing the First Priority for the Homeless? Continued from Page 1

There will also be speakers from: **Social Venture Partners**, a network of volunteers, parents, community leaders and philanthropists; and **The Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H)**, a regional collaborative effort focused on housing those without homes that brings together homeless services agencies, government, community based organizations, other local groups, non-profits, foundations, faith communities, street friends, business and community leaders, and individuals.

Also on the panel will be a representative from **Common Ground Santa Barbara County**, an organization that is dedicated to recruiting, training and educating volunteers to effectively house the most vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County; and from the **Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara**, a local public agency created under state law for the purpose of providing safe, decent, and quality affordable housing and supportive services to eligible persons with limited incomes, through a variety of federal, state, local and private resources.

LWVSB has a long-standing position in support of "appropriate solutions with adequate financing, to respond to both short and long term needs of homeless people," including a government sponsored community-wide task force and joint planning by governmental agencies at all levels with non-profit and private organizations, the business community and private citizens.

Emily Allen, Social Policy Co-Chair

Education

Interested in Joining a Local Study Committee on Public Education?

The League of Women Voters of California's Higher Education Study Committee encourages each local League to form a Study Committee on Public Higher Education. Starting in February articles related to the study will be posted on the study website. An email discussion group has just begun to discuss these articles and other aspects of the study. Some of the state committee's topics of study are: funding, preparedness, affordability, equity and barriers/opportunities to success.

Unfortunately, because LWVC does not have a position on public higher education in California that includes the CSU and UC systems, the League cannot comment on or advocate for or against any legislation. This study was proposed and approved at a state convention in order to remedy this situation and in recognition of the fact that education is the bedrock upon which democracy is built and sustained.

Timeline: February 2015 - June 2015 read articles and discuss; August 2015: Study kit will be available to local Leagues. Consensus will be due in April 2016. If you wish to join this committee or have friends or colleagues who would be interested, please email Joanie, CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org, or call the League office, 965-2422.

Joanie Jones, Co-President

Cradle to K: How Well are Children in South Santa Barbara County Prepared for Kindergarten?

Thursday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m., Faulkner Gallery at the Main Santa Barbara Public Library

League members are invited to attend this forum because it will provide background information for our May Discussion Unit meetings on education.

Panelists include:

- Adrianna Foss, Early Childhood Education Director, Orfalea Foundation
- Ty Vernon, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Education Gevirtz School, UCSB and Director, Koegel Autism Center Assessment Clinic, UCSB
- Ben Romo, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County
- Michelle Graham, Executive Director, Children's Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County

Moderator: Katrina Rogers, Ph.D., President, Fielding Graduate University

The forum is being presented by the Women's Fund of the Santa Barbara Foundation. All Women's Fund members, friends and guests are welcome. The discussion will focus on preschool education availability in Santa Barbara County and its importance to future learning. LWVSB's May units will consider important issues in education, including Common Core/Teacher preparation and Preschool Education.

Marge Gordon, Education Committee Chair

National Action Continued from Page 4

We're proud of the thousands of supporters across the country who are fighting for our democracy and pushing back against dark money. The stakes are too high, and the League will not stand by and let our political system be corrupted. Thank you for weighing in!

LWVMA Continues Fight to Preserve Women's Access to Reproductive Health Facilities

Last June the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Massachusetts' buffer zone law. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) had joined an *amicus* brief to the case, and immediately, along with other groups, began advocating for new legislation to ensure that all women continue to have access to reproductive health services without the threat of fear, intimidation or physical harm. The result was *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities*, signed into law on July 30, 2014--a mere 34 days after the *McCullen* decision.

This new law gives police the authority to disperse protesters who are substantially impeding access to a clinic and requires those protestors to stay at least 25 feet from the clinic's entrances for up to eight hours. LWVMA submitted testimony in support of this legislation.

Linda Phillips, State and National Action

Membership Form to Join League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Here's my annual membership dues of \$70 Second member in same household \$35 Student \$35

Please send me more information about League I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League.

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

*Discounted dues are available for special circumstances: Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.

I am committed--sign me up to: Register Voters Join the League of Women Voters

Invite a friend to join the League Pledge financial support Amount \$_____

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Membership News: November 2014

On Jan 31, 2015 the National LWV recorded membership totals from the US Database. Our local League Data Administration Team has worked diligently to see that our records are up to date. This team is headed by Co-President Joanie Jones, with the assistance of Denise Frey and Anita Baldwin. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our League.

Membership is every member's responsibility. We hope you are talking to your friends about the exciting work being done by the League. Invite them to our Community Forums and Unit Meetings or other League activities.

The Membership Committee needs a few good hands to help out. Lindsey Baker continues to staff the Membership Table at our Community Forums. If you can help please let Joanie or Amanda know.

Amanda Pelch, Membership Director

New Members: Eric Baiser, Diane Rosenthal and Nola Force

In Memoriam: Charleen Mee, June 16, 2014

The Last Mailed Channel Voter to All Members

This will be our last mailed newsletter to all our members. We no longer have the numbers for bulk mailing of Channel Voter (CV). And some members have already said they only want to receive the CV electronically.

The League board has decided that everyone who normally receives the CV mailed to them will get this—as the last newsletter sent by bulk mail. Everyone who has email will be notified by email and those who do not have email will be notified by postal mail that we will be sending CV electronically to everyone. Those with no email accounts will receive the CV by first class mail.

It is our intention to be financially and ecologically responsible by making these changes. We thank you for helping us accomplish that!

Co-Presidents Joanie Jones and Susan Shank

Thank You from the Education Fund

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Education Fund, Inc. has received donations of \$11,300 as of mid-January in response to our request for funds letter sent in late November. The Education Fund Board wishes to thank our League members and community supporters for their gifts and their plans to include the LWVSB Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) in their estate planning.

Our work is to provide nonpartisan public education resources and activities to facilitate informed and active participation in government. Our whole Santa Barbara community is enhanced by your gifts of support. Thank you from all Ed Fund board members: Shane Stark (President), Betsy Cramer, Anne Heck (Secretary), Tom Heck, Jean Holmes, Dick Jensen, Joanie Jones, Ann Lorimer, Irene Stone (Vice-President) and Carol Thompson (Treasurer).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Printed on recycled paper.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2015 DISCUSSION UNITS: Update on Water Issues

- 3 Tuesday: Madame Lu's Restaurant Unit, 3524 State St., 5:30 p.m.** Contact Jane Honikman, 967-9757, Jane@janehonikman.com
- 9 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m.,** Community Room, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 678-7035, for directions.
- 11 Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m. Carpinteria Women' Club,** 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contract Jane Benefield, 684-6086, or Charlene Little, 969-2956
- 14 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office,** 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.
- 18 Wednesday: Community Forum: Crimes Against Women: Rape, Trafficking and Domestic Violence, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center,** 1232 De La Vina St. Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.

MARCH 2015 DISCUSSION UNITS: Rental Housing, Traffic and Water in Goleta

- 3 Tuesday: Madame Lu's Restaurant Unit, 3524 State St., 5:30 p.m.** Contact Jane Honikman, 967-9757, Jane@janehonikman.com
- 9 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m.,** Community Room, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 678-7035, for directions.
- 11 Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m. Carpinteria Women's Club,** 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contract Jane Benefield, 684-6086, or Charlene Little, 969-2956.
- 13 TGIF: A Chat with Hannah Brown; 5:30 p.m.,** Bonnie Lassen's house. See article on page 5.
- 14 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office,** 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.
- 18 Wednesday: Community Forum: Why is Housing the First Priority for the Homeless?, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center,** 1232 De La Vina St. Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.
- 24 Tuesday: Special Program on Immigration; speaker: Dr. Margaret Sands Orchowski;** Time and place to be announced.

COMING UP:

May 14-17: LWVC Convention in San Diego. Early Bird Sign-Up starts **Feb. 1**. Theme of the San Diego convention is "Let the Sun Shine In." For more information: lwvc.wordpress.com

June 13, LWVSB Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Remember to check the LWVSB website (www.lwvsantabarbara.org) for the latest event information.