

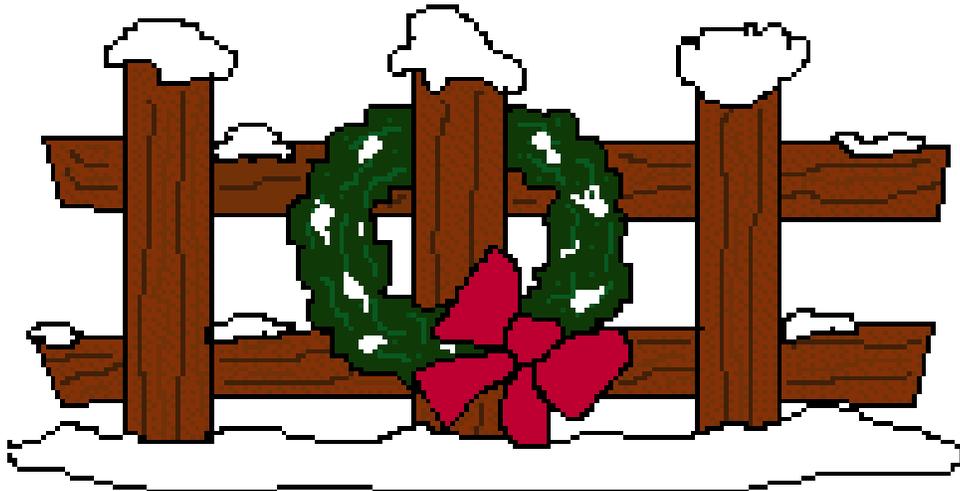


LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

*The Voter* - December 2013

*Happy Holidays*



Let's Party!



**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
and  
**FUNDRAISER**  
December 14  
**Mark Your Calendar**

***THE PREZ SEZ***

If you attended our November 9 meeting on Climate Change, you learned a great deal about global warming and the need for political action to counter this looming threat. Our board member, Carol Kuczora, provided an extensive overview of the scientific evidence behind climate change concerns and Jerry Hinkle of the Citizens Climate Lobby discussed the political steps necessary to combat this ominous problem.

If you attended this meeting, you also may have noticed rude, disrespectful and disruptive behavior on the part of a few people in the audience. This behavior included ignoring our request for written questions for the speakers, attempting to interrupt or verbally contradict the speakers, and ignoring repeated verbal requests to comply with our stated guidelines for questions.

Similar disruptive behaviors have occurred occasionally at previous meetings on such topics as Voter Suppression and Women's Health Care. Audience members engaging in these behaviors are not League members. It appears that the disruptive audience members share a political ideology that inclines them to believe incivility is a necessary, and, indeed a proper response to those with whom they disagree.

One of the written questions submitted read: "Will the League be having a speaker to present the concept that climate change is not caused by man but a natural evolution of the planet?" The writer seems to be saying: "I have a different opinion about what is causing climate change, and you should present my opinion."

Anyone can have personal opinions, but the League is dedicated to providing facts and data. The League seeks the very best speakers available to address topics that our membership tell us that they care about, providing informative programs on public policy issues. Some of these topics, like Climate Change, Health Care, and Voter Suppression are issues that League members have studied carefully and have taken a position on. Other programs are presented as an opportunity to educate our members and others on topics of relevance to our local community. We are not a debating society, and we do not provide a public forum for views that oppose our positions.

This is in direct contrast to our Voter Service Pros and Cons programs, where we impartially present both sides of issues appearing on the ballot in election years; Voter Service also provides nonpartisan Candidates' Forums. This distinction between our nonpartisan Voter Service arm and our public policy positions is sometimes difficult for non-members to grasp.

Everyone, however, can understand that rude, disruptive and disrespectful behavior reflects poorly not only on those who engage in it, but also on their opinions.

I look forward to seeing you at the League's Holiday Party in December. Your invitation will be arriving soon.

Karen Schwartz  
President

You are invited to attend our

## Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser

Saturday, December 14, 2013

1pm - 4 pm

At the home of Joey Jordan

Please join us for Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts and Beverages

*Book Sale, Jewelry Sale, Gift Certificates*

RSVP Anne DeWitt , Hospitality Chair, by December 7, 2013  
(530) 268-2549 or (530) 913-4952

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE NOTES

The committee is busy planning for programs scheduled for the new year. Our purpose is to present programs that deal with areas of concern to all citizens. Our aim is to provide information and stimulate discussion. The format of the meeting is designed with that in mind so that the presenters can speak without interruption and the Q and A period is not dominated by one or two audience members. Written questions prevents this from happening.

January's program, "Homelessness in Nevada County" will feature a number of local organizations who are involved in some way in working with the homeless community. The panel of participants is an exceptional group, and should prove to be most enlightening.

February will feature "Water", and the committee is working with NID on the presentation.

As of now, the topic for the March meeting will be "The Voting Rights Act," a priority piece of legislation which the League of Women Voters has supported and continues to support, especially since the recent Supreme Court decision that weakened voting rights for many citizens.

We know that League members and members of the Nevada County community will find these programs interesting and informative.

Polly Bacich, Program Planning Chair

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER !**

**Lucy Sloate**

*To protect the privacy of our members, addresses, phone numbers and emails may be obtained by contacting LWWNC Membership at (530) 265-0956.*

## THE FIRST LADIES OF AMERICA



### Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson (36th First Lady of the United States)

Although she lived much of her life in the shadow of one of the most dominant men of the 20th Century, Lady Bird Johnson played a pivotal role in some of the most turbulent years in recent U.S. history

Christened Claudia Alta Taylor, born in a country mansion near Karnack, Texas, she received her nickname “Lady Bird” as a small child; and as Lady Bird she was known and loved throughout America. Perhaps that name was prophetic, as there has seldom been a First Lady so attuned to nature and the importance of conserving the environment.

Her mother, Minnie Pattillo Taylor, died when Lady Bird was five, so she was reared by her father, her aunt, and family servants. From her father, Thomas Jefferson Taylor, who had prospered, she learned much about the business world. An excellent student, she also learned to love classical literature. At the University of Texas she earned a bachelor’s degree in arts and in journalism.

In 1934, Lady Bird met Lyndon Baines Johnson, then a Congressional secretary visiting Austin on official business; he promptly asked her for a date, which she accepted. He courted her from Washington with letters, telegrams, and telephone calls. Seven weeks later he was back in Texas; he proposed to her and she accepted. In her own words: “Sometimes Lyndon simply takes your breath away.” They were married in November 1934.

The years that followed were devoted to Lyndon’s political career, with “Bird” as partner, confidante, and helpmate. She helped keep his Congressional office open during World War II when he volunteered for naval service; and in 1955, when he had a severe heart attack, she helped his staff keep things running smoothly until he could return to his post as Majority Leader of the Senate. He once remarked that voters “would happily have elected her over me.”

After repeated miscarriages, she gave birth to Linda Bird (now Mrs. Charles S. Robb) in 1944; Luci Baines (Mrs. Ian Turpin) was born three years later.

In the election of 1960, Lady Bird successfully stumped for Democratic candidates across 35,000 miles of campaign trail. As wife of the Vice President, she became an ambassador of goodwill by visiting 33 foreign countries. Moving to the White House after Kennedy’s murder, she did her best to ease a painful transition. She soon set her own stamp of Texas hospitality on social events, but these were not her chief concern. She created a First Lady’s Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, then expanded her program to include the entire nation. She took a highly active part in her husband’s war-on-poverty program, especially the Head Start for preschool children.

When the Presidential term ended, the Johnsons returned to Texas, where he died in 1973. Mrs. Johnson’s White House Diary, published in 1970, and a 1981 documentary film, “The First Lady, A Portrait of Lady Bird Johnson,” give sensitive and detailed views of her contributions to the President’s Great Society administration.

Lady Bird lead a life devoted to her husband’s memory, her children, and seven grandchildren. She supported causes dear to her — notably the National Wildflower Research Center, which she founded in 1982, and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. She also served on the Board of the National Geographic Society as a trustee emeritus.

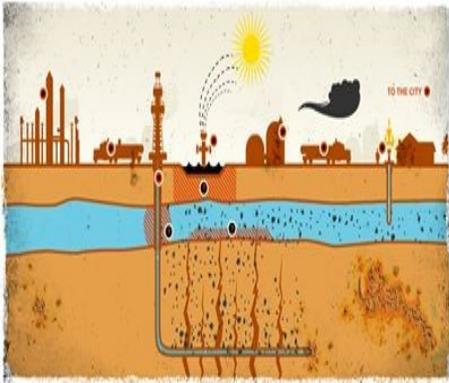
Lady Bird Johnson died of natural causes on July 11, 2007 at the age of 94. Although she lived much of her life in the shadow of one of the most dominant men of the 20th Century, Lady Bird Johnson played a pivotal role in some of the most turbulent years in recent United States history.

*(Excerpted in part from [www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies-ladybirdjohnson](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies-ladybirdjohnson))*



### LWVC News - November 7, 2013

#### WHAT THE FRACK?



Fracking is happening in California and in the ocean off the coast with little or no oversight. SB 4 (Pavley) enacted by the most recent legislative session and supported by the League establishes a comprehensive statutory framework for fracturing (fracking) and “acidization” for oil and gas wells that is likely the strongest in the country.

SB 4 (Pavley) was passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor on September 11.

The League’s concerns about recent amendments to the bill are expressed in the statement printed below:

#### SB 4 (Pavley): Regulation of Fracking

SB 4 (Pavley) was passed by the Legislature and sent to Governor Brown on September 11. This bill establishes a comprehensive statutory framework – probably the strongest in the country– for regulating hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and acidization of oil and gas wells.

Fracking has been occurring without regulation in California for decades, despite evidence of harm from around the country. SB 4 provides permitting, accountability and transparency in well stimulation, including both fracking and acidization. The bill requires:

- Disclosure of the quantity and source of water used and the disposal of wastewater, and monitoring of groundwater quality in the area
- Disclosure of the identities of all chemicals injected even if trade secrets are claimed, with provision for additional disclosure in emergencies or threats to public health
- Advance notice to neighbors of proposed projects
- An independent scientific study of the hazards and risks posed to natural resources and public, occupational and environmental health and safety
- Coordination among agencies to ensure accountability and transparency
- Costs of regulation borne by the oil and gas companies through fees (“polluter pays”)

SB 4 will result in regulations far stronger than DOGGR (the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources) is likely to adopt in its absence. Moreover, it does not prevent local entities from passing their own rules or limit the authority of landmark state laws such as AB 32 in fracking matters.

The League of Women Voters of California has strong concerns about recent amendments to the bill that could weaken the oversight of the fracking process while the adoption of regulations is under way or could be construed as an exemption to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of fracking. We regret that a remedy was not found before the Legislature went into recess for the year. However, we are committed to working with policy makers and our allies to put a correction to the CEQA language into place in the coming months.

We will also monitor implementation of the bill and participate in the various public processes it establishes.

September 13, 2013

## All About Christmas

### Father Christmas



The figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus) is based on the patron saint of children, Saint Nicholas (270-310 AD), who became one of the youngest bishops ever at age 17. At age 30 he became the Bishop of Myra, a port town on the Mediterranean Sea, that is part of modern-day Turkey. He hailed from a rich home and became well known for supporting the needy. He would often be seen, clad in red and white bishop's robes and riding on a donkey, handing out gifts to children.

During the Middle Ages, many churches were built in honor of Saint Nicholas. In the 11th century, his remains were enshrined in a church in the Italian city of Bari. It is told that the first Crusaders visited Bari and carried stories about Nicholas to their homelands. The anniversary of his death, 6 December, became a day to exchange gifts.

During the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, Martin Luther tried to stop the venerating of saints and the feast of Saint Nicholas was abolished in some European countries. The gift giver took on other names. In Germany, he became *Der Weihnachtsmann* ("Christmas Man"), *Pere Noel* in France, and Father Christmas in Britain and the colonies.

### Santa Claus in America

The Dutch, under Peter Stuyvesant, founded New York - named New Amsterdam under the Dutch and renamed when the British took over the colony - and brought with them, the celebrations of **Sinter Klaas**, the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas. Santa Claus is the American pronunciation of Sinter Klaas.

As early as 1773 "St. A. Claus" was mentioned in the American press. In 1809, **Washington Irving** wrote about Sinterklaas in his "A History of New York." He described Sinterklass as a rotund little man in a typical Dutch costume, with knee breeches and a broad-brimmed hat, who traveled on horseback on the Eve of Saint Nicholas. In 1822, **Clement Clark Moore**, a poet and professor of theology, published the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "The Night Before Christmas"). Moore's Santa is a jolly old elf who flies around in a miniature sleigh with eight tiny reindeer. Moore even named the reindeer by the names we know them today, and the method by which Santa returns up the chimney.

In 1885 **Thomas Nash**, illustrator and caricaturist, sketched two children looking at a map of the world and tracing Santa's journey from the North Pole to the United States. The American writer **George Webster** took up the idea a year later explaining that Santa's toy factory and "his house during the long summer months" was hidden in the ice and snow of the North Pole.



In 1931 **Haddon Sundbloom** presented Santa as a plump human rather than an elf, with a jovial face and big beard in a Coca-Cola advertisement. (Coca-Cola was a client of Sundbloom's advertising agency from 1924 until his death in 1976.) Today it is Sundbloom's Santa that slips down the chimneys around the world.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Today there are more than 2,700 languages in the world, with more than 7,000 dialects. Santa speaks all of them fluently! In addition, he speaks a secret elf language.

**We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals**

**BriarPatch Co-op  
Community Market**

290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley  
(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily - [www.briarpatch.coop](http://www.briarpatch.coop)

**New Moon Café**

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

[www.thenewmooncafe.com](http://www.thenewmooncafe.com)

**Hair Razors  
Amy Pirtle**

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

**The Wooden Spoon**

**A Toy Store for Cooks**

2066 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

[www.woodenspooncalif.com](http://www.woodenspooncalif.com)

**A. Ann Armstrong  
Armstrong & Associates**

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603  
(530) 269-1515

[www.annarmstrong.org](http://www.annarmstrong.org)

**SPD Markets**

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

[www.spdmarket.com](http://www.spdmarket.com)

**Mill Street Clothing  
Lisa Swarthout**

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

**Piano Tuning**

**Yvonne Ashmore Piano Service**

Registered Piano Technician since 1969

(530) 273-8800

**The Book Seller**

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

[www.TheBookSeller.biz](http://www.TheBookSeller.biz)

**Flour Garden Bakery**

999 Sutton Way, Grass Valley 95945

(530) 272-2043

Mon.-Sat. 5am-7pm, Sun. 6am-6pm

[www.flourgarden.com](http://www.flourgarden.com)

**The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County wishes to thank Brunswick Village Assisted Living Community for their continued support.**