



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - January 2015



Common Core Conversation

- WHAT IT IS AND ISN'T -

Guest Speakers

Kathleen Kiefer Director of Curriculum and Instruction,
Nevada County Office of Education

Devin Bradley Teacher,
Penn Valley School District

Saturday, January 10, 2015

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.—Program at 10:00 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

The Prez Sez

Our Holiday Party (Saturday, December 13) this year was the best ever. The weather was beautiful - as was Joey Jordan's home. Joey and the set-up crew had wonderful areas for all of us to browse and shop for scarves, jewelry, books and gift certificates from many members and businesses in our county. Lots of people also brought food and wine.

It was great spending time together with no business agenda to interrupt the fun we all had just visiting, shopping for bargains, eating and drinking! I have to say that this is the best "foodie" group I have ever been involved with.

My thanks to Joey Jordan, Sue Nepstead, Mary-Jane Huenergardt, and Sharon O'Hara - the committee who organized the party. They asked local businesses for donations that we could bid on. They sent out the e-invitations, and they also coordinated the food and drink. Many thanks to Desmond Gallagher who donated the wine and set up the bar. Thanks to Arlene and Sue Robertson for managing the sale of jewelry and scarves and to Jackie Wilson who managed the book sale. My thanks also to Dottie Schmidt for preparing the trivia quiz about U.S. presidents (even though I only knew three correct answers).

Best of all, we made \$1,823 which will go toward our scholarship fund. We will award two \$500 scholarships this year and have reserves for the future.

My thanks, of course, to all of you who came to our great Holiday Party.

Anne DeWitt, President



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

The January Meeting will feature a presentation of "COMMON CORE - WHAT IT IS AND ISN'T" (a program being introduced in classrooms in California). The League program is designed as an introduction to the subject which has become a source of political controversy nationwide. Since the majority of the public has little first-hand knowledge of the subject, this program is designed to acquaint the audience with the basics. It is not designed to be a debate, but rather an effort to explain what it is and how it is applied in the classroom.

The featured speakers will be Kathleen Kiefer—Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Nevada County Schools and Devin Bradley—Classroom Teacher, Penn Valley School District.

Those attending will learn of the origins of Common Core, the training of teachers and examples of the curriculum in the classroom.

Again, the purpose of our Program is not to evaluate, but to educate. A follow-up program in the Spring is being considered to explore the subject in greater depth.

The February Meeting is currently being planned and will feature a discussion of the relationship between citizens and law enforcement in Nevada County.

Polly Bacich, Chair
Program Planning Committee

Little Known Facts About Three Important Women

How is it that even in the modern day, when equality is expected and history is valued, we do not know the names of most of the women who have influenced our lives and our histories in profound ways? Sure, we have all heard of Harriet Tubman and Betsy Ross, but what about the women who pioneered medical research, modern journalism, warfare, weaponry, aviation, and equal rights? Here you'll find a list, a very short list, of some influential women that are absolutely fascinating. Each and every one of them brought something to the table, and all of them deserve to be recognized.

? - 1943



MYLA RACINE This woman was truly amazing. In the summer of 1943, living in the Italian occupation zone in France, Myla took command of a secret organization affiliated with a youth organization called Hanoar Hatzioni. While in command, Myla smuggled hundreds of people—primarily families and children—across the Swiss border and out of the reach of the Italians. She was caught by the Italians on October 21, 1943 while she was attempting to smuggle more children across the border. She was tortured, imprisoned, and later sent to Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp where she was later killed in an allied air strike. The life work of Myla appears a little like the work of Harriet Tubman, another woman who devoted everything she had to helping people escape from injustice. Finding information on Myla turned out to be nearly impossible, with only a few references to her or to her accomplishments showing up on any of the major search engines. For the families that she helped and the lives that she saved, however, this World War II heroine deserves to be remembered.

1924 - 1995



ADA LOIS SPUDEL FISHER Ada Fisher was born in Chikasha, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of a minister and grew up in a world plagued with intense racial segregation. She planned to attend law school at the University of Oklahoma and wanted to use her degree to fight against institutional segregation. In 1946 Ada was denied admission to law school based on her race, but she didn't let that stop her from pursuing her dreams. Ada filed a lawsuit against the university, citing the separate but equal law and claiming that there was no comparable school for African Americans in the area. She lost the suit in the state courts, but remained undeterred. In the Supreme Court case *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma*, the ruling of the state court was overturned and it was decided that Ada should be allowed to attend the university.

However, Oklahoma had a different idea. In order to 'comply' with the federal ruling, the state created a separate law school, Langston University School of Law, to be used for African American education. She was the first woman of color to do so. Ada's case set the stage for the later more wide-sweeping *Brown v. Board of Education*. She was a pioneer of Civil Rights and is a woman who should be celebrated for her strength in the face of adversity and determination to see equality and justice in an era where these were not so easily found.

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1864 - 1922



NELLY BLY Nelly Bly was a pen name used by one of the most innovative American Journalists of all times, Elizabeth Jane Cochran. Hired by the Pittsburgh Dispatch in 1885 following the submission of a very heated letter in which Elizabeth denounced an article entitled “What Women are Good For” in which the author called the working woman a “monstrosity”. After her letter to the newspaper, the young journalist’s career quickly took off. At first, Elizabeth’s work primarily covered social issues like labor laws and the unfair treatment of women. Shortly after beginning her work with the Pittsburgh Dispatch, Elizabeth was sent to Mexico as a foreign correspondent.

Her work in Mexico did not last very long, as she quickly exposed a huge scandal in which the Mexican government was fighting to keep their population subjugated and impoverished. It didn’t take long for the Mexican government to expel her from their country after she outed them for their corruption. After this little fiasco, her editors began keeping her on a very short leash, and she soon tired of her work and left for New York.

Almost immediately, she was hired to work for Joseph Pulitzer at his newspaper. It was here that Elizabeth really began getting into what is now called investigative journalism. Perhaps one of her most important pieces was her expose on the conditions inside Blackwell’s Island Insane Asylum. To get in, Elizabeth feigned psychosis. After her admission, however, Elizabeth claimed that she made absolutely no effort to maintain the characteristics of a lunatic, citing that the more normal and level-headed she acted, the more supervision she was given by doctors and nurses. During her 10 days at Blackwell’s Island Insane Asylum, Elizabeth experienced physical cruelty, cold baths, forced meals of old food, and a variety of other horrors. Her writing led to political action and a movement to reform asylums.

Other injustices that Elizabeth exposed with her investigative journalism included a piece in which she got herself thrown into jail in order to expose the mistreatment of incarcerated women and a stint in which she worked in a sweatshop in order to show the poor working conditions of laborers.

Her most famous feat, however, was her trip around the world. Reminiscent of Jules Verne’s character from the novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*, she completed her trip in seventy-two days and later published a book about her travels.

Elizabeth Jane Cochran, pen name “Nelly Bly,” was a strong and independent woman with a real flare for journalism. Her reports led to many social and labor reforms and prompted the next generation of journalists to do the same.

RECREATION & PARKS

EXCITING NEW LEAGUE OPPORTUNITY !

Our League is considering a proposed study on Recreation and Parks in Nevada County. The purpose of the study is to determine if our county is providing and promoting access to local resources for a healthy lifestyle for Nevada County residents.

A study group has been organized with Anne DeWitt, MaryJane Huenergardt, Joey Jordan and Karen Schwartz to explore what will be required to conduct the study in accord with the League's requirements. If the study group finds that the study is feasible, it will be presented to League members for their approval at the Annual Meeting in May. Between now and then, the study group will be meeting the first Monday of each month.

If you would like to join this study group, please contact Karen Schwartz at 470-8790 or email me at: Karen-Schwartz@prodigy.net for more information.

Submitted by
Karen Schwartz, Chair
Action/Legislation

What is a Paraprosdokian?

A **paraprosdokian** is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anti-climax. Some paraprosdokians not only change the meaning of an early phrase, but also play on the double meaning of a particular word, creating a syllepsis. **Here are some examples:**

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.



Important Women of the 20th Century

RUTH BADER GINSBURG (1933—

RUTH BADER GINSBURG FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED THE SUPREME COURT BY BRINGING TO IT A 1990's VOICE OF PRAGMATIC, MAINSTREAM FEMINISM. THE SECOND WOMAN EVER APPOINTED TO THE NATION'S HIGHEST JUDICIAL BODY, Ginsburg has made a career—as professor, women's rights advocate, appellate court judge, and finally, Supreme Court justice—of ensuring that women receive equal treatment under the law.

Ginsburg was spurred toward her role as a crusader for women's equality by the discrimination she experienced in her own career. After graduating from Columbia University Law School, where she made Law Review and tied for number one in the class, she watched top firms gobble up her male classmates. Meanwhile, she received not a single offer. "I had three strikes against me," she later wrote. "I was Jewish and the firms were just opening up to Jewish students. I was a woman. And I was a mother (her first daughter was born before she entered law school)." She was also turned down for a clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, who told her he was not ready to hire a woman. She ended up clerking for a federal judge in New York.

During the 1970s, as director of the American Civil Liberties Union Women's Rights Project, Ginsburg argued six landmark discrimination cases before the Supreme Court, winning five. Her advocacy led the Court to strike down a range of federal and state laws that granted privileges based on sex. Yet Ginsburg has been a remarkably restrained judge. Upon being named to the Federal Court of Appeals in 1980, Ginsburg did not pursue sweeping social change, as some observers predicted, but became a pragmatic jurist who valued real-world experience over political ideology. Her record earned her the respect of conservative lawmakers, and when President Clinton tapped her for the Supreme Court in 1993, the Senate approved her nomination 96 to 3.

"It is essential to a women's equality with man that she be the decision-maker," she told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "If you impose restraints, you are disadvantaging her because of her sex." Because of jurists like Ginsburg, such disadvantages are becoming a thing of the past.

"I don't think there would have been a chance for the laws against sex discrimination if women had not begun to come alive and agitate for increased rights and opportunities."

(Excerpted in part from the "Ladies Home Journal 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century")

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

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

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

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

www.millstreetclothingco.com

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

www.spdmarket.com

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

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

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



Visit us on our website at www.lwvwnc.org

Membership in The League of Women Voters is open to men and women of all ages.