



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - June 2015

FIRE SAFETY in NEVADA COUNTY



Our Panel

Joanne Drummond - Executive Director, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

Jeff Dunning - Agent, Allstate Insurance Company

Pascale Fusshoeller - Founder and Editor, YubaNet

Jeanne Pincha-Tulley - United States Forest Service

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m. - Program at 10 a.m.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

828 West Main

Grass Valley

THE PREZ SEZ

We held our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 9, at the National Hotel in Nevada City. The setting was historical and elegant. The food was delicious and the wait staff did a great job. Carol Kuczora put it all together for us.

We were 45 members and guests—a great turn out! A representative of the California League, Rosana Torretto, joined us and brought messages from Trudy Shafer and Barbara Hopkins with whom some of us have worked over the years.

Mary Dreifuss led a review of previous studies. And we voted to reaffirm our positions based on the studies. Ruth Schwartz reminded us of the outstanding Voter Service work of 2014 including five forums. Polly Bacich reviewed the programs of the year and emphasized the timeliness of our programs on Law Enforcement and Public Health. Our membership Chair, Dottie Schmidt, told us that we have 77 members (I believe it is now 80), and that we should all be recruiting new members.

Karen Schwartz proposed that we do a study of recreation and parks in Nevada County. The membership unanimously approved the study. We also unanimously approved the slate of new Board Members. A change in the by-laws to allow us to become a 501c3 organization was tabled based on incomplete understanding about the change.

Seven retiring Board Members were recognized for their long-term contributions to our League with token gifts: Mary Dreifuss, Ruth Schwartz, Dottie Schmidt, Sue Nepstead, Arlene Robertson, Jackie Wilson and Polly Bacich.

Jim Hemig, Publisher of *The Union*, gave a short talk about his career and the goals of the paper, which is to represent or reflect the community. They use a 15 person editorial board of very diverse community members who, so far, have worked well together. Jim emphasized that *The Union* and the League share the same goals of informing and encouraging voters.

Anne DeWitt
President

It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of Simone Becker, a long time member and generous supporter of our League. Simone was born in France on August 1, 1914, and died at Eskaton, in Grass Valley on May 10, 2015. She celebrated her 100th birthday last year. (*See the September 2014 issue of The Voter, Page 7.*)

We shall all miss her smile and her wonderful sense of humor.

Marcy Elliott

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County
Mary Zotalis Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship was established in September, 2014. Mary Zotalis (1922-2014) was a long-time member of the League, having joined in 1984. She held the positions of Communications Chair and Arrangements Chair on the Board of Directors and was a member of the Voter Service Committee this past year.

Mary's dedication to an informed electorate and particularly to the task of encouraging young people to become informed citizens and then making that information count at the ballot box has made this memorial to her particularly timely.

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of members Polly Bacich, Mary Dreifuss, Sue Nepstead, Arlene Robertson, Ruth and Richard Schwartz, and Jackie Wilson established the following criteria for eligibility for this award:

- Applicant must plan to attend a two year or four year college/university or vocational school.
- Applicant must have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average at his/her present high school.
- Applicant must be a graduating senior from the Nevada Joint Union High School District.
- Applicant must submit a completed District application.
- Applicant must submit a 1,000 word essay—double-spaced and typed.
- Applicant's essay must address the following theme: "Voting rights and Responsibilities: Why Is It Important for Young People to Vote?"
- Recipient of the award will receive a one time \$1,000 scholarship.
- Funding and selection of the winner will be handled by the League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County.
- Scholarship award will be given upon proof of enrollment in a two or four year college/university or vocational school, and the written essay.

Thirteen applications were submitted from applicants attending Bear River, Nevada Union and Ghidotti Early College High School. The Committee had the very difficult task of determining the two applicants who best exemplified the "cream of the crop." Guidelines were established with a point system applied to each application. We read "blind" applications (not knowing the student's name nor the school to which he/she was currently attending. After much discussion and deliberation, two applicants were chosen. We are withholding the names of these very deserving students until after June 1. At that time, we will announce the names and a brief biography of the winners on our League website—lwwnc.org. We will also notify Members and Friends of the League via our League email.

Congratulations to all of the graduates of our Nevada County Graduation Class of 2015! We hope that you will continue your quest for knowledge and, of course, will always be Informed Voters!

Ruth Schwartz, Chair
Scholarship Committee



Important Women of the 20th Century



Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

“A PEOPLE’S POET RATHER THAN A POET’S POET,” AS ONE COMMENTATOR PUTS IT, MAYA ANGELOU HAS BEEN A NIGHTCLUB SINGER, AN ESSAYIST, A SCREENWRITER, A MADAM, A COLLEGE PROFESSOR, A DANCER, A NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST, A BROADWAY ACTRESS, A STREETCAR CONDUCTOR, AND A POLITICAL ACTIVIST. In *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, her searing account of growing up poor and black during the Depression, Angelou pioneered the use of fictional techniques in autobiography and helped establish the memoir as a popular literary genre. Even more resonant with Angelou’s vast public was *On the Pulse of Morning*, the inspirational poem she delivered at President Clinton’s 1993 inauguration. With it, she became, by popular acclamation, the nation’s first poet.

Born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Angelou had a tumultuous childhood marked by parental desertion when she was 3 years old: “Our parents had decided to put an end to their calamitous marriage,” she writes matter-of-factly in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, “and father shipped us home to his mother”. She also tells of being raped by her mother’s boyfriend when she was 8. The latter was especially traumatic, and when her assailant was found beaten to death—possibly by Angelou’s incensed uncles—the girl was so overcome with shame and guilt that she stopped speaking for several years. During this silent period, spent largely in Stamps, Arkansas, she discovered literature, immersing herself in the works of Shakespeare, Poe, and Dickens, as well as such leading African-American literary figures as Paul Lawrence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, and Langston Hughes.

The author of several volumes of poetry and a total of six autobiographical books, including *All God’s Children Need Traveling Shoes* (1968) and *Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now* (1993), Angelou also was the first black woman to write a screenplay that was made into a film, *Georgia, Georgia* in 1972. Two decades later, her recitation at Clinton’s swearing-in ceremony marked the first time a poet had participated in an inauguration since Robert Frost read at John F. Kennedy’s in 1961.

Maya Angelou’s unsparing account of her childhood was among the first autobiographies by a Twentieth Century black woman to reach a wide general readership. She remains best known for her memoirs, a striking fact because she had never set out to be a memoirist. Near the end of *A Song Flung Up To Heaven*, Angelou recalls her response when Robert Loomis, who would become her longtime editor at Random House, first asked her to write an autobiography.

Still planning to be a playwright and poet, she demurred. Cannily, Mr. Loomis called her again.

“You may be right not to attempt autobiography, because it is nearly impossible to write autobiography as literature,” he said. “Almost impossible.”

Angelou replied, “Ill start tomorrow.”

Maya Angelou, whose landmark autobiography of 1969, “*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*”, died at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. She was 86.

(Excerpted in part from the “Ladies Home Journal 100 Most important Women of the 20th Century” and The New York Times article of 5/29/2014)

THANK YOU!

*for your support
this past year!*

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The Tack Room
Wendy-Marie Tiechert
Way Yum Sushi
Weiss Brothers Nursery
Jackie Wilson
Pinky Zalkin
Ali Zuur-Arnerich

A big
**thank
you**
for all your
help and support.



adult conversation. *n.* = lecture
bold. *adj.* = risky
apologize if anyone was offended *v.* = did not apologize
autobiography *n.* = fictional account of one's life and people one did not meet.
politically courageous *adj.* = suicidal
backroom dealer *n.* = corrupt
the base *n.* = nut jobs
fresh *adj.* = unprepared
charismatic *adj.* = not drunk or promiscuous
common sense solutions *n.* = cutting entitlements
courageous *adj.* = desperate
firebrand *n.* = batpoop crazy
firm *adj.* = stubborn
going rogue *adj.* = promoting oneself
hypocrite *n.* = politician
my friend *n.* = NOT
reforms *n.* = privatizing and cutting
back to basics *n.* = family values; attends church; heterosexual

Political Potpourri *n.* = a miscellaneous collection

“That’s the trouble with a politician’s life—somebody is always interrupting it with an election.”
 - Will Rogers (1879-1935)

“Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it’s important.”
 - Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005)

“The word ‘politics’ is derived from the word ‘poly’, meaning ‘many’, and the word ‘ticks’, meaning ‘blood sucking parasites’.”
 - Larry Hardiman

“The whole aim of politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of bogie men, all of them imaginary.”
 - H .L. Mencken (1880-1956)

NEW LEAGUE STUDY APPROVED

At our Annual Meeting on May 9, members of our League approved conducting a study of 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 the residents of our county.

This study will be completed by League members interviewing representatives of local government agencies and private entities to inventory local recreational resources and identify unmet needs.

We hope to complete the study by October, 2015 and to present the results to the membership by January 2016 for consensus recommendations.

This is the first new study approved by LWVWNC in over a decade. Participating members will be involved firsthand in conducting a study and learning about local government.

To get involved, please contact:
karen-schwartz@prodigy.net

Karen Schwartz
Action/Legislation Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

**Marjorie Determan
Marilyn Nyborg
Peter Van Zant**

To protect the privacy of our members, addresses, phone numbers and emails may be obtained by contacting LWVWNC at 530.265.0956.

Annual BriarPatch Board of Directors Election

Our League was, once again, asked to count the ballots for the BriarPatch Coop Community Market Board of Directors election.

Voter Service Committee members Mary Dreifuss, Jackie Wilson, Arlene Robertson and Ruth Schwartz met this past Saturday, May 16, and completed the count.

This year the election was contested as there were four candidates vying for three board positions. Richard Drace, Mark Fenton and Lew Sitzer were the winners.

Ruth Schwartz
Voter Service Chair



*Sue Nepstead, Treasurer, Webmaster
Mary Dreifuss, Editor, The Voter
Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service
Polly Bacich, Program Planning
Arlene Robertson, Vice President
Jackie Wilson, Communications
Dottie Schmidt, Membership*

We appreciate the support of the following local businesses

**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

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.