



# *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

May 2011

## Our May Program

**BE LOCAL and ...**



Featuring:

**A.P.P.L.E. Center of Nevada County  
Grass Valley Downtown Association  
Mill Street Clothing, Grass Valley  
Mountain Pastimes, Nevada City  
Think Local First**

**Saturday, May 14, 2011**

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

Peace Lutheran Church  
828 West Main  
Grass Valley



## THE PREZ SEZ

On Saturday, April 9, we had a fascinating program on schools in Nevada County with particular emphasis on charter schools.

Holly Hermansen, the County Superintendent of Schools, gave us an overview of Nevada County Schools. There are 10 school districts, one of which is the High School District. There are approximately 12,000 students in the county, and the county has 10 charter schools now operating. Ms. Hermansen emphasized the difficulty all schools face when their income level decreases, but the amount of decrease remains unknown at this time.

Laura Kerr is the Regional Director of the California Charter Schools Association. She told us about the financing and organization of these schools. The charter schools are open to all students, tuition is free and charter schools are independent of local boards of education. They have, of course, to follow certain educational guidelines. A number of charter schools support parents and students in home schooling. Their funding comes from the state and county and is the same per student as schools run by the local board of education.

Peter Sagebiel is the Director of Forest Charter School. This school's primary focus is Independent Studies. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It provides educational guidance for home schoolers and some of these particular students attend classes once or twice a week.

Nevada City School of the Arts is directed by Holly Pettit. It serves K through 8 students and has 276 enrolled—10% of whom are special education students. It has the usual curriculum appropriate to each grade, but interweaves the arts, music, and dance through all subjects.

There were many questions asked of our speakers. We all came away with a better understanding of charter schools—their variety and possibilities.

Arlene Robertson  
President pro tem



On May 14, 2011, LWVWNC will present a program focusing on the issues, challenges and visions of the small businesses of our community. In these difficult economic times, the goals of this presentation are three-fold: (1) to maintain our distinct Nevada County character, (2) to sustain a vibrant, diverse business mix, and (3) to promote prosperity in our community.

Our panel will include the following organizations and businesses:

**A.P.P.L.E. Center of Nevada County**

**Grass Valley Downtown Association**

**Mill Street Clothing, Grass Valley**

**Mountain Pastimes, Nevada City**

**Think Local First**

We hope you will join us on May 14 to show your support for these local enterprises. Bring your questions, your comments, and, most importantly, bring your friends to this timely, informative get-together. They'll thank you for it!



*League of Women Voters Western Nevada County  
Annual Meeting June 11, 2011*

**Luncheon Reservation Form**

(Please return by June 1)

**Place**

**Trolley Junction Restaurant**  
400 Railroad Avenue  
Nevada City

**Time**

**Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Luncheon at 12 p.m.**

**Cost**

**\$20 per person \***

**Menu**

**ENTRÉE # 1—Chinese Chicken Salad:**

fresh greens topped with mixed cabbage, Mandarin oranges, grilled chicken breast,  
toasted almonds and crispy rice noodles with ginger-sesame dressing

**ENTRÉE #2—Baked Salmon:**

topped with garlic-dill cream sauce,  
served with rice pilaf and seasonal vegetable

**ENTRÉE #3—Baronship of Roast Beef:**

thin sliced prime rib topped with *au jus*,  
served with roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetable

\* Price includes salad with entrees #2 and #3, entrée, dessert, coffee, soft drinks, tax and gratuity

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée** \_\_\_\_\_

**All reservations must be received by June 1, 2011**

**Make check payable to: LWVWNC**

**Send to: Treasurer, 661 Morgan Ranch Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945**

**PROPOSED 2011-2012 LWVWNC BOARD MEMBERS**

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## Meet the Member Cleo Gibson

My interest and participation in the League of Women Voters began about 40 years ago. We were living in Woodland at the time. My major at U.C. Berkeley was Political Science, hence I keep up on all levels of government activities. I also had experience with working as a volunteer and paid worker on several candidate committees.

Although I filled my spare time with other organizations and volunteer activities, I felt the need for something akin to government. At that time, Woodland didn't have a League—the nearest one was 11 miles away in the city of Davis. A friend and I were guests at some of their meetings and were impressed. Since they (Davis) were a city League, they were not able to help us with any of the issues faced by Woodland. Six other interested women and I decided to look into how we might start a League of our own in Woodland. We were given provisional status until we met all the requirements of both the state and national League. In addition to being asked to do an in-depth study of our county and city government, we were given a manual on how to conduct candidates' forums and how to hold Pros & Cons meetings of ballot measures. It was also important for us to show that there was a strong interest in starting a League in Woodland. The Women's Page editor of the local paper was a great help in getting the word out to the community. Seventy-five people joined within a couple of weeks! I was elected provisional president.

Our first forum filled the high school library with 180 guests and interested voters. Five candidates were running for a state senate office. Four of them arrived on time, but the fifth was late; so we had to start. Along came candidate five, and it was soon obvious to all that he had stayed a little too long at a cocktail party before attending our forum. This situation hadn't been covered in our manual! With a lot of time spent with my officers and board, we met all requirements and became a recognized League in record time.

The League doesn't support, nor does it oppose, candidates or political parties. We can, however, take action on proposed new laws or changes in government if there has been a study and opposition on record. The first big issue the Woodland League took action on was improvement of our city library. It lacked space for a working area for employees and patrons. The book collection was much below standards. The library board of trustees claimed nothing could be done because of lack of funds. To the contrary, the League study found there were state grants available to libraries for various purposes. After a large group of League members appeared at a city council meeting requesting library improvement, action was finally taken. As a result, a library grant was obtained, a new wing was added, and the book collection grew.

We moved to Nevada County in the fall of 1984. I learned there were plans made to fulfill the requirements of a provisional League. As I strongly support the League mission, I transferred my membership to the Western Nevada County League. I've been an active member over the years—plus I've found League members to be very nice folks!

## Important Dates in Women's History



### MAY

#### 1869

The National Woman Suffrage Association is founded by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

#### May 1, 1864

Birthday of Anna Jarvis, founder of Mother's Day

#### May 1, 1830

Birthday of Mother Jones (Mary Harris Jones) union activist

#### May 4, 1979

Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female prime minister.

#### May 8, 1914

Woodrow Wilson Declares Mother's Day a National Holiday.

#### May 9, 1872

Mother's Peace Day (which later became Mother's Day)

#### May 10, 1872

Victoria Woodhew was nominated for the office of President of the United States.

#### May 10, 1913

The largest suffrage parade in history marched down Fifth Avenue, New York City. There were over 10,000 marchers and about 26,000 onlookers.

#### May 13, 1965

Alison Hargreaves became the first woman (and only the second person) to reach the peak of Mt. Everest without the help of oxygen or sherpas.

#### May 14, 1995

Myrtle Evers-Williams was sworn in as the first woman elected to Board of Directors of NAACP.

#### May 16, 1920

Joan of Arc canonized

#### May 20, 1782

Deborah Sampson entered the Revolutionary Army dressed as a man.

#### May 21, 1888

Clara Barton founded the Red Cross.

#### May 21, 1932

Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean alone. She was the first woman to do so.

#### May 21, 1919

Women's Suffrage amendment was passed 304-89 (42 more votes than required). Opponents block action in the Senate for another two weeks, delaying ratification as most legislatures have adjourned for the year.

#### May 28-29, 1851

Sojourner Truth's speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" was given at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio

NEVADA COUNTY  
COMING ATTRACTIONS



*June 11, 2011  
Annual Meeting*

**Return your Reservation  
Form  
By  
June 1, 2011**



**(Information on Page 3)**



**MUSEUM DISCOVERY DAY**  
SATURDAY, May 21  
10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Hosting Museum Discovery Day are the Grass Valley Railroad and Fire House Museums, the North Star and Grass Valley Odd Fellows Hall. For students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, there will be "Museum Mystery Tours" with history clues to be discovered. A "Certificate of Participation" will be awarded upon completion.

**FLEA MARKET**  
SATURDAY, May 21  
8 a.m.—3 p.m.

**Food—Fun—Crafts—Bargains!**

**2391 Nevada City Hwy. Grass Valley**  
(Meeks Lumber Co.)

**FREE PARKING - \$1.00 admission**  
(UNDER 12 Free)

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

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

**SPD Markets**

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

<http://spdmarket.com>

**New Moon Café**

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

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

**A. Ann Armstrong  
Armstrong & Associates**

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

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

**Hair Razors**

**Amy Pirtle**

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 273-6793

**The Book Seller**

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

[booksgv@pacbell.net](mailto:booksgv@pacbell.net)

**Country Copy Print Shop**

**Maggi Cammack**

1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-4657

**BriarPatch Co-op**

**Natural Foods Community Market**

290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily [www.briarpatch.coop](http://www.briarpatch.coop)

**The Wooden Spoon**

**A Toy Store for Cooks**

2006 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

**Mill Street Clothing**

**Lisa Swarthout**

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

**Flour Garden Bakery**

11999 Sutton Way & 109 Neal Street, Grass Valley

340 C Elm Avenue, Auburn

(530) 272-2043 - (530) 477-2253

M-Sat. 5a-7p, Sun. 6a-8p [www.flourgarden.com](http://www.flourgarden.com)