



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

November 2010



*Speak Out at
The League's Annual Speak-In*

Saturday, November 13, 2010
Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.—Program at 10:00 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

Did the election “fix things”?



YOU have an Opinion !
So ...
SPEAK OUT at the SPEAK-IN

We hope to have a spirited dialogue with members in order to ascertain where they feel our League should focus our energies and our deliberations in 2010 and 2011. Shall we consider education—charter schools, home schooling—do they educate our children and will they successfully compete with public education? What should be the economic and financial priorities of Nevada County’s fiscal policy? If services are to be cut, which ones? If not, do taxes go up? “Buy Local” - What does this mean to our county? Did the November 2 ballot measures “fix things”? Or are we still “broken”? You get the picture!

In short, we need to hear from you in order to determine where and how we use this energy to the best advantage as we head into the future.

Come to our membership meeting on November 13, and ...

... SPEAK OUT at the SPEAK-IN
and join us at the Soup Luncheon (page 5)





ELECTION NOVEMBER 2, 2010: THE FINAL CHAPTER

Congratulations to the hard working, productive, exemplary Voter Service Committee! Together we have produced five Candidate Forums, eight Pros & Cons presentations, and we also registered voters!

September 30 kicked off the first Candidate Forum for the House of Representatives, District 4. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' Community Room had an overflow crowd. Ben Emery and Clint Curtis answered difficult questions from the media and the audience. Tom McClintock, our current representative who is running for re-election, was unable to attend because of scheduling conflicts in Washington, D.C. Dottie Schmidt was the moderator and Patty Werner had the task of timer.

Our next forum was on October 6. The State Assembly and State Senate candidates had their opportunity to answer the media and audience questions. Current Assemblyman Dan Logue, Gary Bryant and Mickey Harrington presented their positions during the first forum for State Assembly, District 3. Lathe Gill and Doug Lamalfa followed with their statements and answers during the second forum for State Senate, District 4. Polly Bacich was the moderator for both forums with Anne DeWitt and Debbie Sultan as timers. We had booked The Center For The Arts in anticipation of a large community turnout. This, sadly, was not the case, and the audience was sparse (to put it kindly). The candidates for both houses answered questions leaving the electorate with clear choices.

The final forum was October 7 at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers. The four candidates for Grass Valley City Council squared off as the media and audience posed questions that clearly affected residents of Grass Valley. Candidates Tina Vernon and Dai Meagher presented their qualifications and ideas for the County Tax Collector and Treasurer position. Debbie Sultan was the moderator for both forums, and Anne DeWitt was the timer.

Our thanks also go to representatives of the media: KNCO, KVMR, NCTV, Yuba Net and *The Union* for their indispensable attendance at each of our forums. We truly could not have done it without their participation.

The Pros & Cons team of Polly Bacich, Jan Kaufman, Carol Kuczora, Arlene Robertson, Karen Schwartz, Debbie Sultan, Helen Williamson, and Ruth Schwartz did the research, condensed the voluminous material to a reasonable time, made it understandable, and managed to keep the audience involved and interested while we presented the nine ballot propositions. A monumental job well done.

And now - the Voter Service Committee will enjoy a well-deserved period of electoral inactivity.

Ruth Schwartz and Debbie Sultan
Voter Service co-Chairs



A League History Lesson - Did You Know?

- Ninety years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight” and work to end all discrimination against women, and the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine’s Day in 1920.
- In the 1920s, Eleanor Roosevelt served as vice president for legislative affairs at the League, monitoring federal legislation and hearings in Congress.
- In 1921, the League helped pass the first legislation ever to allocate federal aid for maternal and child care programs, the Sheppard Towner Act.
- The League was an early champion of the environment. Beginning in the 20’s with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the League has kept a major focus on environmental protection work, including building public support for the Clean Water Act in the 70s, and playing a critical role in passage of the Clean Air Act in the 90s, capping a 10-year legislative campaign that included sponsoring nationwide hearings. Today the League continues to fight for major climate change reforms, sending our lobby corps to the Hill, and partnering with Oxfam America on a multi-state project to discuss the effects of global climate change on women throughout the world.
- During the post World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The League also supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as NATO, economic aid to less developed countries and the Marshall Plan.
- The League has been a consistent advocate of equal rights for women, supporting the Equal Rights Amendment in the 70s, pay equity in the Women’s Pension Equity Act in the 90s, and, on the international front, the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In May 1972, after congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, delegates to the League’s National Convention overwhelmingly approved support of “equal rights for all regardless of sex” as a necessary extension of the League’s long-term support for equal opportunity for all, and voted to support the ERA. With this decisive action, the League—a direct descendent of the original women’s movement—came full circle to give priority support again to equal rights for women and men. In 1974, League members amended bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.
- Today the League continues its international work, most recently as official non-governmental organization delegate to the UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15) in December, and through its Global Democracy program which has sponsored cultural exchange programs and leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Brazil.



Soup for Lunch!

When: Saturday November 13

**All You Can Eat
\$5.00 per person**

Come and join us on Saturday, November 14 for a delicious, heart-warming bowl of homemade soup.

Soup and a chance to “vent” about the midterm election, education, County priorities, and buying local! What a menu!

Remember to mark your calendar so you’ll not miss this important get-together where we begin to take aim at our 2010-2011 League priorities and programs.

Welcome Back!

JEANETTE BEAR

Please add this member’s name to your Directory. Returning members’ addresses, phone numbers and e-mails can be obtained from the Membership Chair.

THANK YOU !

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

November 2010

**League of Women Voters
Western Nevada County
P.O. Box 1306
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 265-0956**

**E-mail:
lwvwnc@gmail.com
Website:
lwvwnc.org**

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CAN YOU TOP THIS?

During a break in our Pros & Cons presentations of October 9, Madelyn Helling, our League's secretary, and only person I know to have a county library named after her, recounted the following rather unsettling incident to me:

"I was standing in line at the post office the other day, and had just picked up my mail. I had a letter addressed to me in the most beautiful decorative script I had ever seen. I was so impressed with this cursive artwork, that I turned to a woman standing in back of me and asked, 'Did you ever see any handwriting this lovely?' I didn't expect what followed!"

The woman looked at the envelope and asked, "Why should you have mail addressed to Madelyn Helling?" Bemused, I answered, "Because I am Madelyn Helling."

The lady stood stock still a moment, and replied, "I thought she died at the turn of the century!"

"What," Madelyn asked, "could I say? Talk about a loss for words!"

Oh, yes, Madelyn wants everyone to know that the Madelyn Helling Library is open Monday & Thursday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Happy reading, everyone, and do say "hello" to Madelyn if you happen to see her there. No kidding!

Mary Dreifuss
Voter editor

Voter Service Redux

The Voter Service Committee would like your input on the forums and Pros & Con presentations. Did the forums live up to your expectations? With the poor showing of the State Assembly and State Senate, what can we do to bring in more community and League members? Should we continue to present forums for the state and federal elections? Should we just have our local county and city candidate forums? Were you satisfied with the presentation of the Pros & Cons at our October meeting?

We look forward to your suggestions. Write to the League e-mail: lwwnc@gmail.com, or call either Ruth or Debbie with your ideas.

Mary Hallock Foote, Writer and Illustrator

1847-1938



The stories and illustrations of Mary Hallock Foote reflect the American West that she knew—not the West of cowboys and cattle rustlers, punctuated by wild rides and six-gun shootouts, but the West of mining ventures and irrigation projects, of the engineers who changed the face of the land and of the families that followed, creating economic development and a distinctive Western culture.

After twenty years of making a home for her family in mining camps and engineering ventures through the West, Mary and her engineer husband Arthur De Wint Foote found that Grass Valley and the North Star Mine offered economic stability and a place of repose for the Foote family. They lived in Grass Valley for over thirty years, raising their children, burying one daughter and watching their remaining son and daughter marry and raise families of their own.

Despite being born and raised in New York state, Mary Hallock Foote became one of the most widely read writers of the American West. She was the author of sixteen books and numerous short stories, many of which she illustrated herself as well as producing woodcut illustrations for the works of other authors. Her novels and short stories reflect the sensibilities of her times while portraying characters who live in the West and represent the challenges and opportunities of developing a new and distinct Western culture.

During their stay in Grass Valley, her family resided most of the time at the North Star House property, designed by Julia Morgan, California's first female architect, well-known for her plans for the Hearst Castle. Mary's husband was a mining engineer and the family moved to a succession of mining communities while she continued to record both the daily flavor and extraordinary events that shaped her life. Finally a position with the North Star gold mine in Grass Valley opened up for her husband and the family moved there in 1895.

Once comfortably settled, Mary set down her reminiscences, recently published as *A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West*. With grace and honesty, these memoirs give a compelling personal account of the happiness and anxiety, accomplishments and failures that were experienced by this gifted woman and devoted pioneer wife.

By the age of 28 Mary had already gained fame as an illustrator. Her artistic credits included illustrations for Louisa May Alcott stories in *St. Nicholas Children's Magazine*, drawings for her own essay, "A California Mining Camp" that appeared in *Scribner's Monthly*, woodcuts for the 1877 edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, and four volumes of *The Writings of Bret Harte*. She then began writing the first of 16 critically acclaimed books, including 12 novels and four short story collections. Three of the novels were set in Grass Valley. She is now considered not only one of the foremost, but also one of the most realistic early writers of the American West. Mary Hallock Foote died in Hingham, Massachusetts on June 25, 1938. She was 64 years old.

As an added footnote to her illustrious career, Wallace Stegner's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1971 novel *Angle of Repose* is directly based on Foote's letters, and an opera based on the novel was performed in San Francisco in 1976.

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

SPD Markets

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(530) 265-4596

<http://spdmarket.com>

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BriarPatch Co-op

Natural Foods Community Market

290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily 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

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M-Sat. 5a-7p, Sun. 6a-8p www.flourgarden.com