



Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

Volume 7, Number 1

January 2013

www.SVARW.com

We conservatives have a choice...

We can crawl under a rock and hide, or we can fight for liberty and freedom.

What will you do?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ♦ **January 16th** —SVARW Monthly Meeting—First Time Guests are FREE!
- ♦ **February 20th** —SVARW Monthly Meeting

SVARW MONTHLY MEETINGS

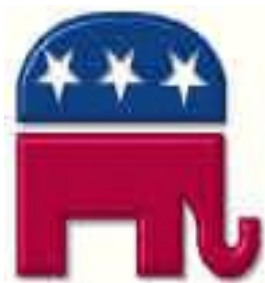
La Rinconada Country Club

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
14595 Clearview Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Tickets for Monthly Meetings
can be purchased at:
www.SVARW.com

See You There!

SVARW is on Facebook.
Join the conversation at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102157146491047/> or search
Facebook for Silicon
Valley Association of
Republican Women.



Upcoming Events at SVARW

Professor analyzes gender politics, election

Don't Miss January Meeting

We have some great speakers lined up so far for the new year. We hope you will join us.

January 16 will be Dr. Padma Manian, History Professor at San Jose City College. Dr. Manian will be discussing the "The Gender Gap: How It Came About." She will review the issues pertaining to women, provide historical context both from a timeline and geographical perspective, and comment on the impact of the November election results on women.

Dr. Manian is an expert on women's issues worldwide, and is probably the only conservative professor teaching on this topic in the U.S.!

Remember, the January meeting is free for first-time guests of current SVARW members. This meeting's topic provides a great opportunity to introduce young conservative women to our organization.



Padma Manian is a history professor at San Jose City College.

Also, coming up in 2013

February 20 will be Mr. Tom Lorenzen, a former official in the Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush administrations and senior consultant to the Reagan Presidential Library and Foundation. Mr. Lorenzen's talk is entitled "Understanding Reagan" which will be a very interesting behind-the-scenes look at the man, his presidency and the people close to Reagan who helped shape his world view. Given the election results, Mr. Lorenzen's talk should be inspiring to us all.

March 20 will be SVARW member Sylvia Oliverrez. Sylvia is a health care insurance expert and will be speaking about what the passage of Obamacare will mean for us here in California — i.e. the ways in which health insurance will change, how the exchanges will work, etc.

Time: Check-in at 9 a.m. with breakfast and meeting starting at 9:30 a.m.

Date: January 16

Location: La Rinconada Country Club, 14595 Clearview Drive, Los Gatos

Cost: \$15 includes continental breakfast. Buy online at www.SVARW.com

Concerned Women for America defends traditional marriage

By Claudette Averill

Recently, 133 same-sex couples married in Washington State at Seattle's City Hall. That number is growing, and will continue to grow, as states around our great nation turn away from Biblical morality and marriage as God created and intended: one man, one woman, no exceptions.

Marriage is on the line. Dangerous enemies of faith and freedom are threatening our security as never before.

As the Supreme Court takes on same-sex marriage, some organizations — such as Concerned Women for America — will be filing a legal brief on our behalf, standing for one man-one woman, God-ordained marriage, and the very future of traditional values of faith and family in America for generations to come.

This year, the justices will hear arguments about both the federal Defense of Marriage Act and California's ban on same-sex marriage.

Concerned Women for America: www.cwfa.org



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Allison Spiller

Second Vice
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Martinez**

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Lisa Seago

Next Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 30
at 9:30 a.m.

Sunshine

Norine needs to know if a member is ill or has lost a loved one. We care about our members and would like to follow up with a call and a card.

Please call Norine Bacon to let her know.
408-377-7111

SVARW raises \$1,200 for KlaasKids

Marc Klaas speaks to SVARW members during the Christmas luncheon held December 12 in Los Gatos.



By Allison Spiller

SVARW First Vice President

At the December 12 Christmas Luncheon, SVARW was honored to have Marc Klaas of the KlaasKids Foundation as our featured speaker and designated charity this year. Mr. Klaas has been a very passionate and involved presence in our own local missing child tragedy, the kidnap and presumed murder of Morgan Hill's Sierra LaMar.

Mr. Klaas gave a very moving and informative presentation on how KlaasKids assisted in the Sierra LaMar disappearance. He also provided information on the work KlaasKids does to help law enforcement and communities to aid in the search to locate missing children.

Through the generosity of SVARW and its members, more than \$1,200 was raised for KlaasKids at the event! Our thanks and appreciation go out to our very generous members.

Marc Klaas works to help victims

Marc Klaas created the KlaasKids Foundation after the 1993 kidnap and murder of his daughter Polly. Here are a few items he discussed at the luncheon:

- In 2012, Klaas Kids search and rescue provided assistance in 83 cases of missing and/or trafficked persons. Of the 23 cases of missing persons, 17 have been resolved.
- The foundation has helped recruit, organize and feed more than 11,000 volunteers who have aided in the search for Sierra LaMar.
- New technology has been developed to put GPS tracking into a wristwatch that also serves as a cell phone and streams Pandora for music.
- Klaas and his foundation worked to make sure Proposition 34 (which would have overturned the death penalty) was defeated in November.

Online

www.pollyklaas.org
www.klaaskids.org

Contact your elected officials

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
FAX (most effective):
916-445-4633
Email: www.govmail.ca.gov

Assemblyman
Rich Gordon
650-691-2121

Assemblyman Jim Beall
408-282-8920

State Senator
Maj. Ldr. Ellen Corbett
510-794-3900

State Senator
S. Joseph Simitian
408-299-5050

State Senator
Elaine Alquist
408-286-8318

SVARW membership roster needs you!



This month is your last chance to pay 2013 SVARW dues and have your information published in our annual roster. The roster includes not only your information (so that

other members can find you) but also includes contact information for your elected representatives. Consider giving a membership as a gift to a young conservative.

In case you missed it...

By Claudette Averill

Our Patriot Christmas party held at Maria Fischer's home on December 8 was not only a big success, but lots of fun. Lots of wonderful food and beautiful decorations put everyone in the Christmas spirit!

The interesting conversation kept

everyone wanting to stay longer. I want to thank everyone who helped, as they made this party a success.

Pacific Justice update

Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute spoke to SVARW last fall. The institute works to defend faith and freedom in the face of the liberal agenda. In December he sent this update:

"We continue to battle SB 1172 to uphold your rights as a parent. SB 1172 is the new law that strips your parental rights by blocking access to any professional counseling in regards to gender confusion for your child or grandchild. I was so outraged by this law, our attorneys filed suit immediately in court and a preliminary injunction was granted!"

Online: www.pacificjustice.org

Membership form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please add my husband _____ as a supporting member.

I am a registered Republican and agree to abide by SVARW By-Laws. I understand that the SVARW Roster is for SVARW member use only and only for SVARW projects and events. I understand that membership in SVARW is subject to approval.

_____ Date: _____

Annual Membership Dues: \$25 per year. Add \$5 for husband supporting member

Make check payable to **SVARW** and mail to: SVARW, P.O. Box 3194, Saratoga, CA 95070

January Issue: Housing policies

Free market ignored in affordable housing, open space policies

A longer version of this article first appeared Dec. 23, 2012 in California Political News and Views. In light of the current discussion in Los Gatos about adopting affordable housing guidelines, this seems a timely inclusion for SVARW members.

By Mimi Steel

KB Builders of California recently announced plans to build homes priced from \$140,000 to \$180,000 – in Texas and North Carolina.

Here in California, those would be affordable houses. Why is there such a difference in housing costs between California and states such as Texas and North Carolina? Surely the advocates of affordable housing in the Bay Area must be asking that question, however, they may not like the answer.

There are many factors that affect housing prices but one of the major factors is the availability of land. Economics 101 tells us that prices are affected by supply and demand. If there is a strong demand for homes but a limited supply of land on which to build, the price of the limited land will increase. If you analyze property in the Bay Area, you will learn that most of the cost of the home can be attributed to the value of the land on which the home is built.

In 2002, Harvard University published a study, “The Impact of Zoning on Housing Affordability,” that asked the question: “Does America face an affordable housing crisis and, if so, why?” The answer was that “the price of housing is significantly higher than construction costs only in a limited number of areas, such as California. ... high prices have little to do with conventional models with a free market for land. Instead, ... zoning and other land use controls play the dominant role in making housing expensive.”

The SF Bay Area has zoning and land use controls on steroids. Plan Bay Area (One Bay Area), a 25-year plan that unelected regional bureaucrats are preparing, will make the problem even worse. One of the plan’s priorities is to provide affordable housing, a goal at cross-purposes with the desire to set aside more open space.

Look at the disconnect in the efforts of Greenbelt Alliance. Greenbelt Alliance’s mission is to preserve open space. They look at land in the Bay Area and identify “at risk” property (private property that is not owned by the government or restricted from development). They lobby to have this property set aside for preservation and then lobby for affordable housing.

So let’s be clear about what is really happening here. There is a complete disconnect between cause and effect. Greenbelt Alliance lobbies to take land out of production, then turns around and lobbies for affordable housing when they helped create the



exact conditions that caused housing to be unaffordable in the first place.

Let’s have an adult conversation about cause and effect, costs and benefits. Rather than dreaming Utopian dreams of designing a perfect world that is within our reach, if only we would give up our private property rights, it’s time to get real about what is happening.

The bottom line is that we have abandoned free market principles and have allowed the government to dictate to us where and how we should live

and how our private land should be developed. The more the government meddles in the housing market and in land use policies, the worse they make the problem.

Do you want affordable housing in the Bay Area? Then release the land that is tied up in open space designations. Do you want open space? Then accept the fact that housing will be unaffordable. You can’t have it both ways. The laws of economics, like the laws of gravity, have predictable consequences. We ignore them at our peril.

Mimi Steel is the Organizer for the SFBay 912 Project and the President of SFBay Chapter of Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR). Her website is www.bayarealiberty.org and her email is sfinfo@proprights.org

Issues to watch

In December, Los Gatos town officials held a public meeting to hear comments about a proposed “affordable housing overlay zone.” Residents queried officials about the impact of higher density housing on schools and traffic. According to town officials, the state of California is requiring all towns and cities to create plans for affordable housing within their boundaries.

The next Town Council meeting in Los Gatos is on Jan. 22. Prior to the meeting, Mimi Steel will be speaking to the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association about the implications of sustainable development. The meeting is 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17, at Harry’s Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose (between Stevens Creek Boulevard and Interstate 280). Cost is \$10 for non-members, free to SVTA members.

Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association:
www.SVTaxpayers.org/svta-events

State and regional planning prompts more parcel taxes

Cities get money for road repairs, but nothing for schools and other city services when they opt into state-mandated housing plans.

By Mimi Steel

Reprinted from California Political News and Views
<http://capoliticalnews.com/>

California taxpayers received some good news and much needed relief when an appeals court recently imposed restrictions on parcel taxes for government schools. Unfortunately there is a dark cloud lurking behind this silver lining.

The cloud is brought to you courtesy of the California State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and your regional, unelected planning agency. It comes in the form of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation. The regional housing allocation is a number from the state Housing and Community Development department. It tells each region in the state not only how much housing it must be prepared to accommodate but also the economic mix (very low, low, moderate, and above moderate income levels) of that housing. A regional agency (in our area this is the the Association of Bay Area Governments or ABAG) then takes the number and tells each city in its jurisdiction how much housing it must support. Most of the housing must go in to Transit Oriented Development in Priority Development Areas. In English that translates to high density, mixed use, housing (shops on the first floor, living space above) near mass transit.

As with all Utopian schemes, there is a Catch-22 to this story. When a city complies with the plan, it receives road repair funds but it does not receive any funds to cover the costs of adding more people to the cost of schools, emergency services, and other city services. Our legislators have even included a rule that says a city cannot use the excuse of the impact on their schools as justification for not complying. So where would the money come from? Parcel taxes.

Dublin Pleasanton disparity

Before you dismiss this as the ravings of some uninformed crazy person, let me tell you a modern day "Tale of Two Cities." The cities are Dublin and Pleasanton, neighboring towns in the

East Bay that straddle a BART station. Dublin has built and is building its fair share of high density housing. Pleasanton is under a court order to do the same.

When the Pleasanton School Board held a meeting to determine what they needed to do to plan for the additional population, they brought in a consulting firm to help them understand the demographics. Naturally, the firm looked at the Dublin experience. Dublin was originally planning for 1.2 children per household but their experience with this type of

housing pushed them to 3.8 children per household, three times the number of children they were expecting. Given the insistence of the state and the regional planners to force cities and towns in to unwanted population growth, it is small wonder that there are continuing calls for more parcel taxes to support the additional burdens imposed by the bureaucrats. School funding is just one issue that the people who are making the rules are forcing on those of us who have to live with those rules. We have not even begun to address the other infrastructure obligations that are incurred.

Cash strapped cities and towns find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place. They need the money for road repair but acceptance of that money comes with strings that require even more expenditures. Waiting in the wings are the Federal government and non-governmental organizations with grant money that they will gladly provide if only

you agree to their agenda to completely socially re-engineer America and turn it in to a land of equal outcomes rather than a land of equal opportunity.

It's time for citizens to rise up and take back their country. Decisions regarding housing, land use, and zoning must be returned to local city councils and mayors. The first step in this process is to attend local planning meetings and go on record with your mayor and city council that you do not want these transit villages in your town. They will tell you that it's the law. Yes, but it is a bad law. Bad laws can and must be changed. Your response must be "we will not comply." If enough cities and towns protest, we can stop this unethical and immoral usurpation of our Constitutional rights.

Mimi Steel is the Organizer for the SFBay 912 Project and the President of SFBay Chapter of Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR). Her website is www.bayarealiberty.org and her email is sfinfo@proprights.org

NOTE: If you have suggestions for future monthly issues to explore in the SVARW newsletter, please email the editor, Joyce Swanson-Hall at jswanhall@yahoo.com. We welcome your comments, articles and ideas, so don't be shy.

"It's time for citizens to rise up and take back their country. Decisions regarding housing, land use, and zoning must be returned to local city councils and mayors."

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P.O Box 3194
Saratoga, CA 95070



OUR MISSION

SVARW is an independent, conservative organization committed to supporting and defending the principles of our Founding Fathers as written in the Constitution of the United States of America, whose mission it is to elect qualified, conservatives to Santa Clara County non-partisan offices, and to educate and motivate our members to support conservative principles.

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Don't miss the 2013 speaker series; renew your membership now

SVARW memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. Membership is \$25 per year and includes 10 issues of the SVARW newsletter as well as a copy of the printed membership roster (email updates are sent to both members and non-members). You can add your spouse as an associate member for \$5. There are three ways to renew your membership:

1. Go to the www.SVARW.com website. There is a link on the home page to pay your dues with a credit card.
2. Write a check to SVARW and bring it to our next meeting. We will have a form there for you to complete.
3. Complete the membership application on page 3 and mail with your check made out to SVARW to:

SVARW
P.O. Box 3194
Saratoga, CA 95070

Consider giving membership as a gift to a young conservative.