Silicon Valley
Association of Republican Women
Conservatives for Action

Volume 9, Number 10
November 2015
www.svarw.com

- **Judicial system's inequality in matters of faith,** page 2
- **Save the date: Dec. 16 Christmas Luncheon, California Cafe, Los Gatos,** page 4 and insert
- **Renew your membership,** insert

Mark your calendar

- **Nov. 18:** SVARW regular meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. Cost: $15
- **Dec. 16:** SVARW Christman luncheon, 10 a.m. check-in, California Cafe, 50 University Ave., Los Gatos. Cost: $40, free to sponsors. Reserve by Dec. 12.

2016 Membership

SVARW 2015 memberships expire on Dec. 31, 2015. If you did not pay for your 2016 membershp yet, you may pay online at SVARW.com, at either the November or December meeting, or mail a payment to SVARW, PO Box 3194, Saratoga, CA 95040. There are several levels of membership. Contact Gail Desmet with membership questions. Email Gail at membership@svarw.com.

Upcoming Events at SVARW

Religious freedoms under attack

Pacific Justice Institute leads efforts to preserve First Amendment rights

Time: 9 a.m. check-in; program called to order at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Wednesday, Nov. 18
Place: Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, CA 95125
Cost: $15 includes breakfast; free to Reagan, Gold and Sponsor members

Eight years ago who would have imagined that an order of Catholic nuns, Little Sister of Poor, would be forced against their beliefs, to offer birth control to employees? Or, that the owners of a small bakery in Oregon would be fined $135,000 for refusing to make a cake for the marriage of two lesbians?

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion or impeding the free exercise of religion.

How were our first amendment rights perverted by the left to make the government a watch dog to protect citizens from religion?

Our speaker, Brad Dacus, a favorite of SVARW, is returning to speak about the attack on religious freedom and why it is important to stand up for what we believe.

Brad Dacus, Founder and President of Pacific Justice Institute has led the charge for nearly two decades coordinating religious and parental rights cases throughout the western states when religious liberty has been threatened.

Brad Dacus served as legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas, School of Law. For the next five years, Dacus coordinated religious freedom and parental rights cases throughout the Western states. In 1997, he founded Pacific Justice Institute, where he serves as president and continues to defend religious liberties and parental rights. The Pacific Justice Institute has a network of hundreds of volunteer affiliate attorneys and handles more cases on the West Coast than any other organization of its kind.

Brad Dacus

Brad can be heard weekly on "The Dacus Report" Saturday mornings on KWVE and dozens of radio stations around the nation. He has been a guest speaker on numerous radio and television programs, participates weekly in several radio talk show interviews, and has appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," "The Today Show," "CNN," "Hannity and Colmes," "News Talk TV," "CBS Evening News," "MSNBC," "NBC News," NBC "Dateline" and many times on the "O'Reilly Factor."

Dacus' varied public speaking opportunities include public debate, on two occasions, against the president of the ACLU, and on another occasion, against the president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He has testified before the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. in opposition to H.R. 1592 "Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007." He has

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Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women
P.O. Box 3194
Saratoga, CA 95070

Executive Board

Debra Janssen-Martinez, President;
Jane Kearney, First Vice-President;
Jan Soule, Second Vice-President;
Sherrill Martinez, Recording Secretary;
Kirsten Williams, Corresponding Secretary;
Lisa Seago, Treasurer;
Diane Owen, Parliamentarian

The board meets at 9:30 a.m. typically on the last Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Contact Debra Janssen-Martinez at President@svarw.com and she can provide details.

SVARW sunshine

Norine Bacon is SVARW's official ray of sunshine. When a member is ill or has lost a loved one, Norine reaches out to them with a card and a personal call. Please don't hesitate to call her if you know someone in need. Her number is 408-377-7111.

Norine Bacon

President's message

Government's capricious defense of religious liberty diminishes our rights

Last month, a jury in Illinois awarded $240,000 in damages and back pay to two Muslim truck drivers who sued their former employer for religious discrimination after they were fired for refusing to make beer deliveries. The federal government's Equal Opportunity Commission, funded with our tax dollars, represented the drivers in their legal action against the privately owned trucking company. The drivers refused to work routes that involved delivering beer, claiming that the work violated their First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion. Compare this action with the Oregon case of Sweet Cakes Bakery, which was fined $150,000 by the state because its owners refused to bake a cake for a lesbian couple, claiming it violated their religious tenets.

Is it just me, or do you also think our most basic freedoms, those clearly described in the first 10 amendments to our Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, are being perverted, denied, and violated by the very government we elect to protect them? The First Amendment was first because it embodied our founders' highest priority, protection of the individual from the power of government to coerce our religious expression, and speech. Freedom to practice one's religion was sacrosanct. Freedom from a state established religion was key in uniting our polyglot nation. Both cases illustrate an upside down interpretation of our First Amendment rights. Muslims chose to drive trucks for a company that transported beer, a legal product.

Sweet Cakes Bakery was on a street with several other bakeries that welcomed gay wedding cake customers. The owners had cheerfully served the couple previously, only objecting to providing what they considered a blasphemous product, in violation of their religious practice. How did we arrive at the point when the government has become the enemy of our most basic freedoms, twisting the original intent to forcing religious or personal preferences on individuals by an intrusive, punitive government?

Over the next, very important election year, SVARW will host speakers, events, actions and events in support of the Bill of Rights. Each month we will feature one of our essential rights. The first Amendment with its combination of freedom of religion, speech and press will be covered in three months with the other nine amendments making up the balance of the year.

Our November speaker, Brad Dacus, will address the erosion of our religious liberties. At every meeting, we plan to have a "10-minute Patriot" program, where we will take out our cell phones, put pen to paper and DO SOMETHING! We may write, call, text, email, TWEET, petition our government or act in support of actions by other groups. Our goal is to help our members become active and make a difference in the face of a flood tide of threats to our freedoms.

We're also planning some fun outings, parties, and entertainment over the coming year, because pushing back in defense of liberty is very serious business, but it needn't be dull or joyless. Please join with me in renewing our founders pledge to defend our hard won freedoms however, and whenever, we are granted that opportunity.

— Debra Janssen-Martinez

In case you missed it: October meeting

Pensions need major reform immediately

By Joyce Hall
Newsletter editor

Instead of relying on savings, investments and pensions for retirement, why don't we all just max out our credit cards, and leave thousands of dollars in debt for our children to pay off?

That is essentially the mechanism that the state of California and its cities are using to pay pensions to retired public workers. Economist Lawrence McQuillen outlined for the SVARW audience on Oct. 21 how public workers' pension benefits have ballooned, but the governments responsible for those debts have failed for decades to put enough money aside to cover those costs.

"Nationally, they should have $4.7 trillion more in the bank today than they have to cover for the benefits already promised," McQuillen said. "How did we get into this mess? For last 20 to 30 years, politicians kept increasing the benefits but they didn't increase the rate of contributions to make sure there were sufficient funds to cover the benefits."

And usually the politicians who support the increases are out of office before the bill comes due, he said.

The results of this mismanagement of public pension funds results in cuts in services and tax increases, McQuillen said.

As far as solutions, McQuillen said it isn't going to be easy.

"It took decades to create the problem," he said. "You can either put the money in today and let compound interest do its magic" or do nothing and let future generations pay the bills.

But McQuillen stressed that it is immoral to pass along that debt to future generations rather than deal with it today.

One recommendation he proposed is switching pensions from defined benefit plans to 401K investments, the primary retirement system now offered across private industry.

Following is contact information for officials if you want to call or write about this issue:

Gov. Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone: 916-445-2841; FAX: 916-445-4633; Email: www.govmail.ca.gov
Assemblyman Rich Gordon, 650-691-2121
Assemblyman Evan Low, 408-371-2802
State Sen. Maj. Ldr. Ellen Corbett, 510-794-3900
State Sen. Jerry Hill, 650-212-3313
State Sen. Jim Beall, 408-558-1295

Civil liberties defender

Continued from page 1

also testified numerous times before the California State Legislature on legislation affecting religious freedom and parents' rights. He has guest lectured at Stanford University School of Law. Dacus continues to speak regularly at churches, conferences, graduations and conventions throughout the United States, including pastors' legal seminars and workplace seminars co-sponsored by Pacific Justice Institute with local churches and Christian colleges and universities.

He was presented an honorary doctorate of Religious Freedom and Family Rights degree from California Baptist University in recognition of his commitment to faith and justice and his work protecting parental rights and religious freedom through the Pacific Justice Institute.

Get the scoop sooner

Want to get the newsletter as soon as possible? The digital version of the SVARW newsletter comes right to your inbox and you don't need to wait for mail delivery. Contact Gail deSmet at membership@svarw.com

Give the Gift of Life This Christmas.

Share the joy and true meaning of Christmas by participating in our annual Christmas Tree of Life (CTOL).

RealOptions
Pregnancy Medical Clinics

Contact Us for More Details
ctol@realoptions.net | 408-229-9836
FriendsofRealOptions.net/ctol

Save Dec. 16 for SVARW Christmas Celebration Luncheon

Time: Check in at 10 a.m.
Date: Dec. 16
Location: California Café, 50 University Ave., Los Gatos
Cost: $40, free to sponsors
Parking: There is parking adjacent to the restaurant and several parking lots between University and Santa Cruz avenues.

The SVARW Christmas Celebration is always a sell-out event. This year the event features:

- Installation of SVARW Officers for 2016 administered by Santa Clara County Supervisor, Mike Wasserman
- Delicious lunch with soup, choice of one of three entrees, dessert, coffee , tea and soft drinks.
- Carol Patterson, VP of Cityteam speaking on behalf of our featured charity

About Cityteam

Cityteam was founded in San Jose, CA in 1957 and provides a variety of life changing programs that help people truly change their lives out of poverty, hunger and addiction. Cityteam also has locations in San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Philadelphia and 51 international countries.

Cityteam San Jose serves over 650 hot meals and day, 1,500 emergency food boxes a month, along with safe shelter, showers, clean clothing, youth mentorship, and long-term recovery for men, women and children.

Cityteam is known for their high success rates with their long-term recovery programs along with education and career centers. Cityteam is privately funded by compassionate individuals, volunteers, churches and corporate partners here in Silicon Valley.

Purchase tickets online at www.SVARW.com, download flyer and pay by check.

Join other SVARW members for the annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 16 at the California Cafe in Los Gatos.

SVARW Celebration!

Celebrating Christmas

Celebrating SVARW's New Officers!

Wednesday, December 16

Check in Starts: 10:00 AM — Montebello Room

California Café — Old Town Los Gatos

50 University Ave. Suite 260, Los Gatos

Reserve your place today for SVARW's annual Christmas Luncheon! Our program includes:

- Installation of SVARW Officers for 2016 officiated by Santa Clara County Supervisor, Mike Wasserman
- Featured Charity: Cityteam San Jose
- Speaker: Carol Patterson, Vice President, City Team Ministries
- Delicious Lunch

Cost: $40 [**Free** to Sponsors—RSVP to Lisa Seago]

Husbands and Guests welcome!

Questions? Lisa Seago 408-741-0713

Christmas Meeting Reservation

Make check payable to SVARW—$40 per person

Mail to: Lisa Seago, 13578 Wendy Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070

Or, go to **WWW. SVARW.COM** and purchase tickets online using your credit card

Member Name:

Guest/Supporting Member Name:

SVARW members are encouraged to consider making a donation to City Team Ministries at the luncheon

About Cityteam San Jose

Cityteam was founded in San Jose, CA in 1957 and provides a variety of life changing programs that help people truly change their lives out of poverty, hunger and addiction.

Cityteam San Jose serves over 650 hot meals and day, 1,500 emergency food boxes a month, along with safe shelter, showers, clean clothing, youth mentorship, and long-term recovery for men, women and children.

Cityteam is known for their high success rates with their long-term recovery programs along with education and career centers. Cityteam is privately funded by compassionate individuals, volunteers, churches and corporate partners here in Silicon Valley.

Installation of SVARW Officers for 2016
By Santa Clara County Supervisor
Mike Wasserman

Lunch Includes
Soup
Choice from Three Entrées—
Choice is made at luncheon
Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:
December 12

How to renew SVARW membership for 2016

Membership in SVARW runs for the calendar year and 2015 memberships expire Dec. 31. Men are invited to join SVARW as Associate members. We are encouraging young conservative to join SVARW at a special low-cost membership level. In addition to our regular basic membership, premium memberships are available for 2016 to support the organization.

Also available for 2016 is a SPONSOR level which will provide a business or organization with visibility to the 500-plus conservatives on our email list, website visitors and in our newsletter.

You can renew membership online at SVARW.com or by sending your check with the form at right to SVARW, P.O. Box 3194, Saratoga, CA 95040. Renewals also will be accepted at the next regular meeting on Nov. 18.

Membership Application

Membership in SVARW is for a calendar year ending on Dec. 31st.

Regular Membership for Women
Associate Member for Men

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Please add a spouse member.

Name _____

Please send my newsletter by:

_____ Email _____Snail Mail

_____ I would like to receive email updates.

I agree to abide by the SVARW By-Laws. I understand that the SVARW Roster is for SVARW member use, projects & events only – cannot be sold or distributed. I understand that membership in SVARW is subject to approval.

_____ _____
Signature Date

Please attach a check for your dues and mail to: SVARW, P.O. Box 3194 Saratoga, CA 95070 **OR** apply online at **www.svarw.com**

Membership Levels

Regular or Associate - **$30**

Spouse – **$10**

Includes electronic and printed Newsletter, Email Alerts and Membership Roster

Reagan Premium - **$150**

Member or Associate and spouse

Includes electronic and printed Newsletter, Email Alerts, Membership Roster,
$15 admittance charge to all regular SVARW monthly meetings is waived for both member and spouse.
(Christmas Luncheon and Patriot Parties NOT included)

Patriot Gold - **$250**

Member or Associate and Spouse

Includes electronic and printed Newsletter, Email Alerts, Membership Roster,
$15 admittance charge to all regular SVARW monthly meetings is waived for both member and spouse.
(Christmas Luncheon NOT included)
Admittance charge to Patriot Parties is waived.

Sponsor Platinum - **$500**

Member or Associate and Spouse

Includes electronic and printed Newsletter, Email Alerts, Membership Roster,
Admittance charges to all SVARW monthly meetings, Christmas Luncheon, and Patriot Parties are waived for both member and spouse.

Young Guns - **$10**

Young Conservatives under 25 years old

Includes Electronic Newsletter only.