



- **First time guests free in January**, see below
- **Using Facebook to expand our reach**, page 2
- **Thankful for blessings in 2016**, page 3

**Mark your calendar**

- **Jan. 20:** 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
- **Feb. 17:** 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

**2016 Membership**

If you have not yet paid your 2016 membership, you may pay online at [SVARW.com](http://SVARW.com), at the January 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](mailto:membership@svarw.com).

**Newsletter Editor**  
Joyce Swanson-Hall  
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## Upcoming Events at SVARW

### KSFO's 'Dr. History' Charlie Self

**Noted historian, author to discuss liberty, Islam, Bill of Rights**

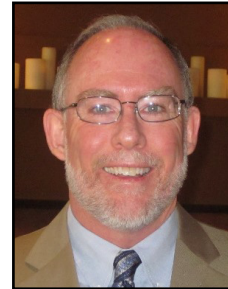
**Time:** 9 a.m. check-in; program called to order at 9:30 a.m.  
**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 20  
**Place:** Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, CA 95125  
**Cost:** \$15 includes breakfast; free to Reagan, Gold and Sponsor members

**Charlie Self**, known to KSFO listeners as "Dr. History," will address SVARW on Jan. 20. His presentation, "Islam and the Bill of Rights: The future of Liberty in America and the World," is especially timely as SVARW meetings in 2016 will be focused on the Bill of Rights. Charlie Self is an author and minister and is effective at stimulating people of all perspectives to "think deeply and act decisively."

Self is a senior advisor for the Acton Institute for Religious Liberty in Grand Rapids, Mich. The institute is a think tank dedicated to good intentions and sound economics as well as Biblical principles integrated with free market economics. He is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and has served as pastor in several congregations in California, Oregon and

Washington D.C.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His graduate studies include a doctorate in modern European history with a focus on Belgian Protestantism and studies in virtue ethics of the Holocaust and a master's in philosophical and systematic theology, from the Graduate Theological Union



**Charlie Self**

Seminary in Berkeley.

As usual, the regular monthly meeting is free to Reagan, Patriot Gold and Sponsor Members whose dues have been paid for 2016.

#### Bring a friend in January

Members are encouraged to bring a **FIRST TIME** guest for **FREE** for this first meeting of 2016. This is a great way to introduce new people to SVARW. Charlie Self's topics are always engaging and memorable.

#### Longtime member Christina Sand brought spirit, wit to SVARW

SVARW extends our deepest condolences to the family of Christina Sand, who passed away on December 23, aged 53. Christina was a passionate pro-life involved citizen patriot and longtime member of SVARW. A lawyer, teacher and Ham radio operator, she was mother to Daniel and wife to Duane. Her quick wit and brave spirit will be missed.

## Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

P.O. Box 3194  
Saratoga, CA 95070

### Executive Board

Jan Soule, President;  
Jane Kearney, First Vice-  
President;  
Debra Janssen-Martinez, Second  
Vice-President;  
Sherrill Martinez, Recording  
Secretary;  
Susan Calderon, 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 Jan Soule 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

## *Are jihadists shrewder than conservative women?*

**M**uch has been reported  
about how terrorists  
use social media to promote  
their cause. While SVARW  
has struggled for years to  
encourage our members to use  
Facebook to engage like-minded  
conservatives, our results have  
fallen short. Perhaps with so  
much at stake in 2016, it's time  
for conservative women to step  
up and show that we can use  
social media as effectively as  
jihadists.



Jan Soule with her husband Peter.

### Power of Facebook

Like many, I set up a Facebook page  
years ago and pretty much ignored it  
until tasked this past spring with  
finding and inviting members  
of our far-flung family to a  
reunion. The task seemed quite  
daunting. My grandfather and  
his two brothers had come to America  
from Italy more than 100 years ago  
and now we were attempting to contact  
all of their children, grandchildren,  
great grandchildren, etc. Keep in mind  
that those early Italians had very big  
families.

With help from a cousin, we set up  
a group page for the reunion and then  
started inviting those we knew on  
Facebook to join the page. The most  
amazing thing about Facebook is that  
when you find one person they are  
usually Facebook friends with others  
you would like to contact. Then you  
simply invite these new-found contacts  
to be "friends."

It was amazing. In less than three  
months we were able to use Facebook  
to invite the majority of these distant  
relatives, either directly or by having  
those on Facebook pass the information  
to their family members. We had a



great family reunion in July and met  
many cousins for the first time.

Now, six months later, I still enjoy  
hearing from these cousins. Amazingly,  
those old Italians must have  
done a good job educating their  
families because many of these  
cousins are very politically  
conservative.

### Conservative women, join the cause

As conservative women and men, we  
need to take the first steps in leveraging  
social media to engage other like-  
minded conservatives sitting on the  
sidelines. At a minimum, if you use  
Facebook, join SVARW's Facebook  
page. You can either search for Silicon  
Valley Association of Republican  
Women within Facebook or go to our  
website ([www.SVARW.com](http://www.SVARW.com)) and  
click on the link to our Facebook page.  
When we post information on our  
upcoming meetings and events, simply  
SHARE the post on your Facebook  
page.

— Jan Soule  
SVARW President

## Looking forward

# New year holds blessings, hopes as we work together

By Debra Janssen-Martinez  
Second Vice-President

The fresh start embodied in the new year has always prompted me to take stock of the last year's blessings, setbacks and heartaches. If we love deeply, our family, our friends, our country, then triumphs, and tragedies, the joys and sorrows are necessarily more pronounced.

As I sat in the audience at our lovely SVARW Christmas luncheon just after the new President, Jan Soule, was sworn in, I felt deeply privileged to have been president of such a fine organization. I was even more privileged to look around my table. I'm adding every person at that table to my basket of blessings which counterbalance my own list of losses and challenges in the coming year.

On my right was Carol Patterson, Vice President of Cityteam, a privately funded nonprofit which enacts a thousand blessings feeding hungry bodies and nourishing souls of both the hopeless and marginalized in our community and fostering new life and hope for the young and unborn. A second, career which makes such a difference. Abundant blessings indeed.

Across from me sat Steve Brown. What an amazing young man. A

successful entrepreneur and father, willing to make the countless sacrifices it takes to run for public office. As an African American, conservative Republican in our crazy liberal-dominated, hyperpolarized environment, his courage and commitment gives me hope concerning the next generation of leaders.

On my other side was Devora "Dev" Davis, Stanford graduate, and mother of school-aged children. She's running for San Jose City Council in District 6, which includes our Willow Glen meeting place. She's another image of hope for the future. She's an educated, accomplished woman who wants efficient and effective government.

After swearing in the new Board, Mike Wasserman, a loyal friend of SVARW, spoke of efficient county jail reforms, and smart management of federally mandated programs such as SNAP (food stamps). The lone Republican on the powerful county board of supervisors, he's a prime example of making lemonade of the sour lemons big government programs can lead to.

On my right was First Vice President, Jane Kearney. While I'm grateful to her for her quick wit and humor, and loyal friendship, most

of all, I'd add her to the "blessings basket" for SVARW because she's simply irreplaceable. Her amazing diplomacy in locating and persuading speakers grounds us. She represents to me each of the board members and committee chairs who essentially perform part-time professional jobs as unpaid volunteers. Lisa Seago's financial acumen, Gail DeSmet's cheerfully serves existing and inviting new members. Joyce Swanson miraculously publishes a professional newsletter every month. Jan's contributions would take a separate article; the rest would take a short book encompassing every type of task from correspondence to event planning.

Blessings and challenges. This is the year we ordinary citizens can make a difference. We can support better government and great private efforts to improve our little part of the world, or just hunker down and hope it gets better. Be a blessing to one of these fine candidates, office holders and volunteers who step up to lead. Join us to make your voice heard, and the blessings multiply.

*Debra Janssen-Martinez served as SVARW president from 2013 to 2015.*



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In case you missed it: Christmas luncheon

## Cityteam benefits from SVARW members' generosity



SVARW's new executive board takes the oath of office during the Dec. 16 Christmas luncheon. From left, the 2016 officers are Recording Secretary Sherrill Martinez, President Jan Soule, First Vice-President Jane Kearney, Second Vice-President Debra Janssen-Martinez, Corresponding Secretary Susan Calderon and Treasurer Lisa Seago.

## More than \$1,700 donated to help provide food, shelter, recovery

Our SVARW Christmas luncheon, held Dec. 16 at California Café in Los Gatos, was a great way to end our year and kick off 2016.

Our program began with the installation of SVARW officers for 2016. Performing the ceremony was Supervisor Mike Wasserman representing Santa Clara County District 1. SVARW appreciates the long-standing support of Supervisor Wasserman. Prior to administering the oath of office to our incoming officers, Supervisor Wasserman provided an update on some of the ways this lone Republican on the Board of Supervisors has been able to make a positive impact on local government efficiency.

Taking the oath of office for 2016:

- President Jan Soule—Responsible for the overall direction of SVARW
- First Vice President Jane Kearney – Responsible for securing speakers for our monthly programs
- Second Vice President Debra Janssen-Martinez—Responsible for PR and coordinating a call-to-action for each meeting
- Recording Secretary Sherrill Martinez—Responsible for taking

the minutes at each board meeting

- Corresponding Secretary Susan Calderon—Responsible for correspondence from SVARW
- Treasurer Lisa Seago—Responsible for tracking SVARW's funds and paying our bills (although she does a lot more)

In addition to Supervisor Wasserman, SVARW was pleased to introduce other office holders and candidates including Devora "Dev" Davis and Steve Brown, who are running for San Jose City Council, Margaret Metcalf, representative to the RNC from Guam, and our longtime friend, former Congressman Ernie Konnyu.

As SVARW has done every December since its founding, we featured a local charity as our speaker and focus for our Christmas meeting. This year our guest was Carol Patterson, vice president of Cityteam. Founded in San Jose in 1957, Cityteam provides a variety of life-changing programs that help people truly change their lives out of poverty, hunger and addiction. From its San Jose roots, Cityteam has grown to add locations in San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Philadelphia and 51 countries.

Without accepting any government assistance, San Jose's Cityteam serves more than 650 hot meals a day. Carol invited members to consider volunteering one day in the preparation of the meals. Cityteam also provides safe shelters for the homeless, showers, clean clothing, youth mentorship, and long-term recovery for men, women and children. The generous guests at our luncheon donated more than \$1,700 to help Cityteam continue its local efforts.

To learn more or to contribute, go to [www.cityteam.org](http://www.cityteam.org)

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### Contact your officials

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