



- **We're back to the third Wednesday**, details below
- **Does state GOP welcome conservatives?** page 2
- **Get on the bus for Lobby Day trip to Sacramento**, page 4

**Mark your calendar**

- **Feb. 15:** SVARW regular monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave. San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 am. Cost: \$15.
- **March 15:** SVARW regular monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave. San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 am. Cost: \$15.

**2017 Membership**

Want to join SVARW?  
Contact Gail Desmet at [membership@svarw.com](mailto:membership@svarw.com).

**New members**

SVARW welcomes the following new members:

Wendy and Walt  
Brukwinski  
Dawn Burt  
Judy Clark  
Pauline Doyle  
Lisa Huse  
Kristen Jacobson  
Lorrie and Fred Landis  
Linda Lester  
Denise McElhiney  
Joe Paczonay  
Kris and John Saba  
Cyndi Sheehan

## Upcoming Events at SVARW

### Recent laws endanger children

#### *Speaker Marc Klaas to detail fight to protect kids from violent criminals*

In 1993, 12-year-old Polly Klaas was kidnapped from a slumber party in Petaluma. Polly was then raped and subsequently strangled to death by a repeat criminal offender. This was a devastating event; one that her father, Marc Klaas, could never have imagined. Since 1993, Marc Klaas has tirelessly fought for the safety and rights of all our children and grandchildren. Through his KlaasKids Foundation, he has made the safety of our children top priority.

Klaas has been an active voice with our legislators and lawmakers, fighting for the rights our children and to keep criminals behind bars. As liberal agendas try to push for shorter sentences and too many second chances, Klaas has been the voice of reason speaking from a personal perspective of the harm these agendas can cause.

During SVARW's February meeting, Klaas will be discussing the ongoing fight to keep dangerous criminals away from our children. He will highlight the recent bills and initiatives which liberals are trying to push through. Recent cases, such as the trial of local teen Sierra LaMar, will be discussed, as well as an in-depth review of legislation including SB18 and the recently passed Prop. 57, which put all our children at risk.

Klaas has appeared on most network television newsmagazines, syndicated talk shows and is a regular resource for CNN, FOX and MSNBC, offering commentary on missing children and victims' rights. He has written for Newsweek Magazine and published editorial opinions for newspapers as diverse as the San Francisco Chronicle,

**DETAILS**

**Time:** Check in begins at 9 a.m.; program begins at 9:30 a.m.  
**Date:** Wednesday Feb. 15  
**Place:** Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose 95125  
**Cost:** \$15 includes buffet breakfast  
**Purchase tickets online:** [SVARW.com](http://SVARW.com) Those who buy tickets in advance, or RSVP online will be on paid list and admitted quickly.

San Jose Mercury News and the Cleveland Plain Dealer. A sought-after speaker, Klaas has shared a podium with President Bill Clinton, New York Governor George Pataki, California Governor Gray Davis; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mayor Rudy Giuliani and many other distinguished civic leaders. Klaas travels extensively through the United States facilitating town hall meetings, encouraging innovative solutions and proven programs that positively impact crime, abuse and neglect that plague children in so many of our communities. He also counsels and advises numerous victim families and families of kidnapped children.

#### **March meeting: Crushing political correctness**

On March 15, our speaker will talk about taking a stand for American values, even in California. Joining SVARW that day will be Nick Adams, founder and executive director of the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness (FLAG), an organization dedicated to promoting American exceptionalism and combating anti-Americanism worldwide. He is also a best-selling author, columnist and commentator.

## Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

P.O. Box 3194  
Saratoga, CA 95070

### Executive Board

Jan Soule, President  
Rosa Brown, 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 for 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.

### 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

### President's message

## *Is there a place for conservatives in California's Republican Party?*

*SVARW President Jan Soule  
sent the following letter to Jim  
Brulte, Chairman of the California  
Republican Party:*

Dear Jim,

I appreciated your participation  
in our November 16th meeting of  
the Silicon Valley Association of  
Republican Women. Your message  
was well received. It was kind of  
you to stop and chat with me and a  
couple of our SVARW members as  
we left the same DC restaurant on  
January 18th. Your parting question  
was, "Will you be coming to the  
convention?"

I certainly have thought about  
what it would mean to be part of an  
organizing convention taking place on  
the heels of the Trump victory. There  
is certainly a high level of enthusiasm  
among conservatives in Silicon  
Valley. The January 25th meeting  
of the Silicon Valley Association of  
Republican Women drew a record 150  
guests...far exceeding the 100 guests  
that attended our first meeting of the  
year in 2016. Many, many new people  
showed up looking to be with like-  
minded conservatives and several who  
were local Trump volunteers were  
literally begging for a way to stay  
involved.

Unfortunately, these newly  
energized conservatives do not want to  
be involved with the "establishment."  
They have seen the Republican elite  
show their disdain for Trump. Locally  
the only two Republicans on the  
San Jose City Council held a news  
conference to disavow Trump and  
recently both marched in the women's

rights march that supported every  
principle of the DNC.

It was about 10 years ago that I led  
about 10 members of SVARW to the  
CRP Convention because I believed it  
was important to get involved. As an  
unaffiliated political organization, we  
have no direct involvement with the  
CRP other than to share the goals of  
electing conservatives to office.

Is there a role for conservatives at  
the CRP Convention? What is the  
plan to channel this high level of  
interest by conservatives who have  
never been active before? Or, will it  
be business as usual?

SVARW has made efforts to work  
with SVGOP including co-hosting two  
candidate forums last year in an effort  
to help SVGOP draw more people  
to their meetings. We will continue  
to work with them where it makes  
sense but over the years it has been  
made perfectly clear that conservative  
activists are not welcome to participate  
in the central committee. We have  
two members of SVARW who joined  
us last year that were former members  
of the Santa Cruz County Republican  
Party but have been excluded from  
membership on that central committee.

In my humble opinion, the  
California Republican Party either  
needs to figure out how to embrace the  
enthusiasm that Trump generated in  
California or change its mascot to the  
mastodon.

*Sincerely,*

*Jan Soule, President  
Silicon Valley Association of  
Republican Women*

### Time to renew membership

SVARW memberships expire on Dec. 31 of each year. Those who joined in  
conjunction with attending the 2016 Stars and Stripes Gala already are signed up  
for 2017.

If you're unsure whether you've paid for 2017, contact membership chair Gail  
Desmet at [membership@svarw.com](mailto:membership@svarw.com). There are several levels of membership;  
some include free admission to all regular brunch meetings.

## Linking ISIS to domestic terror

By Joyce Hall  
Newsletter editor

Terry Turchie expresses no doubt that Silicon Valley is rich with potential targets for terrorism. High-tech businesses, local airports, utility infrastructure and even agricultural land were identified as possible targets by Al Qaeda as early as 2003, he told the audience at the Jan. 25 meeting of the Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women.

Turchie is the former Deputy Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI. He led teams that eventually identified and apprehended letter bomber Ted Kaczynski (the “Unabomber”) and Eric Rudolph, who planted a bomb in a park during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He has co-authored books about terrorism including “Hunting the American Terrorist: The FBI’s War on Homegrown Terror” and “Unabomber.”

Working on those two cases gave Turchie a unique look into the mind of lone offenders, who act independently

but claim affiliation with a larger cause, such as ISIS.

As Turchie explained, “These people, all their life, they wanted to belong to something greater than themselves, a cause. They were never able to find that cause, or group.” ISIS’s goal of a global caliphate provides the cause these lone offenders seek.

“Today we have ISIS, which is heavily into social media. They are using that to find these lone offender mentalities.”

He described the current situation as a “dead-on collision between international terror and domestic terror.”

What do the lone offenders want? They want to be part of a group.

That’s what ISIS provides and they never have to meet.”

Turchie also explained how crucial the public is to solving crimes and identifying potential terrorists.

“All of the cases come together when people like you see things, hear things, get suspicious, and decide to pick up the phone and call someone.”

It’s important to trust gut instincts and not try to rationalize away those feelings, he said.



Terry Turchie speaks to SVARW. (photo courtesy Mike Elias)

### Briefly

#### Join committee to plan Stars & Stripes summer gala

Do you love planning parties? We need a few fun-loving members to help plan our August gala, Stars and Stripes. Join the Stars and Stripes committee to help organize this year’s event and add your ideas and flare. Contact SVARW President Jan Soule at [jansoule@svarw.com](mailto:jansoule@svarw.com) and she will get you in touch with committee chair Lisa Marshik. This is your chance to make your mark on our biggest annual event.

#### Want to be a newsletter sponsor?

Advertise your business or highlight a good cause each month in this newsletter. Members who join SVARW at the Sponsor level are welcome to submit an ad for placement. SVARW sponsor RealOptions uses the space (see ad at right) to promote events and educate readers about the organization’s important work.

Contact newsletter editor Joyce Swanson-Hall at [jswanhall@yahoo.com](mailto:jswanhall@yahoo.com) to find out how to be a sponsor of SVARW and have your ad appear in each issue of the newsletter.



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# Parents losing rights to state lawmakers

## Join SVARW for a day trip to lobby legislators in Sacramento

The state wants to intervene between parents and children. Are we talking about Russia or Cuba? No... we are talking about the California Legislature!

Under the guise of protecting children's rights, Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) will give the government unrestrained authority into your home and violate parental rights including:

- Granting the government full authority over medical decisions regarding your children's health.
- Inhibit your freedom to teach your children according to your moral and religious beliefs
- Put the government in charge of your children's social lives
- Allow the government to deem your home unsafe if you own a firearm.

Join fellow members of SVARW as we travel to Sacramento on Tuesday, March 14, to join Capitol Resource Institute's Citizen Lobby Day and let our legislators know that we are

opposed to this government invasion into our families.

To make it easier to attend this event in Sacramento, SVARW has chartered a bus

and will take reservations on a first-come-first serve basis!

Cost to join us on the bus is \$47 per person which includes the bus and the \$10 registration fee charged by Capitol Resource.

We will depart at 6 a.m. from the Park and Ride lot at the Curtner Light Rail Station located at the corner of Curtner and Canoas Garden Avenue in San Jose (across from Cathedral of Faith). Our bus will drop us at the California Secretary of State's building in Sacramento by 8:30 a.m. and pick us up for the ride home at 4:30 p.m.. Make sure you bring your



ID with you in order to be admitted to the Secretary of State's building.

Citizen Lobby Day will begin with training in the morning and visits to assigned legislators' offices in the afternoon. You will be assigned to a group for the visits to the legislators' offices. This is a learning experience! There is a break for lunch; either bring your lunch or money to purchase a quick lunch. Feel free to bring snacks to eat on the way to and from Sacramento.

Deadline for registration is Thursday, March 2, or sooner if the bus is filled. Register today.

# Move quickly to take back California from liberals

By Debra Janssen-Martinez  
Second Vice President

Now that we've won the election and control two branches of government and have a "home run" nominee for the Scalia seat on the Supreme Court, can we turn to saving our beloved California? You know who the Trump voters are; no need to see "Make America Great Again!" accessories. They're the ones who can't stop smiling.

Hopeful as we might feel, California's government is moving into truly wacko territory. Threatening to become a "Sanctuary State" threatens all our safety. If the Trump administration pulls Federal monies for police, public and anti-terror programs, we'll all pay the price for

California's foolish shortsightedness.

While the wackos are having temper tantrums, it's the perfect time to take back the state. We must move quickly and forcefully to catch the positive momentum, using it to lobby for good government changes at home.

We need to stop proposals such as SB18, which would take away parental rights in favor of the state. Coupled with the recently passed decriminalization of child prostitution, our rights and freedoms are being banished by our own government.

Also, we need to demand that the voter registration system is purged of ineligible voters. The combination of illegal alien driver's licenses, vote by mail, and same day registration sure makes me wonder how many phony votes are polluting results.

Our voices will only be heard if we organize, show up and refuse to ignore their insane radical government takeover. No excuses, the window of opportunity is open.

- Join us on Lobby Day, March 14, for a bus trip to Sacramento, where we will join with the Capitol Resource Institute to lobby against SB18. See article above for details.
- Sign up for SVARW's Voter Integrity Workshop; details coming soon.
- If you have an issue you're passionate about, bring it to the SVARW Board. We're here to support our members in restoring sanity to our state's government.