



- **New location for 2015, see below**
- **Legislative update: SR 85 toll lanes, page 3.**
- **Christmas luncheon reservations, page 4.**

**Mark your calendar**

- **Nov. 19:** SVARW evening meeting at **Los Gatos Lodge**. Check-in at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 3:** Christmas luncheon, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., **California Cafe**, 50 University Ave., Los Gatos.
- **Jan. 21:** SVARW brunch meeting, 9:30 a.m., **Three Flames Restaurant**, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose.

**New location for 2015 SVARW meetings**

Beginning in January 2015, SVARW monthly meetings will move to **The Three Flames Restaurant**, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose. We will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month with check-in between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Brunch price is unchanged at \$15.

**Membership:** Contact Martha Snodgrass at 408-402-3512 with updates or to renew your membership. New membership levels apply for 2015, including discounts for young conservatives and premium levels for SVARW sponsors.

## Upcoming Events at SVARW

### ‘Dr. History’ to discuss global jihad

**SVARW Monthly Meeting**

**Who:** Charlie Self, author, minister, radio’s “Dr. History”

**When:** 7 to 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday Nov. 19

**Where:** El Gato Room at Los Gatos Lodge, 50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Road, Los Gatos near Highway 17.

**Time:** Check in between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 includes hors d’oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. You may purchase mixed drinks, wine and beer in the Lodge bar and bring them into the El Gato Room. Purchase tickets online or at the door.

**Web site:** Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets: [www.SVARW.com](http://www.SVARW.com)

**Confronting Global Jihad**

Popular speaker **Charlie Self** returns to SVARW on Nov. 19 for an evening meeting. An author and minister, Charlie Self is known as “Dr. History” to KSFO radio listeners. With advanced degrees in history and theology, Self brings a wealth of expertise to the topic of the global jihad against western culture. If the world’s condition seems without hope, Self will provide a perspective that is both thought-provoking and inspirational.

The evening meeting time has been set to allow those with daytime commitments the opportunity to hear this dynamic speaker.

**December: Christmas Luncheon**

Christmas is coming early for SVARW members and guests. We will celebrate the

season with a beautiful catered luncheon at 10 a.m. Dec. 3 at the California Café, 50 University Ave., Los Gatos. Following the installation of our 2015 Officers by County Board of Supervisors Chairman Mike Wasserman, we will be treated to an inspiring presentation by **Betsey Striebel**, manager of the Palo Alto Fisher House.

Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans’ families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher House ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans’ families an estimated \$235 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Join us in supporting our military and their families while enjoying a fabulous meal and festive celebration of Christmas. Invite a friend; it’s a great opportunity to share SVARW’s conservative message in an entertaining and welcoming venue.

**New location, great speaker**

The Jan. 21 meeting will be SVARW’s first at a new location: **Three Flames Restaurant**, 1547 Meridian Ave., in San Jose’s Willow Glen neighborhood.

We are pleased



Shannon Grove

*continued on page 3*

## 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](mailto: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.

### Contact your officials

**Gov. Jerry Brown**,  
Mail to: 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 Paul Fong**,  
408-371-2802  
**State Sen. Maj. Ldr. Ellen  
Corbett**,  
510-794-3900  
**State Senator Jerry Hill**  
650-212-3313  
**State Senator Jim Beall**  
408-558-1295

### President's message

## *SVARW activities counter prevailing liberal environment*

**W**hen Los Gatos Lodge significantly  
raised its 2015 prices, we had  
to move quickly. In searching we  
confronted a lingering question; Does  
our club still matter, and why should  
we work so hard to find great speakers,  
organize candidate support, plan  
events, research legislation and put this  
newsletter together? With input from  
you, lots of phone and web searching  
by the Board, Lisa Seago and Jan Soule  
secured a new, maybe even better,  
meeting place beginning in January.  
Liberals would have needed a village!

SVARW was started because people  
of good character, with strong minds  
and convictions can feel lonely and  
overwhelmed by a hostile Liberal  
political environment. The antidote  
is sharing ideas, engaging and  
mobilizing. Mocking liberal hypocrisy  
and swapping good books can be  
empowering as well as entertaining.  
There is a reason conservative books  
far outsell those by liberals, and we  
dominate talk radio.

When we're vilified on NBC or

blasted with one more IRS, EPA, NSA  
alphabet soup of outrage reported on  
Fox News, we want confirmation that  
we're not paranoid or out-of-touch. We  
long to connect more, to fight against a  
creeping darkness and decay growing in  
our government and culture. Swapping  
snappy comebacks for Democrat

propaganda works  
wonders for me.

Churchill said  
ours is a "long,  
twilight struggle."  
But it's much  
more fun and  
meaningful with  
great friends  
to walk with,  
shared values  
and experiences



to light the way. Pop for the Premium  
membership, host a Patriot Party, invite  
a co-worker who wants to "come out"  
as a Republican. It sure beats yelling at  
the TV.

— Debra Janssen-Martinez

In case you missed it: Steve Frank

## Political parties could disappear in California

**By Joyce Hall**  
Newsletter Editor

More and more California voters  
are dropping party labels and  
listing no party preference on their  
voter registration forms, political  
commentator Steve Frank told the  
audience at the Oct. 17 SVARW brunch  
meeting.

Frank, the senior editor of California  
Political News and Reviews, said  
California's Republican party has lost  
70,000 registered voters just since June.  
In fact, there are more voters without a  
party designation in Santa Clara County

than there are registered Republicans.

"We are in a transition period," Frank  
said. "It's my belief that political parties  
in California are going to die. Neither  
Republicans nor Democrats will survive  
as we know them today. Instead we're  
going to have a European-style of  
politics, with dozens of special interest  
groups trying to buy the political  
candidates."

Frank urged audience members to  
get involved in campaigns and consider  
running for office to counter the state's  
liberal politics.

Sign up for Frank's newsletter at  
[Californiapoliticalreview.com](http://Californiapoliticalreview.com)

## Legislative update

# Toll lanes on tap for Highway 85; get involved

**By Trish Cypher**  
**SVARW Legislative Chair**

Three strikes and you're out. Added to the one-two punch of adding toll lanes to our freeways, which have already been paid for, and a road usage charge pilot program, the knockout blow to drivers is the carbon cap and trade gas tax scheduled to go into effect January 2015.

You may never have heard of HOV lanes, vehicle miles traveled, green house gas emissions, Plan Bay Area or sustainable development, but these plans put your car in the crosshairs of state legislators and regional government entities who want to price you out of your car and off of your roads.

Locally, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has proposed building express lanes for Highway 85 and other highways. These express lanes are toll lanes that are part of regional congestion pricing for Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties.

Will this road pricing relieve congestion on Highway 85? Not likely, as improvements to choke points on Highway 85 are not part of this road pricing project.

This road pricing plan will incur unnecessary public debt, turn taxpayers into rate payers and grow unneeded, unaccountable regional government that does not seem interested in solving our congestion problems.

Please consider contacting the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) board of directors and your State Assembly member and Senator, county supervisor and city council members and tell them you want real solutions to our transportation issues.

VTA board correspondence can be sent to board.secretary@vta.org.

Look for updates on these issues in future newsletters.

For more information, please see these links:

- Freeway toll lanes: [http://www.mercurynews.com/santa-clara-county/ci\\_26825621/vta-board-decide-highway-85-express-lanes-nov](http://www.mercurynews.com/santa-clara-county/ci_26825621/vta-board-decide-highway-85-express-lanes-nov)  
<http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/highway/silicon-valley-express-lanes>  
<http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/highway/vta-express-lanes-sr-85-express-lanes-project>
- The Plan Bay Area report can be found at this site. Road pricing is map 8: <http://www.onebayarea.org/plan-bay-area/final-plan-bay-area.html>
- SB 1077, DeSaulnier. Vehicles: road usage charge pilot program: [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB1077](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1077)
- California Carbon Cap and Trade gas tax: <http://www.californiadriversalliance.org/>  
<http://cafuelfacts.com/cap-and-trade-for-fuels/>  
<http://www.tankthetax.com/faq/>

## How to get involved

The VTA board meets the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. Their agenda and meeting minutes are available online at: [www.vta.org/get-involved/board-of-directors](http://www.vta.org/get-involved/board-of-directors)

Board secretary is Elaine Baltao. Email her at board.secretary@vta.org or Elaine.Baltao@vta.org. Main phone number for VTA is 408-321-5680.

The Board has 18 members and ex-officio members, all of whom are elected officials appointed to serve on the VTA board by the jurisdictions they represent. Fifteen directors are city council members and three are county supervisors. Check the website to see who represents your jurisdiction.

## Assemblywoman Shannon Grove to address SVARW in January

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to have as the speaker **Shannon Grove**, who represents the 34th State Assembly District, which encompasses the majority of Kern County including Bakersfield. She was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2010 and was re-elected in November 2012 by one of the largest margins of any California legislator.

Shannon was born in Bakersfield and, shortly after high school, joined

the United States Army, serving with the Headquarters Company 5th Corps in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1993, she and her sister-in-law formed Continental Labor and Staffing Resources and today Shannon presides as Chief Executive Officer. Her company currently operates five offices in California (Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Paso Robles, Fresno and Visalia).

Recognized for her dedication to the Kern County industries that feed,

clothe, and fuel the state, Shannon was named Vice Chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. In this capacity, she is responsible for analyzing legislation relating to air and water quality, climate change, energy, and land management. Significant issues expected to come before the Committee include California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform and legislation to regulate the oil and natural gas industry's "fracking" extraction methods.

# SVARW Celebration!

*Celebrating Christmas  
Celebrating SVARW's New Officers!*

**Wednesday, December 3rd**

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 2015 officiated by Santa Clara County Supervisor, Mike Wasserman
- Featured Charity: Fisher House
- Speaker: Betsey K. Striebel, Fisher House Manager VA Palo Alto
- Delicious Lunch

Cost: \$40

*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

### About the VA Palo Alto

#### Fisher House

The VA Palo Alto Fisher House has been open since 2006. It is part of the Fisher House Foundation ([www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)), a network of 64 homes throughout the world where active duty military and veteran's families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.

Families residing greater than 50 miles from VA Palo Alto typically need housing while the Veteran (or active duty service member receives care). Veterans or active duty military personnel may stay at the Fisher House if accompanied by a family member or caregiver while they receive outpatient treatment.

Installation of SVARW Officers for 2015

By Santa Clara County Supervisor

Mike Wasserman



Member Name:

Guest/Supporting Member Name:

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
RESERVATIONS:  
November 26th**

SVARW members are encouraged to consider making a donation to the Fisher House at the luncheon