

SBWPC NEWSLETTER • Winter 2012 Edition

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

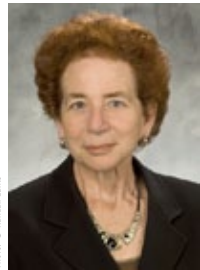


Photo © Randall Lamb

Beth Schneider
Outgoing Board President

As the new year begins, the SBWPC Board Presidency passes from one outstanding, capable woman to another. Each would like to share her thoughts with you on the past, present and future work and goals of the SBWPC.



Jane Gray
Incoming Board President

I end three terms as the President of the SBWPC this month. The board of directors and some of our most active members have sustained the organization and created some exciting programs during these amazing years. What's been so special? The new website, more member parties, a variety of events designed to encourage more of us to seek leadership positions in local government, and wonderful events like the yearly Presidents' Lunches and the 23th Anniversary Dinner. Each of these activities, along with our rigorous endorsement process, has brought us to the end of 2011 a stronger, more diverse organization. We are many generations, ethnicities, and backgrounds. I am very proud.

Some women gave me the support I needed to serve as President. Thanks especially are in order to the women who worked closely with me on the various Executive Committees during these three years: Esther Aguilera, Mahsheed Ayoub, Yesenia Curiel, Elsa Granados, Karena Jew, Carol Keator, Maria Lopez, Mary O'Gorman and Mary Rose. Also providing me personally with consistent encouragement and support are

past SBWPC Presidents Susan Rose and Lois Phillips. Finally, a special thanks to the Fund Development Committee for great work on the Anniversary Dinner.

Looking out today at the political landscape locally and nationally, it remains clear that feminist political action is still absolutely crucial and the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee is in a great position to continue to do that work. I am extremely happy to pass the gavel to Jane Gray who has served on the SBWPC board during two distinct terms during this decade. She has the brains, political savvy, and leadership skills to take the organization into its 24th year in 2012.

—Beth Schneider
SBWPC Board Past President

SBWPC Members, as I enter into this new year as your Board President, I just want you all to know how sincerely honored I am to be able to serve in this capacity. I am thankful to the Nominations Committee for their vote of confidence, to all the Board members for confirming my nomination and

(continued on p. 2)

President's Message continued...

having faith in me, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. My deep thanks to my predecessor, Beth Schneider, for her leadership over the past three years and her graciousness in working with me through the transition.

My goals for this year are simple: to increase the visibility of the SBWPC, to reach out to new members, strengthen our relationships with our existing members and empower more women to become involved in elected politics. The year 2012 is an important political year locally and nationally, and we as women have our work cut out for us. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we forge ahead.

INVEST IN WOMEN IN 2012

As we usher in a new year, 2012, the economic ghost of the decade past still looms large statewide, nationally and, to some extent, globally. The national rate of unemployment hovers at around 8.6%¹, and the State of California sits about 11%². Typically, women (and their families) have suffered tremendously and disproportionately in comparison to men throughout this economic and philosophical crisis, not only because of cuts to programs that women rely on, but also because of unemployment.

As an example, women did represent just over half (57.2%) of the public workforce, however, they have seen a greater rates of job loss than men over the past 3-4 years. Sixty-nine percent of the jobs cut in the public sector between June 2009 and November 2011 belonged to women.³ This trend was also reflected in the private sector; when the private sector picked up 1.78 million jobs, women were hired for less than 1 in 5 of those jobs.⁴ This situation was even more grim for minority and single women. **The bottom line—women have borne an inequitable economic burden in these tumultuous times.**

The year 2012 presents new challenges for us as a culture and as a country. On the cusp of national elections, and in a world which is increasingly more socially integrated, we in the US find ourselves in a landscape mired with highly partisan politics and saddled with a body of elected “representatives”

that can barely be called representative of little more than their own interests. **In 2011, women held 89 of 535 seats (16.6%) in United States Congress. Seventeen of those seats are in the Senate and 72 are in the House of Representatives; women hold 68 of 315 or 21.6% of the available statewide executive positions.**

At a period in history when millions of people in the world have unshackled themselves from the domination of tyranny through the amazing transformations of the Arab Spring and awoken to new political identities, the time was never more urgent for women in the United States to also awaken. The time is now for women to take hold of their own economic, social and political destiny and forge a **truly** representative government.

This year, 33 of the 100 seats in the US Senate will be contested, and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be up for election. In the State of California, State Senate and Assembly seats will be contested and locally, school boards and City Council races will also be held. This year, the SBWPC challenges you all to **INVEST IN WOMEN**. **Invest** in your female friends, neighbors, colleagues; **invest** in smart, articulate who are running for office and **donate** to their campaigns. If you don't find a smart, articulate woman who reflects your values who is running for office, recruit one or become one yourself! Our community and country needs women. Now is not the time to be modest, now is the time to be **BOLD** and **INVEST IN WOMEN** in 2012!

—Jane Gray
SBWPC Board President

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>

³ NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, Table B-5: Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://bls.gov/ces/cesbtabs.htm> (last visited Dec. 2, 2011).

⁴ Ibid.

Welcome, New SBWPC Members!

Ignacio Alarcon • Kenly Brown • Carolyn Butcher • Cass Ensberg • Daisy Gonzales
Nancy Leffert • Darlene Duben Novak • Barbara Ortiz • Hazel Putney
Angela Roach • Erin Weber

POLITICALLY SPEAKING...

by Assemblymember Das Williams

IF WE RALLY AND WE FIGHT, WE CAN PREVENT DISASTER

This past summer, after it became clear that the two-thirds vote requirement to allow voters to consider temporary revenue extensions could not be met, the legislature passed a drastic budget—one that called for automatic trigger cuts midway through the fiscal year, should revenues fall below projections. Those triggers would make up for the lack of funding. The fact that these additional cuts are now our reality is devastating and certainly not what I anticipated going into the second year of my first term in the Assembly.

California's current budget strategy is based on "shared sacrifice," but that is not the reality. **These cuts disproportionately affect women.** Cuts to in-home support services could force families to decide whether they can care for a loved one at home or need to move a parent or severely disabled child to a more expensive nursing home. Cuts to childcare funding limit a woman's ability to find work and establish long term financial independence. However, the economy is slowly turning around and women are going back into the workforce. This is not the time to limit access to support programs that can keep a woman and her family from slipping below the poverty level.

Governor Brown recently introduced a revenue plan that I think is fair, focused and forward thinking. The plan asks the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share and moves California forward to control our long-term finances. More importantly, this plan helps minimize the need for cuts to other critical services and higher education, ensuring that California is making the kinds of investments that will help our economic prosperity in the long term. This plan could be before the voters in November 2012. While the budget has been a big focus in Sacramento, we were able to pass some legislation that really benefits the women of California, including:

- **AB 12 or The Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation, and Sexual Slavery (ACCESS) Act of 2011** which increases the fine against an adult convicted for paying for the sexual services of a minor, from \$5,000 to \$25,000. These funds will be directed to provide access to education, counseling and shelter for sexually exploited minors.

- **AB 1319** prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of baby bottles and sippy cups designed for children

three years of age and younger that contain more than 0.1 parts per billion (ppb) of bisphenol A (BPA). BPA has been linked to a host of health problems, including early puberty, breast cancer, infertility, obesity and neurological and behavioral changes.

- **SB 222** ensures that maternity care is included in individual market insurance policies. Policies containing maternity coverage have decreased drastically, leaving a growing number of women priced out of the insurance market.

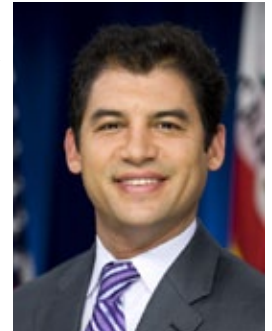
- **SB 299**, also in the health insurance area, guarantees the continuation of employer-provided health insurance coverage for women on pregnancy disability leave. As Senator Evans, the author of SB 299 so eloquently stated "meaningful access to leave—including the maintenance of health insurance coverage—is essential to the health and economic security of working women and their families."

In election year 2012, we need to work together to elect people who will champion women's issues, but we also need to help promote women into positions within those elected offices. I am proud that nine of the ten positions in my office are held by smart, enterprising women. The top three management positions in my office—Chief of Staff, District Director, and Legislative Director are all women.

It is an honor to serve in the State Assembly and I look forward to continuing the work our office has started in the first half of my first term. I truly believe that with our collective efforts, each leading by example, we can indeed help continue our State's economic recovery and at each turn, seek ways to fight for equity towards that aim.

We have much work to do, and from the perspective of protecting our education and social services, we are "standing at Armageddon", but I know if we rally and we fight, we can prevent disaster. It is an honor to serve you.

Das Williams is California State Assemblymember for the 35th Congressional District.



SBWPC Endorses...

Salud Carbajal for 1st District Supervisor Hannah-Beth Jackson for State Senate, District 19 Lois Capps for the 3rd U.S. Congressional District

At its noticed Endorsement Meeting on December 14, 2011 at the Eastside Library, three individual SBWPC Candidate Assessment Teams (CAT) presented reports on their interviews with candidates for the Santa Barbara 1st Supervisorial District race, the 19th District State Senate race and the race for the 23rd U.S. Congressional District.

Each report contained a thorough accounting of the candidates' positions on issues of particular relevance to the community and/or issues of importance to the specific race.



Salud Carbajal was endorsed by the SBWPC based on his positive impact and continued commitment to the communities he serves, particularly in the areas of health, as well as reproductive health, social services, education and the environment.

He has also demonstrated ability to become familiar with issues and concerns in areas he newly serves under redistricting and has proven responsive and effective in meeting expressed needs.

For example, he recently obtained a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the unincorporated area of New Cuyama. We are excited about our support for Salud Carbajal and what he has accomplished thus far. We look forward to excellent leadership in his next term. <http://www.countyofsb.org/bos/carbajal/>

Hannah-Beth Jackson was endorsed by the SBWPC based on her extensive and tireless efforts on behalf of issues concerning violence against women, the environment, education (particularly early-childhood education), reproductive health and justice. She was previously an Assembly member for the 35th District and during her tenure chaired the Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Safety as well as the Legislative Women's Caucus.



Hannah-Beth Jackson is dedicated to furthering the educational and economic standing of women and their families.

She not only brings experience to table, but is passionate, capable and has a vision for the state. SBWPC enthusiastically supports Ms. Jackson for the 19th District and is confident in her abilities to lead. <http://www.hannah-beth2012.com/>



Lois Capps was endorsed by the SBWPC for the 23rd District based on her dedication to women, families, veterans, health care, the environment, reproductive choice, education, housing, creating jobs and growing our economy. Congresswoman Capps has been extremely responsive and accessible to her constituents both legislatively and personally.

She supported the American Jobs Act of 2011, Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2011, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act and the Health Insurance Rate Review Act and a host of other important pieces of legislation in 2011.

The SBWPC proudly stands with the Congresswoman and ardently supports her. Due to redistricting, she will likely to face a tough election cycle in 2012 as she is now in a "swing district" that extends from San Simeon in San Luis Obispo to Port Hueneme in Ventura County. <http://www.cappsforcongress.com/>

Endorsement by the SBWPC of these candidates is accompanied by financial and other support during their campaigns for office. The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action, and educational activities.

As a political action committee, we endorse the candidates of women and men who actively support our goals and promote a feminist agenda. We are also committed to taking social action against discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age or disability.

The SBWPC encourages you to **inform yourself on the issues** and **get involved** in the campaigns of our endorsed candidates.

IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, WOMEN IN OFFICE ARE THE NORM

by Susan Rose

The November 2010 mid-term elections confirmed the status of women in elective office: their numbers have reached a plateau and the future looks bleak. The situation remains static in California. Despite representing 51% of the population, women hold 27% of the seats in the state legislature and 25% on County Boards of Supervisors. There is only one woman holding a statewide constitutional position- Debra Bowen, Secretary of State. <http://www.cawomenlead.org/archives.html>

Does it matter if women serve? What difference does gender equity make in elective office? In my many years in the public arena, I have frequently been asked these questions. My answers are always the same: **women should have equal participation and equal representation in our society.** That is the very nature of our democracy. But secondly, women make a unique impact on public policy.

Research reveals that women are more likely to carry legislation that improves the lives of women and families, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). Recent on-line commentary by Barbara Lee and Tony Dokuipil describes the effectiveness of women in Congress and their greater performance than their male counterparts. <http://barbaralee.com/updates/girlpower> and <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-01-21/women-in-the-house-why-female-politicians-are-more-effective/>

So if women are effective legislators and outperform men, why are the numbers of women in office so low and why are more women not running for office? In their book, *It Takes A Candidate*, Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox provide a series of well-researched answers as to why women don't become candidates. Lawless and Fox argue that women focus first on raising their families and building their careers before choosing a political path; women are reluctant to run and do not have political ambition; and they are less likely to be recruited by their political parties. And if women don't run, then they don't win.

Despite this analysis, a national political infrastructure exists to encourage and support women running for office. Organizations like NOW, NWPC, EMILY's List, The Feminist Majority, Emerge and The Women's Campaign Fund continue to recruit women, raise money and organize efforts to get them elected. But why have the numbers not improved?

The answer may lie in Santa Barbara, where we have created a unique and successful model to elect women.

Currently, Santa Barbara has a woman representative in Congress, three women on the Board of Supervisors, one woman mayor and several women on city councils. Since the founding of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC) in 1988, there have been a significant number of women elected to office including also state assembly, boards of education and safety and utility districts.



In Santa Barbara, we have been proactive. The WPC has provided education on issues, encouraged women to get on boards and commission, and most importantly recruited and trained candidates. Our endorsements come with publicity, volunteers and donations. In their book, Lawless and Fox say women are often not recruited by their political parties. In Santa Barbara County, the SBWPC is the recruiter!

Despite these local successes, California and national numbers remain low. The US ranks 74th among nations electing women to public office. According to The 2012 Project, there are 30 California state legislative districts without an incumbent and any women candidates.

The SBWPC has done a remarkable job in the last 23 years, but we can't stop now. With term limits, women have to be recruited long before an actual opening occurs. We need to get women to think about running for office early. To that end, the SBWPC has created a Pipeline Project. We are planning for the future. The SBWPC is committed to recruiting and training women. If you are interested in running now or in the near future contact us at <http://sbwpc.org/>

The SBWPC has created an environment where women in public office are accepted as the norm. The issue is not about their gender but about policy and improving the status of women. Meanwhile, join the SBWPC on the 2012 election trail. Get involved with us. There is a lot to be done to keep our women in office and to elect new ones!

Susan Rose served two terms on the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. She previously served as Executive Director of the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women and was a co-founder of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee. Currently, she is a member of the Antioch University SB Board of Trustees where she is developing a leadership program for women.



SBWPC's 23rd ANNIVERSARY DINNER

October 2, 2011 at the Hyatt Santa Barbara



Keynote speaker Stephanie Schriock, President of EMILY's List

This year's 23rd Anniversary Dinner featuring keynote speaker **Stephanie Schriock**, President of **EMILY's List** was a successful and inspiring event.

The evening began with a mixer, silent auction and presentation of SBWPC's Awards. **Yesenia Curiel**, current SBWPC Board Member,

Program Director at the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center and Committee Member of the City of Santa Barbara's Community Development and Human Services Committee was honored with **The Rising Star Award** for her advocacy and activism on issues of violence against women and her community leadership.



Jane Gray, SBWPC President, makes the presentation of *The Rising Star Award* to Yesenia Curiel (right).

Sharon Hoshida who stepped down from the Board this year (and who will be greatly missed) served on the SBWPC Board since 1998 and was also president for two years (2004,

2005). She is a founding member of the Women's Literary Festival, sits on the Grant Making Committee for the Fund for Santa Barbara, serves as an advisory board member of Just Communities, co-chairs the Community Building Luncheon and is a member of the Women SEE (Social, Economic, and Environmental) Justice work group at the Central Coastal Alliance United



The Roses Award is presented to Sharon Hoshida (right) by SBWPC Past President, Beth Schneider

for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), among a host of other impressive accomplishments. Sharon was presented with **The Roses Award** for her outstanding contribution to the SBWPC and the larger community on the South Coast.

After the presentation of awards, Ms. Schriock gave a rousing, insightful speech that was a battle cry for preserving and advancing issues of social justice, civil rights, diversity and economic reform in our country, especially in this tumultuous time in our history. She gave the audience an historical overview of what brought **EMILY's List** into being and what has focused her energies and dedication on recruiting, training and supporting viable, strong and progressive candidates for positions in the House, Senate, and as Governors. Ms. Schriock's powerful, relatable message was that women do make a remarkable difference in electoral politics. This difference is found not only in the topics to which women bring representation, but the efficacy with which women address issues, problem solve and bring about real and lasting change through policy, legislation and leadership on tough issues.

The SBWPC was honored to have Ms. Schriock attend our 23rd Anniversary Dinner. We encourage each of you to learn more about **EMILY's List**, its mission and how you can become involved: <http://emilyslist.org/>



Have you "GONE GREEN" yet ?

Thanks to all our members who responded to our call to "Go Green". Almost half of you have decided to receive your newsletter digitally! The SBWPC as well as the environment want to say a giant thank you!

By electing to receive the newsletter by email, you not only save natural resources (i.e., trees, less toxic dyes, etc.), but you also enable more effective use of SBWPC's economic resources. The more resources we have, the more we can invest in supporting candidates, develop training and conducting educational and outreach activities and events.

If you haven't yet decided to receive your newsletter directly in your Inbox, there is still time! Just send us an email at info@sbwpc.org and request a digital copy. Don't forget to include the email address where you want it sent. Thank you!

SBWPC proudly presents...

A Feminist Issue...The Economics of Immigration: A Rational Approach

Join us on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012**, from 7–9 pm at the **Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library**, for the first in a series of ***A Feminist Issue...*** forums focused on issues that affect women.

A distinguished panel of experts in the field of immigration will discuss how immigration impacts our community, our economy, and how women experience and assimilate into their adopted culture, flourish and influence change

Dr. Nelson Lichtenstein, MacArthur Foundation Chair in History at UCSB where he directs the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy. He is the author of a biography of the union leader Walter Reuther and more recently, books on capitalism including, *American Capitalism: Social Thought and Political Economy in the 20th Century* and *The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business*. Lichtenstein is interviewed with some frequency on public radio and by the mainstream press. He has written opinion pieces for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Politico*.

Dr. William Robinson, sociologist and affiliate of the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program, as well as the Global and International Studies Program at UCSB. His scholarly research focuses on macro and comparative sociology, globalization and transnationalism, political economy, political sociology, development and social change, Latin American and the Third World, and Latina/o studies. Dr. Robinson has published numerous articles and books on capitalism, globalization, transnational conflicts and a host of other related issues.

Abbe Allen Kingston, KMH Immigration Attorneys. Mr. Kingston has practiced immigration law in Santa Barbara for 25 years. He has been certified by the California State Bar as an Immigration Law Specialist. Mr. Kingston earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and his law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Mr. Kingston has published several law review articles and is a frequent lecturer on immigration-related matters.

Luis Villegas, President, Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Villegas has been on the SBHCC Board for six years and recently served as the organization's Executive Director. He is Vice President and Hispanic Segment Market Manager for Pacific Capital Bancorp. He is currently a member of the Santa Barbara City College Board of Trustees, and served as President in 1999 and 2000. He has just been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the California Community College Trustees. Mr. Villegas is also the Past President of the California Association of Latino Community College Trustees.

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SAVE THE DATE! Don't miss these important events!

★ A FEMINIST ISSUE: "The Economics of Immigration—A Rational Approach"

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 • 7-9 pm • Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library

A distinguished panel of experts in field of immigration will discuss how immigration impacts our community, our economy, and how women experience and assimilate into their adopted culture, flourish and influence change. See page 7 of this newsletter for details.

★ SBWPC ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 29, 2012 • 4-6 pm • At the home of Deborah Rogow, 1930 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara

SB School Board member Monique Limon and Daisy Gonzalez will speak about their experiences running for and being elected to office. They will also share their impressions of a recent EMILY's List Campaign Skills Workshop they attended. Daisy Gonzalez, currently a doctoral student in sociology at UCSB, was previously a Budget Consultant to the California State Assembly and led the Budget Subcommittee on State Administration. While in Sacramento, she volunteered quarter time for the California Women's Caucus. Additionally, Cathy Murillo, newly-elected City Council member, will speak about her experiences running for office, as well as her goals for this year.

★ NOTICED BOARD MEETING, February 8, 2012

The Candidate Assessment Team will report on races for the 3rd District Supervisorial seat and the 35th State Assembly District seat.

★ COFFEE WITH LOIS CAPPIS: Potentially in February - Stay Tuned!

★ ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE LUNCH: March 16 or 30, 2012 • Montecito Country Club

2012 SBWPC Membership Coupon

SBWPC membership provides the opportunity to participate on several levels: on sub-committees, in events, and financially. Please send your membership check to: SBWPC, P.O. Box 90618, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0618 • Office: 805.564.6876

\$15 Student/Limited income \$35 Individual \$50 Household \$100 Access \$250 Voice \$500 Power

I would like to participate on the sub-committee/in the activities checked: Elections/Appointments Media/Newsletter
 Membership Fundraising/Events Legislation/Advocacy Campaign Volunteer Candidate Development

Issues/Interests of Concern to Me: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

YES! This is a gift membership from:

Name: _____

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Thanks for helping to make Santa Barbara a better place for women!

(Information required by the California FPPC and FEC)