

## SBWPC NEWSLETTER • Winter 2010/2011 Edition

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: © Russell Lamb

## Continuing SBWPC's Legacy

*"Closer to home, there has been no change in the percentage of women elected to the California legislature. While we celebrate the electoral success of Boxer, Harris, and Capps, where is the "bench" of women coming up behind them in the state and in Santa Barbara County? One of our highest priorities must be to bring more progressive feminist women into elective office."*

Entering 2011, what lessons might we take from the national mid-year elections as well as the outcomes in local races? How can we continue the legacy of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee into another decade? Numerous post-election commentaries have considered the impact of the current cultural, economic, and social climate on women and on feminist politics. I want to point to some key concerns and trends that might make sense of what we know in order to best engage in city, county and state wide organizing and electoral politics in the next several years. There are no simple solutions, no simple answers.

First, the current recession has been very hard on women and their families, and these economic vulnerabilities and frustrations will continue. Second, despite the loud, hysterical, and unfounded cries of the women of Tea Party against the initiatives of the Obama administration, health care and the need for fundamental change in health care delivery and health care practice is crucial to every woman. Third, every year, but perhaps particularly in this one in which at the national level many more socially conservative candidates were elected, reproductive rights are threatened, with the possibility of actions such as the reinstatement of

*continued on page two*

## Welcome, New SBWPC Members!

Please join us in welcoming ...

Joan Ariel • Ellen Broidy • Ginny Brush • Diyana Dobberteen • Jody Kaufman  
Pamela Kinsley • Leila Rupp • Verta Taylor • Anne Schowe • France Winddance Twine

## President's Message continued

the global gag rule or passage of the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. Fourth, educational access is challenged by continued increases in costs to students and their families. Fifth, as indicated by the recent failure to pass the Dream Act, immigration reform proves resistant to easy change, as economic conditions bring out racist, punitive sentiment. In each of these areas, women of all classes are hit hard, and poor and working class women, women of color, are hit even harder.

Politically, the representation of women, particularly progressive women, at state and national levels remained flat. The recent elections saw no increase in female lawmakers in Congress and women will have a diminished leadership role in this next term. Closer to home, there has been no change in the percentage of women elected to the California legislature. While we celebrate the electoral success of Boxer, Harris, and Capps, where is the "bench" of women coming up behind them in the state and in Santa Barbara County? One of our highest priorities must be to bring more progressive feminist women into elective office.

There are challenging tasks ahead. Despite often sharp differences among us in ethnicity, economics, and

age, strategies for social change need to be dynamic and multiple. Some immediate approaches seem obvious: As a PAC, we will continue to participate in the electoral arena, working on ways to encourage, empower, and train women to run for electoral office at every level, and we will seek out feminist-minded candidates whose positions are consistent with our position papers for office and support them for office, soon and most decidedly in the upcoming Santa Barbara City Council elections. As a feminist organization with many position papers addressed specifically to women's economic standing, we will concentrate on those issues and consider how to work with other local organizations on educational and lobbying activities that lead to short and long-term improvements in the economic lives of women and their families in our community. This focus on economics has the potential to unite women across differences and increase our impact. It is my hope that our SBWPC membership will be talking together soon about how best to proceed and how best to use our long-standing organization to further these feminist aims.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2011.

— *Beth Schneider*  
*SBWPC Board President*

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH THE SBWPC MONEY?

**T**here have been so many elections in 2009 and 2010 and the SBWPC has tried to financially support our endorsed candidates in each one of them. For many of the races, the SBWPC provides funds to the candidates in support of their campaigns and we run advertisements of all our endorsed candidates, whether financially supported or not, in several local media. The monies come directly from the members' contributions and from our collective fundraising efforts. More than \$9,000 was spent in these two election cycles.

We still believe in demonstrating our feminist power and voice through the collection of many small contributions into one larger and stronger contribution from the organization as a whole. In these two years, some of the SBWPC contributions included: \$1,500 in 2010 for **Lois Capps** in support of her re-election to the U.S. Congress; \$1,000 in 2009 for **Helene Schneider** for Santa Barbara Mayor; \$1,000 in 2009-10 for **Janet Wolf** for 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor; \$500 each to **Diane Channing** and **Grant House** for Santa Barbara

City Council in 2009; and \$500 each to **Susan Jordan** for her primary run for Assembly, **Das Williams** for the general election for California Assembly, and **Joyce Dudley** for District Attorney.

More contributions in 2011 will further enhance our ability to support candidates for office who concur with our values and the issues most important to us.

### **MARY ROSE & ASSOCIATES**

211 E. Victoria St. Suite A  
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## "Dancing With Our Political Stars"



Photo © Baird Cohen

On September 25, 2010, the SBWPC Board of Directors organized "Dancing with our Political Stars," an early evening of food and fun, a different kind of fundraiser with time to visit with members, honor a member with the ROSES AWARD, and see some wonderful dancing by **Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf** and **Santa Barbara City Councilman Grant House**. The event was held at the Santa Barbara Dance Center, and **Janet** and **Grant** rehearsed for weeks with their respective dancing partners in order to entertain the attendees with their very well orchestrated and graceful moves. [Pictured: **Janet** and **Grant** with their dancing partners, **Derrick** and **Trudie**]. In attendance were School Board candidates **Kate Parker** and **Susan Deacon** as well as some former SBWPC presidents: **Gayle Binion**, **Alissa Hummer**, **Hannah-Beth Jackson** (who ran a bit of an auction), **Barbara Lindemann**, and **Susan Rose**.

## 2010 ELECTION RESULTS POSITIVE FOR SBWPC ENDORSED CANDIDATES

State and local elections held on Tuesday, November 2, saw many incumbents re-elected and some new faces about to take office. The results affecting candidates endorsed by the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee are as follows:

- 23<sup>RD</sup> U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT** – Incumbent **Lois Capps** won another two-year term in the House of Representatives by a margin of 26%.
- CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY, 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT** – **Das Williams** overcame a strong challenge and will represent the Santa Barbara area in Sacramento.
- CARPINTERIA CITY COUNCIL** – incumbents **Gregg Carty**, **Al Clark**, and **Brad Stein** continue on the City Council.
- CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT** – challenger **Lynne Ducharme** was top vote-getter, while **Matthew Roberts** was re-elected.
- GOLETA CITY COUNCIL** – challenger **Paula Perrote** was elected to one of three open seats on the Council.
- GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** – challenger **Pam Kinsley** received third-highest number of votes to take one of three open Board positions
- SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT** – challenger **Peter Haslund** was elected to represent Area 1 (Carpinteria), while **Marty Blum** will be a representative for Area 3 (Santa Barbara). Marty was the top vote-getter of the eight candidates for a Trustee seat.
- SANTA BARBARA SCHOOL DISTRICT** – **Kate Parker** was elected to a second term on the School Board.
- UNITED STATES SENATE** – **Barbara Boxer** will continue to represent California after winning by a comfortable margin.
- CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL** – San Francisco District Attorney **Kamala Harris** ran an impressive campaign and was finally declared the winner on November 24. Harris is the first woman and the first person of color to win election as the state's top law enforcement officer.

Thanks to all of these candidates who ran hard-fought campaigns, often against well-financed opponents. All of us must continue to support these and other politicians working on behalf of gender equality and feminist values.

**For more information on election results go to:**

- <http://www.sbcvote.com> and click on "Election Results" listed under "Quick Links"
- <http://www.sos.ca.gov> and click on "Election Results" in the left-hand box



## 2010 Roses Award Recipient LINDA TUOMI



Photo © Brent Cohen

**T**he **Roses Award** has been given by the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee at each of its annual events to honor a woman who has made significant contributions to our community, while improving and supporting the concept of making Santa Barbara a better place to be a woman.

In the tradition, the Roses Awardee has been kept secret until the evening of the event. We begin to tell the narrative about this person, giving a brief biography of their path in service to the community, and usually, it is the recipient who is the first to realize that we are actually talking about her.

**Linda Tuomi** has lived in the Santa Barbara area almost her entire life, having moved here as a toddler. Recognizing that this is a beautiful place to live, work, and play, she has made a home and professional life in this community, which includes an extended

family, for whom she has been an important force as the daughter, sister, aunt, or cousin, who serves as a living example of conquering the challenges that can arise along the journey of our lives.

She considers herself to be a "late bloomer" in the realm of politics, but we shall see that our community has benefitted from that awareness and commitment. In the late 1980s, about the same time that SBWPC came into being, she began to participate in local elections, at that time working on Margaret Connell's (past president of the SBWPC board and current Goleta City Councilmember) race for re-election to the Santa Barbara High School District board.

If you remember the political climate of that time, you will also recall the season of violence that rained on **Planned Parenthood** clinics throughout the nation, Santa Barbara being no exception. Tuomi was among those who answered the call to action, and served as an escort for women seeking legal, safe, and affordable medical treatment. It should be mentioned that because of the actions of our sidewalk warriors, the City of Santa Barbara is among those municipalities that instituted a bubble ordinance, protecting the rights of patients and others, in 1993, a full 15 years before a statewide law was initiated in 2008.

Linda was an active member of **Local Response**, a locally based **GLBT/HIV/AIDS** civil rights organization. In 1998, she was awarded the **Gay**

and **Lesbian Business Association Humanitarian Award** for her activism and contribution to the LGBT community.

Through personal tragedy she has made the issues of juvenile justice and anti-gun violence a priority in her life and the **Coalition Against Gun Violence** has benefitted from her commitment and effort. She has served on the boards of the **Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee**, **Planned Parenthood Action Fund**, the **Pro-Choice Coalition**, and the **League of Women Voters**. She works actively with the union that represents labor at her workplace. These are but a few examples of how she can be found working tirelessly in the background, making change and progressive impact, always standing for equality, justice, and peace as a quiet reminder that you are in the right place

Her unwavering integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness has earned her the trusted position of treasurer on many of our local progressive candidates' campaigns including **Helene Schneider**, **Margaret Connell**, **Roger Aceves**, and **Monique Limon**. In other words, Linda Tuomi has had a major impact on the social justice and political action community here in Santa Barbara and thus, has earned this recognition as the 2010 Roses Award recipient. Congratulations and gratitude to Linda for her dedicated service.

— *Sharon Hoshida*

*SBWPC Board Member*

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## RECEPTION FOR KAMALA HARRIS

**D**uring the 2010 campaign season, the SBWPC

was the host for a wonderful reception for **Kamala Harris**, who was at the time San Francisco District Attorney and Democratic Candidate for Attorney General, an event held at the home of **Susan Rose**

and **Allan Ghitterman**. More than 75 people attended and significant funds were raised for the **Harris** campaign at this reception, an earlier local luncheon, and through contributions from a range of supporters. **Kamala Harris** offered comments on her positions, then fielded some exceedingly tough questions from our SBWPC members. Co-sponsors for this campaign stop were the **Democratic Women of SB**, the **Santa Barbara Santa Ynez Band**

of Chumash, Assembly member **Pedro Nava**, and Supervisor **Salud Carbajal**.

We are very pleased that **Kamala Harris** did indeed win the election and will be our next California Attorney General. **Harris** has a distinctly nuanced view of that role. She indicated that she would not defend laws she regarded as blatantly unconstitutional (such as Prop. 8, the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage) and wanted to see the implementation of the state's landmark climate-change law. **Harris** pledged to enforce the state's death penalty law despite her personal opposition to it. Her top priority as a criminal justice issue is to try new approaches to reducing the state's high recidivism rate, something she has already been working on as San Francisco District Attorney, a problem which represents a threat to public safety and constitutes a drain on the California budget.

*If you are interested in advertising, or know businesses who want to advertise, please contact the SBWPC at 564-6876.*




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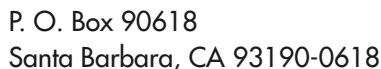
3780 State Street  
Suite C  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Catherine.Dishion@prospectmtg.com  
www.myprospectmortgage.com/CDishion

**office** 805.898.4234  
**cell** 805.705.5773  
**fax** 877.592.0951



**Catherine Dishion**  
Senior Loan Officer  
Branch # 297574



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 • Recycled paper

**★ PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE LUNCHEON ★**  
**March 18, 2011, Montecito Country Club, 11:30-1:30**

Spillar has been a national leader in the struggle to counter the effects of extremist anti-abortion groups that target women's reproductive health clinics and to bring extremists to justice. She has directed the FMF's research and public education activities, law enforcement relations, as well as grassroots organizing in some 26 states to keep clinics open in the face of extremist violence. Spillar is an expert on anti-abortion terrorism. She played an instrumental role in the FMF's landmark 1994 Supreme Court case upholding the use of buffer zones to protect clinics, *Madsen v. Women's Health Center*, and continues to oversee the Foundation's litigation efforts to stop violent extremists.

In 2005, Spillar was named Executive Editor of Ms. magazine. Under her oversight, Ms. has increased its investigative reporting, exposing sweatshops, forced prostitution and forced abortions in the U.S. territory of the Northern Mariana Islands, and uncovering the connections between abortion Dr. George Tiller's convicted murderer, Scott Roeder, and anti-abortion extremists who promote violence.

INVITATIONS TO THIS EVENT WILL GO OUT TO ALL FRIENDS OF SBWPC IN JANUARY 2011.

## 2011 SBWPC Membership Coupon

*SBWPC membership provides the opportunity to participate on several levels: on 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*

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

(Information required by the Calif. F.P.P.C. and F.E.C.)