

## SBWPC NEWSLETTER • Summer 2014 Edition

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carol Keator  
SBWPC Board President

### WE HAVE LOTS TO DO IN 2014!

*"In a nutshell, feminism concerns the liberation of women and girls from discrimination based on gender."<sup>1</sup> I use the word feminism proudly. For some, the terms "feminism" and "feminist" seem loaded with negative connotation, but not to me. I use "feminist" to mean women and men who*

believe in equality and in improving the lives of women. Until institutional inequalities between women as a group and men as a group are eliminated, there is still a great need for feminists. This is the mission of your SBWPC.

I am midway into my year as president of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee, following four years of serving on the Board of Directors (three of those as treasurer). I am thrilled to serve in this capacity and truly enjoy working with the many stakeholders—members, Board, electeds and appointeds, policymakers, partners and others—to get more feminists in decision-making positions.

So now I have the advantage of some history with our organization and can see how our journey progresses. Working with all of you in the months to come, I envision:

- Renewing focus on our mission of putting feminists into office. The SBWPC is unique in that we are non-partisan and exist to get

feminists to the tables where laws and policies are made so that we have a voice and a vote.

- Strengthening our "pipeline" of potential candidates for elected and appointed office. Provide the skills training, networking, and resources to those women (and men) who want to serve, thereby helping them create a successful campaign. We must identify viable candidates and ask them to run for office and then ask again and again.
- Encouraging and supporting candidates who reflect, understand, and speak for our entire diverse community and who work to improve the lives of women and men of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic level.
- Building our financial resources to a point where SBWPC can continue to offer candidate development workshops, training sessions and mentoring. We want to be able to donate to the campaigns of our endorsed

*(continued on page 2...)*

Contributions to the SBWPC support the following activities: advocacy and lobbying on issues of importance to women, community education and outreach, recruitment and training of feminist candidates, direct endorsement of candidates, campaigns and candidate support. We welcome and greatly appreciate your donations for the realization of these aims and to bring feminist women into office. Because of the political nature of the work, contributions are not tax-deductible.

## *President's Message continued...*

candidates so that they can compete effectively. The unfortunate reality is that it now takes large sums of money to campaign and win.

- Growing the membership to include many more local feminists who will spread the word to others about how important it is that feminist women are in office. Ideally, a larger membership means more votes for feminist candidates.
- Working with the elected and appointed local and state officials who represent us to enact laws and put policies in place that benefit women and children. Officials need to hear from constituents, and SBWPC will offer views on behalf of those who insist on equality for all.

This is an ambitious vision but I know from talking with a great number of SBWPC members that it is a vision widely shared. The SBWPC needs your participation to continue to bring feminist views to councils, boards, and legislatures.

So I urge you to step up! There are many ways to take part in feminist politics—become a candidate, donate to SBWPC, participate in workshops, educational forums and other events, volunteer for a campaign, join a SBWPC committee, talk or write to me or another board member. Speak with friends, family and neighbors about the value of having feminists in positions powerful enough to make positive change for all of us. Run for office yourself. Most of all, act!

Carol Keator, SBWPC Board President

<sup>1</sup> Kirk and Okazawa-Rey, 2003, *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*

## Applying for a Position on a Local Board, Commission or Judgeship

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC) urges feminist candidates to serve on local boards and commissions—a truly valuable way to serve your community and help create or recommend policy in keeping with feminist values. If you decide to apply to serve on a board or commission, or you are asking for an appointment as a judge, consider contacting the SBWPC; we may well be able to offer advice and support.

In September 2013, the SBWPC Board adopted a procedure in response to requests for letters of support. If a potential appointee (candidate) requests a letter of support, the SBWPC Board President will gather an interview team of Board members who will develop relevant interview questions.

- The interview team will meet with the candidate to discuss experience and abilities she or he would bring to the position relevant to support of feminism and the positions of the SBWPC.
- Based on the interview discussion, the team will determine whether to recommend writing a letter of support.
- The Board President will notify the candidate of the interview outcome, and if a letter of support is recommended, will send a letter to the appointing authority.

I can tell you from personal experience that working with the SBWPC in applying to a commission was very valuable, and I am now an appointee to a SB County Commission! The SBWPC Board is eager to assist feminist candidates who want to serve in appointed office. Please be in touch if you think we can help.

Carol Keator, SBWPC Board President

[carol@sbwpc.org](mailto:carol@sbwpc.org)

### MARY ROSE & ASSOCIATES

Post Office Box 90610  
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## POLITICALLY SPEAKING...

by Daisy Gonzales

# A Feminist Movement Without Marches: Empowering Our Movement by Electing Feminist Candidates

Recent visits from Gloria Steinem and Kate Karpilow promoted the need for a movement with a clear agenda. How do we march forward to materialize gender equality? The SBWPC has an agenda—to change the face of elected office at all levels of government. Our vision and mission empowers the feminist movement.

Feminist social movements in the twentieth century necessitated that women take to the streets and march for equality. Your membership, attendance at events and support for our endorsed candidates is central to today's feminist agenda. Our movement today is primarily carried out at the individual level and through moments of resistance where we march metaphorically into unprecedented spaces and insist on access and representation. As a women's political committee, our feminist movement is about changing the way we think about gender equality by changing the chambers of policymaking.



Gloria Steinem urged us to believe that the feminist movement is not over yet. In fact, her talk here in Santa Barbara on February 13 was titled "The Longest Revolution." I would agree. Our daily resistance to the status quo and public support of a feminist agenda affirms that our movement is alive! Her visit confirmed that women are not yet equal, even in our own community. Women in Santa Barbara County: disproportionately live in poverty, are unemployed in a higher percentage than men, earn less than men, and represent less than 1/3 of Santa Barbara County elected officials (Orfalea Foundation 2014). Steinem gave us the energy to continue fighting, but left us with little direction as we march ahead.

Almost four years since the end of the worst recession in California's history, the impact of the deepest economic downturn is still severely felt among women—especially low-income women—and their families. The SBWPC President's Circle Luncheon speaker, Kate Karpilow, the Executive Director of the California Center for Research on Women and Families, presented us with a plan. Her seven-step plan to "Build a Stronger Women's Movement" evolved into a ten step plan by March 7th at the Montecito Country Club. Karpilow's plan includes: (1) collaborating with other disenfranchised populations, (2) developing a California women's agenda, (3) securing more funding for programs that affect women, (4) consolidating women's organizations, (5) holding elected officials accountable, (6) a focus on policy implementation, (7) greater focus on workplace policies, (8) engaging more young women, (9) engaging more men, and (10) using a gender lens to analyze everything. Ms. Karpilow highlighted many of the factors encompassed in our mission.

The SBWPC believes that a key entry point to completing this work is in supporting and electing feminist candidates at all levels of elected office. Our clear agenda allows us to march forward with a purpose. In the first three months of 2014, the SBWPC:

- expanded collaboration efforts to local and statewide coalitions;
- continued to track and support legislation that advances women in the workplace and a life without violence, via letters of support and meetings with legislators;
- continued to identify and support feminist candidates; and
- formalized a process to offer internship opportunities for young women year-round.

Our feminist political agenda invests in access, economic opportunity and security for women and their families. We are a part of a movement that sends elected officials to march for us. We are fighting everyday, they are fighting everyday and we are ready for the longest revolution.

Daisy Gonzales, SBWPC Vice President, Policy

# Dream Scholars/Undocumented Students at UCSB

*by Lily Maestas, UCSB Career Counselor, SBWPC member and past board member*

UCSB has developed a work group to study the unique needs of AB540 students hereby referred to as **Dream Scholars** for this article. These students are defined based on the following criteria:



- Enrollment in a California high school for 3 years;
- Graduation from a California high school (diploma) or earn a G.E.D.;
- Enrollment in a public accredited institution of higher education in California;
- Filing of an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating they will apply for legal residency as soon as possible.

Dream Scholars are eligible to pay California instate tuition rather than international student tuition.

The difference between instate (\$34,177) and nonresident student (\$57,005) tuition for the 2013-2014 school year is close to \$23,000. Through AB540, there are no other benefits granted, including financial aid, admissions or naturalization services.

Our Dream Scholars have been admitted to UCSB through the same competitive process as the rest of the student body. Many arrived at UCSB with 4.00s, student leadership from high school, competitive athletics and political activism—in short, they are like the rest of the student body: over-achievers. While attending UCSB, they maintain high GPAs and are scattered across the academic disciplines from the sciences and engineering to social sciences and the humanities. These students, through no fault of their own, are at the fringes of the American dream: educated, talented, motivated and ready to jump in the working world as tax-paying participants in the democratic process. However, regardless of how qualified these Dream Scholars are, most of the employers who come on campus to recruit for post-BA positions will not consider hiring them because of legal issues that make it prohibitive.

**Why are UCSB Dream Scholars a concern for SBWPC?** When we began as an organization, we drafted position papers that outlined SBWPC's position on a variety of issues. These position papers compel us to serve as advocates, mentors, benefactors and change agents.

Our position paper on **Educational Equity** includes:

- Promoting adequate, equitable and fair funding for quality public education for all students; and
- Supporting and advocating policies that promote greater access to higher education for women and other underrepresented populations.

Our position paper on **Immigration** includes:

- Supporting more employer accountability, including new approaches to the concept of work permits in order to establish a legal work force;
- Keeping all avenues of public education open to immigrants and their families;
- Advocating stronger labor laws to protect workers from intimidation in the workplace based upon their immigrant status and to assure them of a fair wage, and access to union membership.

These two position papers offer the most compelling reasons to consider lending our support to these Dream Scholars. However, closer inspection of all of our position papers calls for social and civil actions that will promote innovative and challenging approaches to the already established national agenda. Economically it is not in this country's best interests to have some of our best and brightest students working as waiters instead of mapping the ocean floor—or cleaning houses instead of practicing law, medicine, and many other professions that are sorely in need of motivated and university-trained professionals.



### What can SBWPC do with and for the Dream Scholars?

- Visit [www.sa.ucsb.edu/DreamScholars/history.aspx](http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/DreamScholars/history.aspx). You will learn more about the Dream Scholars.
- **Encourage and support the idea of a fundraiser where you can meet and talk with the Dream Scholars and establish personal relationships with them.**
- Offer to buy books and educational materials for one quarter for one of the Dream Scholars.
- Volunteer your time to help these students file and fill out the necessary paperwork to work through immigration issues and help them become the citizens they deserve to be.
- Provide internships so Dream Scholars can develop professional work experience that corresponds with their major.
- Help provide jobs—some students have temporary job permits (DACA- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).
- For more information on how to donate to the UCSB Dream Scholars fund contact: [Catherine.boyer@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:Catherine.boyer@sa.ucsb.edu)

If we are truly interested in the best interests of this country then helping our best and brightest is one sure way to continue moving the change forward.

**Kate Silsbury, CRPC®**  
Private Wealth Advisor  
Franchise Owner

**Silsbury Wealth Advisors**  
Private wealth advisory practice of  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.  
Ste 4  
1625 State St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2547  
Tel: 805.687.0355  
[katherine.x.silsbury@ampf.com](mailto:katherine.x.silsbury@ampf.com)  
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[latuomi@yahoo.com](mailto:latuomi@yahoo.com)



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**cell** 805.705.5773  
**fax** 877.592.0951



**Catherine Dishion**  
Senior Loan Officer  
Branch # 297574  
NMLS # 298396



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heather van buren  
[heathergenephotography.com](http://heathergenephotography.com)  
[heather@heathergenephotography.com](mailto:heather@heathergenephotography.com)

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## SBWPC EVENT RECAP

### President's Circle Lunch Kicks off 26th Year of SBWPC

The thirteenth annual Presidents' Circle Lunch was held this year on March 7, 2014 and was attended by approximately 130 members. This event, coordinated in conjunction with International Women's Day, is planned by the past presidents of the SBWPC (*pictured below*), of which there are now 15!



*Photo credit: Heather Van Buren*

An opportunity to make some new friends and raise some funds, the Presidents' Circle Lunch is always a playful but educational affair that includes introducing all the past presidents, the current board of directors, and the many elected officials in the room. This year, both **Congresswoman Lois Capps** and **California State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson** offered important comments about their ongoing work on issues consistent with the SBWPC values, and **Supervisor Janet Wolf** outlined her political relationship to the organization over the last decade.



Our featured speaker was **Kate Karpilow** who engaged us with a discussion of how to sustain an active feminist politics in the 21st century.

Among other work, Kate is a Senior Research Fellow in the Workforce and Family Program of the New American Foundation and serves as the Executive Director of the California Center for Research on Women and Families. A very spirited Q+A followed her talk, and many of us are still thinking through how to tackle some of the intriguing questions she posed.

### Welcome, New SBWPC Members!

Ashlynn Algra • Nicole Archambeau • Stacy Byers • Vera Carbaugh • Julia Wynn Carr  
Amisha DeYoung-Dominguez • Christine Fredericks • Nonie Hamilton • Kimberly Horn • Gloria Hulbert  
Cheryl Justice • Susan Klein-Rothschild • Julie Mickelberry • Mira Oaten • Jane Perrin

## **New Members of the SBWPC Board for 2014!**

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee continues to benefit from the work and passion of a very dedicated volunteer Board of Directors. Five women joined the board in recent months and are already deeply involved in board decisions and subcommittee work. Your newest board members are:

### **LESLIE BRTEK**

Leslie is a retired high school teacher of history, economics and current events and has been active in addressing campus topics such as career preparation, bullying, homophobia and making it safe for teens to come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans. She has been on the board of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and of the Santa Barbara Gay and Lesbian Business Association. Leslie has received numerous awards and honors recognizing her work for human rights and her outstanding skills as a teacher. Leslie is now serving on the SBWPC Legislation & Advocacy committee.

### **JILL FRANDSEN**

Jill has had a varied career path, working for the Center for Urban Agriculture (Fairview Gardens), Van Atta Associates architects, and New Beginnings Counseling Center to name a few experiences. She has an MA in Clinical Psychology and is active in professional organizations. Jill volunteered to assist in SBWPC Fund Development activities and then accepted an invitation to join the board because, as she says, she wants "to continue to make a positive contribution to the mission of promoting women to political office." In addition to her work on the Fund Development committee, Jill now co-chairs the Media committee.

### **JOAN MELENDEZ**

Joan brings to the board a long history in creative arts as well as service to children, teens and the underserved. She is the mother of three, grandmother to five grandsons, and mentor to many other young people. Her familiarity with the arts community and various organizations assisting segments of our community is especially beneficial to the discussions and decisions of the SBWPC board. Joan works with the Summer Solstice workshop (and marches in the parade), is a member of the World Dance for Humanity troupe, and takes part in the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, the Teen Culinary Program, and Las Abuelitas (the grandmothers) working with at-risk youth.

### **LUZ REYES-MARTIN**

Luz is dedicated to public service and has worked for the cities of Downey, Anaheim, and now Goleta in various capacities in the areas of strategic planning, community outreach, and urban planning. She is a graduate of Stanford and USC and is an active alumna. Luz has worked on political campaigns, analyzed policy and evaluated issues affecting women and families; these experiences are particularly useful to the Legislation & Advocacy and the Elections & Appointments committees on which she serves. She describes herself as committed to working for the values of the SBWPC. Her most recent achievement is her appointment to the board of the Goleta Union School District.

### **GINGER RUBSAM**

Ginger brings a myriad of skills and a varied background to the SBWPC board. She has been a social worker in the San Francisco Bay area, lived in France for nine years teaching English for UNESCO, then to Maryland for a teaching job, followed by 13 years working as a Legislative Aide for the Maryland Senate. Especially relevant to the needs of SBWPC is Ginger's experience in researching and analyzing legislative bills and her knowledge of the political world. She has immediately pitched in as co-chair of the Media committee working to improve member communications and community awareness of SBWPC. As she describes herself, "I love to sail, ride my bike, travel, work in my vegetable garden, and observe the political scene."

**Welcome to all of the newest members of the SBWPC board and thank you for serving the mission.**



P. O. Box 90618  
Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0618

1-800-977-9348 • email: sbwomenspoliticalcommittee@gmail.com • www.sbwpc.org

*This newsletter is published by the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee. We welcome your responses and ideas. Please address all correspondence to: SBWPC Newsletter, PO Box 90618, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0618. Editors: Nancy Warren, Carol Keator, Lisa Guravitz Graphic design: Nancy Warren*

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## CONGRATULATIONS to the Successful SBWPC-Endorsed Candidates in the June 3rd Primary!

- **JANET WOLF**—won outright another term as Santa Barbara County Supervisor representing the 2nd District.
- **DAS WILLIAMS**—was one of the top two vote-getters in the race for CA State Assembly 37th District...on to November!
- **LOIS CAPPS**—running for re-election as US Representative for the 24th Congressional District will go on to the November General Election.
- **JULIA BROWNLEY**—running for a second term as US Representative for the 26th Congressional District will also be on the ballot in November.

**ALSO NOTE:** The SBWPC recommended a "No" vote on Measure M, which was defeated on June 3rd.

### 2014 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: 1-800-977-9348

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