

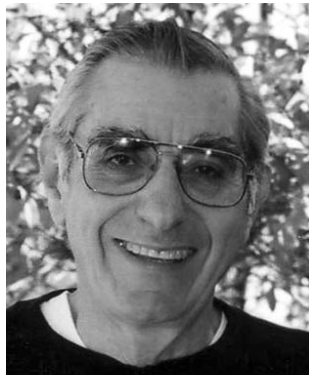
# Sonoma Civil Liberties

SPRING, 2005 #47

Edited by Steve Fabian

## RABBI MICHAEL ROBINSON TO RECEIVE 2005 JACK GREEN CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARD AT CHAPTER'S ANNUAL DINNER

The ACLU of Sonoma County established the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award in 1989 to honor Sonoma County residents who have played a significant role in promoting civil liberties. The chapter is proud to present the 2005 Jack Green Award to Rabbi Michael Robinson.



From marching for equality in Selma Alabama to speaking before the Sebastopol City Council for a living wage ordinance, Rabbi Robinson has dedicated his life to promoting justice and seeking peace and reconciliation in social conflicts, such as the American Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, Nicaraguan Contra War, and the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

Known for his charismatic agitation, he is an award winning social justice champion committed

to improving humanity. .

In June 1952, after completing study at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Robinson became the first North Carolina native to be ordained as a rabbi.

During the civil rights movement, his synagogue Temple Israel in Westchester New York, raised money to help rebuild the black churches that had been burned in the South and financed

the van used by the Freedom Riders to tour the South. Rabbi Robinson marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma Alabama and was jailed in St. Augustine Florida with 5 other rabbis who responded to King's call for reinforcements.

*"When I was ten years old I began sitting on the back seat of the bus with 'colored people.' I never returned to the front seat."*

During the Vietnam War, Temple Israel became nationally known for providing draft counseling to those seeking conscientious-objector status.

In 1992 he helped in the creation of the African-American Jewish Coalition for Justice in Seattle.

In 1989 he and his wife Ruth moved to Congrega-

ACLU of Sonoma County  
Winner of the 2002 Dick  
Criley Activism Award

### *ACLU of Sonoma County Board of Directors*

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tion Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, where both served (Ruth as musical director and cantorial soloist). He is credited with growing the

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## YOUR CHAPTER AT WORK

The Sonoma Chapter continues to be active.

Judith Volkart was a guest on KRCB-TV's *Making the Connection*. In the portion of the show entitled *The Erosion of Civil Liberties*, she discussed the loss of individual privacy due to the massive expansion of the collection of data on individuals by law enforcement, the increase of police surveillance, and the

effects of the USA Patriot Act.

You can view this program by going to [www.krcb.org](http://www.krcb.org) and clicking on *Making the Connection* and going to the February 24th show.

Dylan Alter participated in California Agricultural Migrant Program, a conference of Latino leaders. She chronicled the history of the chapter's involvement in issues of impor-

tance to their community and sought input on how the ACLU can be of help.

The Sonoma chapter co-sponsored the Marriage Equality Summit and Activist Training with Marriage Equality California (MECA).

Steve Fabian spoke on the free speech rights of leafleters and demonstrators and where and when they can legally be on private property.

Additionally, he spoke at the rally at Santa Rosa City Hall celebrating the San Francisco Superior Court decision declaring unconstitutional California's law banning same sex marriages.

Steve Fabian was interviewed in the Press Democrat about how Megan's Law actually leads to a community being less safe, and the use of Tasers - electric stun guns by police.

## DISTRIBUTING THE TOOLS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Sonoma Chapter in the past year has created, purchased and given away thousands of leaflets, brochures and cards on civil liberties issues to help build a greater understanding of what rights people have and to build a better appreciation of the civil liberties that make America free.

The chapter printed and distributed wallet sized cards *Some Practical Suggestions about You and the Police: Your Rights and the Police* in both Spanish and in English. It created, printed and passed out leaflets on *What's Wrong with the Death Penalty?*, *How Free are We?* (a fun educational quiz on the effects of the USA Patriot Act), and *10 Principles for an Effective Citizen Review Board*.

The chapter purchased and passes out a booklet containing the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights along with a summary of important cases involving those rights.

The chapter also distributed materials created by ACLU. One of the most popular is a handbook on the rights of youth *We Have Rights Too! But What Are They?*

The chapter passed out informational flyers on Proposition 66 (to amend the Three Strikes law) and Proposition 69 (requiring the taking of DNA from everyone arrested for a felony offense whether convicted or not).

By giving out civil liberties information when tabling at community events, providing them to other organizations, speaking before middle school, high school and college classes, and through interviews in newspapers, radio and television, the chapter educates Sonoma County residents about their freedoms and threats to them.

Want copies of our flyers? Call us at 765-5005.

## SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER

The chapter's Awards Ceremony & Annual Dinner is the only time the chapter requests money from its members. It is the money raised here that keeps the chapter functioning at such a high level. The money we receive from ACLU of Northern California does not begin to pay for the printing costs of flyers and newsletters, postage, maintaining a website and sponsoring events throughout the year.

The best way to support us is by coming to the dinner. Keynote speaker State Senator Carole Migden is a funny and powerful speaker. It's always an interesting, enjoyable event. You can help even more by signing up a friend as a new member (they can come to dinner for free!), contributing to our silent auction, placing a business card ad or becoming a dinner sponsor. Every bit helps keep your chapter strong.

Thanks to the following people for their sponsorship of last year's Awards Ceremony and Annual Dinner:

Margaret Brooks, photographer  
 Hillary Rodham Clinton Support Network  
 William R. Fishman, Attorney at Law  
 Michael Fuimara, Attorney at Law  
 Bernabe Hernandez, Attorney at Law  
 Marylou Hillberg, Attorney at Law  
 Richard Ingram, Attorney at Law  
 Dale Miller, Tony Romelli Bail Bonds  
 Mary Ruthsdotter and David Crawford  
 James Sorrells, Creative Property Management  
 Jonathan and Luann Steele

### Jack Green Award

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congregation from 30 families into the largest congregation in Santa Rosa. Retired since 1996, Rabbi Robinson holds the title of *Rabbi Emeritus* at both Temple Israel and Shomrei Torah.

Rabbi Robinson has been an active leader in Sonoma County's peace and justice community. He has served on the Sonoma County Task Force on Homelessness as chair for five years, on the advisory board for both Children's Village and Habitat for Humanity, as a monitor for Sonoma Land Trust, as an outspoken advocate of the Living Wage Coalition, a dedicated member of the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center, and a Community Evaluator for Project Censored.

Rabbi Robinson has been a spokesman locally for economic justice and racial equality on issues such as affirmative action, civilian

review boards, free press, access to health care, marriage equality, and affordable housing.

He has put his beliefs on the line. He has been arrested at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory pro-

*"I've struggled to keep my integrity and to do what I needed to do and be what I needed to be, in a difficult world."*

testing the development of nuclear arms, for blocking the entrance to South African Embassy to the United Nations and blocking the street leading to the Chinese embassy as part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation protest against all nuclear powers.

For a quarter of a century, Rabbi Robinson has been on the board of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, one of the oldest interfaith peace organizations in the country. Through the group, he has visited the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to gain perspective on their life experience. "I'm not

pro-Palestinian and I'm not pro-Israel - I'm pro-humanity," adding that he believes the Mid-East crisis might be solved by re-examining Israel's position in the territories and taking measures to dissipate the anger of the Palestinians and providing jobs and economic assistance to help rebuild their lives.

An active supporter of same-sex marriage, he spoke before the Sebastopol City Council on March 16, 2004 when they passed Sonoma County's first resolution supporting marriage equality. In response to those using the Bible to condemn homosexuality, he told the council: "I take the Bible seriously - too seriously to take it literally. Biblical literalism does not make sense. In Leviticus, it says 'love thy neighbor.' But it also says if you have a stubborn, rebellious child, stone him."

Rabbi Robinson will be presented the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award at the 2005 Awards Ceremony & Annual Dinner April 14th.

# ACLU OF SONOMA COUNTY'S 2005 AWARDS CEREMONY & ANNUAL DINNER

Featuring Keynote Speaker

## SENATOR CAROLE MIGDEN

*AUTHOR OF LEGISLATION CREATING CALIFORNIA'S  
DOMESTIC PARTNER REGISTRY*

2005 Jack Green Civil Liberties Award

## RABBI MICHAEL ROBINSON

*FROM SELMA ALABAMA TO SONOMA COUNTY  
A WITNESS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE*

THURSDAY APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 5:30 P.M.

**JAZZ GUITARIST JIM ADAMS • SILENT AUCTION • RAFFLE  
LASAGNA AND PESTO PASTA DINNER BY "THE PASTA KING"**

Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Auditorium • 282 High Street, Sebastopol

\$25 (\$15 low income) before April 7<sup>th</sup> \$30 (\$20 low income) after April 7<sup>th</sup> - Reservations held at the door

**JOIN THE ACLU (NEW MEMBERS ONLY) & COME TO THE DINNER FOR FREE!**

Information: (707) 765-5005 or visit our website: [www.aclusonoma.org](http://www.aclusonoma.org)

Send check to: ACLU of Sonoma County, P.O. Box 14181, Santa Rosa, California 95402

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Dinners \$25; after 4/7 \$30: \_\_\_\_\_ Low Income \$15; after 4/7 \$20: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be a Sponsor \$150 (enclose business card) 2 dinners, reserved seats, free drinks, acknowledgment & ad in dinner program

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a Sponsor but cannot attend \$100 (enclose business card) receive acknowledgment & ad in dinner program

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (1 Dinner): \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Joint (2 Dinners): \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing (2 Dinners): \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, you may share my name and mailing address with other charities. (Allowing the ACLU to exchange your name helps us to grow our membership and better protect civil liberties).

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to receive Action Alerts and news about civil liberties by subscribing to ACLU Online, the free e-newsletter of the ACLU

**JUDITH VOLKART TO  
SPEAK AT OAKMONT**

On June 12th Judith Volkart will speak before Oakmont Sunday Symposium on *Religion, Government & Politics: An Un-Constitutional Trinity*.

Every modern elected official has understood the necessity of making sure they are seen and heard attending church and professing faith.

Judith will explore religion's role under the Bush Administration in defining some of the most controversial and fundamental constitutional issues of our time: government-funded religious discrimination, faith-based social programs, evolution in science textbooks, vouchers for parochial schools, Ten Commandment displays on government land, the battle over the pledge of allegiance, spying on mosques, stem cell research, gay marriage and reproductive freedom.

The event is 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Oakmont's East Recreation Center located at 7902 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa.

**ACLU IN THE NORTH BAY  
PROGRESSIVE**

Check out the North Bay Progressive (available free throughout Sonoma County). Beginning with the current issue, the chapter has its own page with articles on civil liberties issues.

The current issue features articles on rights to leaflet on private property, use of radio frequency devices to track students at a Sutter County middle school and Lynne Stewart, a criminal defense attorney prosecuted by government.

**YOUTH ACTIVIST CONFERENCE  
APRIL 6TH**

High school students are invited to debate, discuss and strategize about the draft, student rights, how to lobby, and other issues facing youth. The free conference is at UC Berkeley's MLK Student Union, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 6th. Students must register in advance at [aleonard@aclunc.org](mailto:aleonard@aclunc.org) or call (415) 621-2493, extension 333.

**STUDENTS FOR MEDIA  
DEMOCRACY EVENT**

Students for Media Democracy will have a benefit April 15th at the Sebastopol Community Center. Info: 696-5511.

**BECOME AN ONLINE  
ACTIVIST**

Get Action Alert e-mails on breaking civil liberties issues so you can act quickly to affect decisions being made.

You can e-mail or fax letters instantly to local, state and national leaders.

This provides civil liberties a strong voice in pending legislation and policies.

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**LOCAL & CALIFORNIA ISSUES:**

Go to [www.aclusonoma.org](http://www.aclusonoma.org) & click on: "Become an Online Activist - sign up for the ACLU Action Alerts"

**NATIONAL ISSUES:**

Go to [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org) & click on: "Sign up for E-Mail Updates"

**IN MEMORY**

Leon Adams 70 - Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, award winning author, founder of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, co-founder of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, board member of *We the People*.



**ACLU**

**SONOMA CIVIL LIBERTIES**

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

**P.O. Box 14181**

**SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95402**

**HOTLINE: (707) 765-5005**

**WEBSITE: [www.aclusonoma.org](http://www.aclusonoma.org).**

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**Spring, 2005 #47**

**TIME VALUE**

**STATE SENATOR CAROLE  
MIGDEN TO GIVE KEYNOTE  
ADDRESS - RABBI MICHAEL  
ROBINSON TO RECEIVE  
JACK GREEN CIVIL LIBERTIES  
AWARD AT ACLU OF  
SONOMA COUNTY'S 2005  
AWARDS CEREMONY AND  
ANNUAL DINNER**

**APRIL 14, 2005**

**SIGN UP A NEW ACLU MEMBER  
AND BRING THEM FOR FREE!**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!**



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