

Sonoma Civil Liberties

WINTER, 2005 #46

Edited by Steve Fabian

Senator Carole Migden to deliver keynote address at chapter's annual dinner April 14th

Newly elected State Senator Carole Migden will deliver the keynote address at the chapter's 2005 Award Ceremony and Annual Dinner Thursday April 14th at the Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Building.

Senator Migden has previously served as Chairwoman of the California Board of Equalization (BOE), Assemblywoman for the 13th State District and as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

In the State Assembly,



Carole Migden served for five years as Chairwoman of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, which reviews all legislation that has a fiscal impact on the state. For four

years she also served as a conferee on the state's Joint Budget Conference Committee, which writes the final version of California's state budget.

Carole Migden authored legislation to create California's landmark domestic partner registry, promote children's health, preserve the old growth Headwaters Forest, increase accountability in K-12 schools, protect borrowers from predatory and deceptive lending practices, protect consumers

Continued page 2

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

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| 2005 ACLU of Sonoma County Awards Celebration & Annual Dinner April 14th | 1 |
| Sonoma Chapter honored for work promoting marriage equality | 1 |
| Chapter comes to the aid of leafleters | 2 |
| In memory | 3 |
| Host or come to ACLU Discussion group | 4 |
| Join Board of Directors New Treasurer needed | 4 |

Sonoma Chapter, Judith Volkart honored for work on marriage equality

The Sonoma Chapter and board member Judith Volkart were honored with the Rainbow Award by Marriage Equality California (MECA).

At last year's Awards Ceremony, Sebastopol Mayor Linda Kelley announced that at the next city council meeting she would introduce a resolution urging the Sonoma Board of Supervisors to support "civil marriage" for same sex couples, oppose a constitutional amendment restricting same sex marriages, and recognize same sex marriages that had already

been performed. She asked the Sonoma Chap-

The chapter immediately wrote a letter to the city council in support of the resolution and board member Judith Volkart spoke before the city council in support of the resolution.

Since then, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Cotati have passed resolutions supporting equality in marriage.

Our chapter's Action Alert e-mails notified ACLU members in the areas considering resolutions and provided instant e-mails and faxes for them to send to the resolution.

Continued on page 2

"...The opportunity to publicly and legally commit to share one's life with a person of one's choice is for many people one of the most central aspects of human experience, and denial of marriage to same sex couples is a denial of fundamental civil rights. Marriage is a commitment. It is about sharing, love, trust, and compromise. Two adults who make this personal choice to form a life-long commitment should not be denied the right to marry just because they are gay or lesbian. Society is stronger when it recognizes all couples who share their love and commitment.

"Please put Sonoma County on record in supporting love, commitment and equality and opposing those who want to change the Constitution to deny state governments the power to grant to couples of the same sex legal recognition of their relationship."

From Chapter letter in support of resolutions

ter for help in supporting the resolution.

ACLU of Sonoma County
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David Grabill
Judith Volkart



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Chapter helps aids leafleters in Cotati and Rohnert Park

On June 3rd, Carl Jensen and others went to Cotati Farmer's Market, at La Plaza Park to register voters. The market manager came and told them to leave or remove all political materials including the John Kerry buttons that they were wearing.

When they returned the next week and were told once again that they could not table, he responded that he had checked his rights and had a copy of the U.S. Supreme Court case with him. The manager was unimpressed stating: "That's nothing but ACLU propaganda!"

Jensen contacted us, where after much consultation, the market relented and allowed the .

In a letter to Steve Fabian, Jensen stated: "Thanks, I believe, to your intervention, the issue has been re-

solved. We have a desirable location at the Cotati's Farmer's Market and we expect no further trouble."

On June 26th, we were contacted

"...It seems that it is in the best interests of Pacific Theatres to protect and support strong and vibrant free speech rights. It is only through the right of free speech that individuals and businesses such as Pacific Theatres can rest assured that they can show a large variety of movies, including politically controversial ones such as Fahrenheit 9/11, without fear of arrest and prosecution. As such it seems most unfitting for you to participate in threatening to arrest others exercising their free speech rights in an orderly and peaceful fashion..."

From letter to Pacific Theatres

the Pacific Theatres in Rohnert Park, she was surrounded by numerous employees and a security guard. When she quietly explained that she was only exercising her right to free speech, they contacted the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety (RPDPS) who told her to leave or be arrested.

The chapter immediately wrote Pacific Theatres and the RPDPS. Pacific Theatres failed to respond. In discussions with RPDPS, they stated that under California law they are mandated to accept those placed under "citizens arrest" by the theatre. But if "citizens arrests" were made, they would release those who leafleted in a non-disruptive manner. We will continue monitoring the situation.

Annual Dinner

continued from page 1

from energy price manipulation, and promote the use of emergency contraception.

During her tenure at the BOE, Migden worked to modernize the state's outdated tax system, strengthen domestic partners' property rights, protect California's open space, and advocated for increased revenues to fund vital services by eliminating obsolete tax breaks.

Senator Migden has received numerous awards for her service. California Journal named her among California's power elite of women elected officials and awarded her with their "Rookie of the Year" award in 1998, taking top honors in the

categories of most integrity, most intelligence, hardest working, most ambitious, and most influential. In 1999, she received "Legislator of the Year" honors from the California School Employees Association and in 2001 from the California National Organization for Women, as well as leadership awards from environmental and civil rights organizations.

Prior to her election to the State Assembly in November 1996, Carole Migden served for five years as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Carole Migden is a funny, interesting speaker and should not be missed. This is the chapter's only fundraiser, so consider being a sponsor or contributor to the silent auction. To donate to the silent auc-

tion call Neva Turer at 539-1220.

The Pasta King Art Ibleto is preparing a great meal. Reservations (which are held at the door) are \$25 (\$15 low income) before April 7th, \$30 (\$20 low income) thereafter. A no host bar and silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Never been an ACLU member? Come to the dinner for free! Join at the regular rate or higher and dinner is on us. Buy a gift membership and take a friend to dinner! Couples that join at the joint rate or higher get 2 free meals.

Community groups are invited to table, please call our hotline.

For information visit our website www.aclusonoma.org or call 765-5005. The event is wheelchair accessible.

Same Sex Marriage

continued from page 1

those voting. The chapter wrote letters in support of the resolutions, board members Judith Volkart and Dylan Alter attended council meetings to support the resolutions, and Judith spoke out in support at numerous public events.

In August, the California Supreme Court invalidated thousands of marriages of lesbian and gay couples

ruling that the San Francisco did not have the authority to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples.

The court did not rule on whether such marriages were an unconstitutional violation of equal protection and stated that a new lawsuit could raise that issue. Immediately, the ACLU of Northern California filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court.

On November, 11 states passed constitutional amendments barring same sex marriages, some of which

also banned civil unions. President Bush has come out in support of a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriages and groups in California have announced plans to place an initiative on the ballot to amend California's constitution to ban both such marriages and civil unions.

Our chapter will continue working with others to help defeat such an initiative and to educate the public about this important issue.

In Memory

- Virginia Heck** 89 - Former ACLU of Sonoma County Board member, founder of Sonoma Chapter of Friends Outside
- Aida Hunter** 89 - Founding member of ACLU of Sonoma County, recipient of Jack Green Civil Liberties Award
- Jacques Levy** 76 - Journalist who documented poverty in Sonoma County, nuclear freeze and social justice activist, author of *Cesar Chavez: Autobiography of La Causa*
- Bill McGee** 79 - Former Priest, retired instructor at SRJC and social justice and peace activist
- Jack Rudinow** 84 - Founding member of ACLU of Sonoma County, recipient of Jack Green Civil Liberties Award
- Bob Tunks** 81 - Anti-war activist, former gang counselor, member police accountability committee Peace & Justice Center

ACLU of Sonoma County's 2005 AWARDS CEREMONY & ANNUAL DINNER

Featuring Keynote Speaker

State Senator Carole Migden

Lasagna & Pesto Pasta Dinner by "The Pasta King" Art Ibl eto
Silent Auction • Raffle • Awards Ceremony

THURSDAY April 14TH 5:30 P.M.

Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Auditorium 282 High Street

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

Join the ACLU (New Members Only) & come to the dinner for FREE!

Information: (707) 765-5005 Visit our website: www.aclusonoma.org

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

Please Print or Type

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

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 in front, receive acknowledgment & ad in dinner program

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

I will place a Dinner Program Ad \$25 (enclose business card)

I will donate to the Silent Auction - Receive recognition for your business or service - Call Neva Turer 539-1220

I will bring a Raffle Prize to the Dinner

Never Been an ACLU Member? Join Now & Get Free Dinners! (first time members only)

CNV

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

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

Host or come to an ACLU discussion group

The Board of the Sonoma County Chapter believes that a successful organization is one in which there is lively debate and participation of its members. We feel the need to get back in touch with members' priorities, feelings and ideas. Therefore, we have decided to hold house meetings in the various towns and neighborhoods of our county to get to know the ACLU members again.

We have decided to start with the topic: *ACLU opposition to torture and the denial of the rule of law in the treatment of prisoners by the U.S. government in its "war on terrorism"*.

If you would like to either host a house meeting and invite your friends to join you or attend one hosted in your town or neighborhood to discuss this topic let us know. We will help you with the arrangements and send a knowledgeable person to be there.

We are interested if you have suggestions for another topic you would be interested in, and want a voice in what the chapter should do about it.

Call Rick Coshnear at 523-1740.

New Board Members needed

This past year, board member Alicia Sanchez began a one year sabbatical and Richard Redalia left the board.

Chair Steve Fabian will also begin an one year sabbatical after this year's award ceremony and annual dinner.

This leaves the chapter with a pressing need for new volunteers to step forward and help keep the chapter strong.

If you can volunteer a few hours each month and attend our board meetings the third Tuesday of the month, you can make a difference. You need not be an attorney or an expert in civil liberties to serve, only be willing to help. It's a great experience.

If you are willing to volunteer, please call us at 765-5005.

Notice of election Board of Directors

The election of the 2005-2006 Board of Directors will take place at our awards ceremony & annual dinner April 14th. We need your help. If you wish to be considered for membership on the board please contact us at 765-5005.

BECOME AN ONLINE ACTIVIST

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

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To sign up:

LOCAL & CALIFORNIA ISSUES:

Go to www.aclusonoma.org & click on "Sign up for the ACLU Action Alerts"

NATIONAL ISSUES:

Go to www.aclu.org & click on "Receive E-Mail Updates"

New Treasurer needed!

Nancy Thompson, who has served for the past two years as Treasurer is stepping down. As is often the case, good activists do not necessarily make good bookkeepers. But some do. Our books are fairly simple and are kept on *Quicken*. If you are willing to volunteer, please call us on our hotline 765-5005.



ACLU

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

P.O. Box 14181

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95402

HOTLINE: (707)765-5005

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Sonoma Civil Liberties

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Winter, 2005 #46

TIME VALUE

Carole Migden to give
keynote address at
ACLU of Sonoma
County's 2005 Awards
Ceremony and Annual
Dinner

April 14, 2005

5:30 p.m.

Sebastopol Veterans
Memorial Auditorium

Sign up a new ACLU member
and bring them free!

Make your reservation now!