

VOTER IMPACT

The League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

Volume XVI, Issue 7

April, 2004

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Tuesday, April 20

LUNCH 12:15 PM

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

607 North Greene Street - Greensboro

\$8.00 (Reservations 643-2131)

"Job Creation in Greensboro"

Mr. Andrew Burke, President, Greensboro Economic Development Partnership, Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Andrew Burke has more than 38 years' experience in sales, marketing, management and senior level economic development positions with Texas Power & Light Company, South Carolina Public Service Authority, Sierra Pacific Resources, Virginia Beach Development Authority and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

Burke is a graduate of the University of Texas and received his MBA from the Citadel.

Andy Burke's role as President of Greensboro Economic Development Partnership (GEDP) is to facilitate the creation of high quality jobs, attract new capital investment, retain and expand existing businesses, improve per capita income and generally improve the quality of life in Greensboro and the unincorporated areas of Guilford County. He has developed a 2004 business plan to aggressively carry out this mission.

LECTURE AND RECEPTION

Wednesday, April 21

7 p.m.

Weatherspoon Art Gallery

Auditorium, UNCG

(corner of Spring Garden and Tate Streets)

"Nation Building in the Middle East: Puzzles and Prospects"

Michaëlle L. Browsers, Wake Forest University

A light reception will follow the presentation. Both the lecture and the reception are free and open to the public.

Free parking is available in the Weatherspoon lot off Tate Street. This presentation is co-sponsored by the **League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad**, UNCG's Center for Legislative Studies, and UNCG's International Studies Program.

Dr. Michaëlle Browsers is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wake Forest University. She received her PhD from the University of Minnesota. Her recent work includes *AN ISLAMIC REFORMATION?* (ed. with Charles Kurzman, 2004) and various journal articles on debates regarding civil society and democracy in the Arab region. She has conducted research in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco, and will be returning to the Middle East next month.

Nation Building: Selective Recent News

By David Olson

Note: Nation Building is with us. Attend Dr. Browers lecture at UNCG to inform yourself about our current world. Bring a guest.

“Haitians Again Relying on US Military to Bring Peace”

New York Times (NYT)
Mar 7, 2004 A10

“Now the United States military is back in Haiti for the third time in 90 years. It says its mission will last 90 days....”

Trying to put Haiti back together again may well require more soldiers, more time and more money than the last American military deployment, in 1984, to build *lasting institutions*, like the police, courts, legislatures, schools and hospitals. The \$3 billion spent by the United States during those years has washed away like the soil on Haiti’s denuded hills.

...(A)s in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, it may prove easier for American troops to land in Haiti than to leave.”

“Iraq Council, With Reluctant Shiites, Signs Charter”

NYT Mar 9, 2004 A1, 11

“Among the Iraqis stood Shiite and Sunni Muslims, ethnic Kurds, an Assyrian Christian, a Communist, a Turkmen, several former guerrilla fighters and a handful of survivors from Saddam Hussein’s jails.



... (T)he Bush administration was determined to hand over sovereignty on June 30, even though the violence was expected (to) intensify.”

George Will, *“Events Beyond Control,”*
Washington Post Mar 7, 2004, B7:

“Who in November thought that in February, the Bush Administration would take on a third nation-building adventure, the one in Haiti?”

Kenneth L. Cain, *“In Haiti, Mobs are the Easy Part,”*
NYT Mar 2, 2004, A27.

“In Haiti, or anywhere else for that matter, we cannot promote elections alone as the key to a democratic transition. *Creating a democracy requires a sustained commitment of time and money* to develop all the necessary elements: a transparent executive branch, a competent legislature, a neutral judiciary and a free press.”

“Iraq: US Scrambles to set Up World’s Biggest Embassy in Baghdad,”
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty website, Mar. 10, 2004.

“With a staff of 4,000 US officials and Iraqi employees, the embassy will oversee the spending of \$18.6 billion in vital aid - about three times the amount of US aid allocated to the rest of the world...”

In theory, the new embassy’s establishment will mark the transfer of US power in Iraq from the Department of Defense to the State Department. However, US officials said...that the Pentagon will have control over most of the rebuilding funds, much

of which will go to infrastructure projects.”

John F. Burns, “*Shiites May Demand Lifting of Limits on Their Power*,” NYT Mar. 10, 2004, A12.

(A)...prominent Shiite cleric...said the interim constitutions’ provision for a decentralized federal system, a move the Americans have said is crucial to prevent the rise of another dictator...would be ‘a time bomb that will spark a civil war...’

...The disputes go to the core issue in Iraq, How the inevitability of Shiite majority rule can be made palatable to the Sunni minority that has been dominant here since the 1920's, and to other groups, principally the Kurds.

...American officials acknowledged Tuesday that they have no clear formula for how the transitional government that is to assume power on June 30 should be constructed...

...The American position now...is to encourage the governing council members to come forward with their own proposal, and to seek help ...from the United Nations....”

Greensboro Public Transit Authority long-range plan

The final draft of the GTA long-range public transportation plan is available for viewing and providing final comments by April 20. The plan is available at the GTA office



at 320 E. Friendly Avenue or on the website www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/gdot. For questions or concerns, call Sharon C. Smiley at 373-2182 or William Ball at 224-8862.

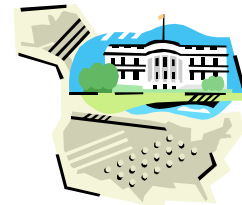
GET OUT THE VOTE

The LWVPT is working with the Boards of Elections of Guilford and Forsyth counties and the state of North Carolina, the LWVNC board, and GCTV to inform the public about voting procedures. Other organizations are also assisting. The goal is to produce four short videos to be shown on public access and perhaps other TV outlets. Election experts

MARCH for Women's Lives in April Reminder

April 25 on the Washington, DC mall will be the scene of a great *March for Women's Lives*. Women, men, and children are coming from all points in the nation. A plane is being chartered to bring people to the march from Miami-Dade in Florida! Locally, we will have a chartered bus. The fare is \$40; departure time 4:30 a.m. and return will be about midnight. Bring your own lunch and water or soft drinks. There will be a dinner stop.

To make reservations for the bus trip to stand up for women's rights: call Barbara Walker at 288-4687 or email at b.p.walker@att.net. Going in the company of people supporting your cause is fun and exciting.



will answer questions posed to them by a variety of people. Jane Aycock (275-8822) would appreciate your feedback on questions that need answering (perhaps some asked of you as a League member) and the types of people to appear in the videos to help educate all voters.

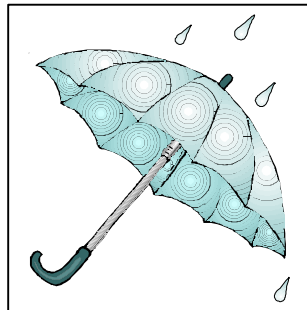
Creative Community

By Judy Morton

You may want to catch the Creative Community show on GCTV (cable channel 8) and learn about new and creative ideas put into practice in Greensboro. The show for April is shown on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:00a.m.

April showers increase creative powers--and we're fully prepared to prove it. It's time for Episode 3 of Creative

Community, premiering on Cable Channel 8 on Friday, April 2 at 7:00am. During this lively episode, we watch Ivan and Duckie from Saigon Restaurant tour some of Greensboro's finest international food markets to give residents a peek into cuisines they may be missing. Also in this episode, we meet Raleigh



Bailey from the Center for New North Carolinians as he shares insights into the growing immigrant population in our area. Finally, we expose the creative outlet of Greensboro native and North Carolina State Senator Kay Hagan.

Tell your friends. Program your VCR. Get Creative.

Congratulations to Mazie!

Mazie Levenson won two awards at the Commission on the Status of Women 17th Annual Woman of Achievement awards dinner on March 22, 2004. She won the Community

Service award, as well as the Commission's highest honor, the Emily Smith Award. (The Board of Directors of the LWVPT nominated Mazie for the Community Service

Award.)

Mazie was recognized for her long years of service in the areas of the environment and civil rights. She has been involved in League work on the environment for 50 years. In the 1970's Mazie chaired the League's Natural Resources Committee and represented the League on the Guilford

This is the month our taxes are DUE. Check it Out Check it Off

The report on WUNC on April 1 indicates that only \$200,000 is currently available for public funding for the judicial elections. Remember that the check off does not decrease the amount of the refund nor increase the amount of the check if tax is to be paid. It just allocates the money for the fund.



It is important that we all elect to have \$3.00 per tax form available for a judicial candidate voters guide and for the campaigns of those electing public financing.

Federal Tax Form

Remember there is a check off box on your federal tax form to designate funds for public campaign financing. Neither of these checkoffs on your forms change your taxes. Your refund or payment is the same.



County Watershed Committee. Based on the committee's work, Guilford County passed an ordinance protecting the lakes. Both the City of Greensboro and Guilford County cooperated to buy land for the buffer.

Mazie continues to be informed on environmental issues and always encourages others to work for the public good. She is an inspiration for the rest of us.

Emily Smith also was a League member. She died January 2002. Mazie said she was very touched to win the award. She admired Emily Smith for her role in establishing the Commission on the Status of Women.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the LWVPT will be held at 6 p.m. on May 20. Dinner will be served for \$10. The meeting portion will start at 6:35.

The nominating committee may be calling you. Please be positive when they call and join us on the Board of Directors. We can use your fresh and good ideas.

The next issue of *Voter Impact* will contain annual meeting reports and materials. Please save it and bring it to the annual meeting with you.

LWVPT Letter to the Editor

We hope you spotted the LWVPT's letter concerning Greensboro's Comprehensive Plan when a shopping center was proposed for an area planned as residential.

From the letter: " ...

1. This is the first test of the Greensboro Comprehensive Plan. If the City Council approves the rezoning, then the Comprehensive Plan fails its first critical test. Gone will be the trust of citizenry who worked hard for a rational growth plan. The City Council should

uphold what they so ardently adopted last year.
2. This intensive 24-acre development lies within the Greensboro Critical Watershed Area. The increased flow of storm water runoff will contribute to lower drinking water quality as the natural drainage flows into Lake Brandt Reservoir.
3. Development is encroaching further and further north on Battleground into the Watershed Critical Areas.
4. Urban vitality derives much from directed commercial development downtown, rather than fringe development that creates sprawl and city decay..."



Teen Summit

The LWVPT will co-sponsor a Teen Summit on October 18 at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center. If you would be interested in working with the young people of our area, please contact Jane Aycock at 275-8822. 300 young people attended the last summit and more are expected for this one.

Three non-League events you may be interested in attending. Clip the calendar on the last page.

**Gillian Martin Sorensen
Senior Adviser, United Nations Foundation**

Topic: "The US & the UN: Can this Marriage be Saved? "

When: Wednesday, April 14. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

- Presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Where: O.Henry Hotel, 624 Green Valley Road, Greensboro



Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, mbassador to the US from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Topic: "Peace in the Middle East: Fact or Fable."

When: May 6. See above for time and location.

Hosted by: Triad World Affairs Council

For more information or reservations contact:

Greensboro College at 336-272-7102, extension 221.

Or reply by email to: triadwac@gborocollege.edu

Dealing With Anger - A Conversation With

Darryl Hunt — Sunday, April 18, 5 p.m. - New Garden Friends Meetinghouse, 801 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Darryl Hunt, was imprisoned for 19 years for a murder he did not commit. He was recently exonerated and released by the NC judicial system based on DNA evidence. He is now attempting to reconstruct his life in Winston Salem. In contrast to what might you might believe,

miraculously, Darryl claims no bitterness or hatred because of what he experienced. How did this happen? How did Darryl Hunt go through this

experience and not be overcome with negativity? Can we learn from Darryl how to deal better with our own anger? Come and share in a conversation where Darryl, who has been a Sunni Muslim, since 1985, will share insights from his spiritual journey and attempt to explain to us how he dealt constructively with his feelings of frustration and anger.

LWV Urged Congress to Support the Election Assistance Commission

This letter sent to Congress was signed by the League and many other organizations, including the Association of Secretaries of State.

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to support the implementation priorities and programs of the "Help America Vote Act" (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA), through the new Federal agency established for that purpose under the Act, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

The EAC was designed to address national election issues that need immediate attention, such as the current debate regarding the security risks of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting systems. The security concerns raised over DREs are neither new nor unanticipated by HAVA. Congress intended for all voting systems to receive a careful security review, with public input from all stakeholders, including state and local election officials, civil rights organizations, vendors, academics, and the scientific community.

To ensure that the necessary people, processes and technologies are engaged in developing standards for addressing these security issues, HAVA created a Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC),

chaired by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), under the auspices of the EAC. Working with NIST, the TGDC will develop voting systems guidelines, including standards that provide for the security of computers, computer data storage, and networks used in voting systems.

In 2003, NIST began their work on HAVA, which included the symposium "Building Trust and Confidence in Voting Systems." The 2-day symposium focused entirely on the security of DRE voting systems. And just last week, NIST announced they will be working with the EAC to begin the vitally important tasks of the TGDC. Equally important, they will begin the new laboratory accreditation program for voting systems.

The security of voting technology is a non-partisan issue and must remain so. The most appropriate forum for reviewing such security issues and developing security standards for voting systems is the EAC, as required under HAVA. We ask that you support HAVA as enacted and urge the EAC to expeditiously

issue these security standards as required by the Act.

We thank you for your support for the implementation and funding of the "Help America Vote Act," and we look forward to working with you on these critical issues. Should you have any questions, please contact Rob Randhava of the Leadership



Conference on Civil Rights at (202) 466-6058, Leslie Reynolds of the National

Association of Secretaries of State at (202) 624-3525, or any of the organizations listed below." (The list is posted on the LWV website.)

Two Informative WebSites for this Election Year

- 1) Public Agenda's First Choice 2004: This nonpartisan voter guide is designed to help users think through issues facing our nation so they can make decisions about which candidates to support. <http://publicagenda.org/firstchoice2004/index.cfm>
- 2) The ABC's of Women's Issues: A publication by the National Council of Women's Organizations

provides information on issues and questions that candidates and political parties need to answer. <http://www.womensorganizations.org/pdfs/abcs.pdf>

One City One Book

Remember that the book for this year is *The Middle of Everywhere* by Mary Pipher. Book discussions will start in the fall.

Speaking of Books

League members are book readers. If you have read a book on a matter of interest to League members: history, politics, the media, human needs, economics etc, please consider writing a short review for Voter Impact.

The review of *Nickled and Dimed* by Sue Jezorek was well received. Is it your turn to share?



Just in:
Jonathan Kozol will speak at UNGC on April 20, 7:30 p.m.