

LWV[®] League of Women Voters *of the* Monterey Peninsula

VOTER

November 2010, Volume 84, Number 3

General Meeting, Wednesday, November 10, 2010 “Mobilizing for Sustainable Communities”

Is sustainability a luxury limited to the affluent? **Denyse Frischmuth, President of Citizens for a Sustainable Monterey County** smiles and answers, “Yes, originally, but it is now going mainstream. Because we’ve dragged our feet, climate change is no longer avoidable. So our challenge now is to speed up change ... we have to reduce our use of energy.”

Our November 10th Guest Speaker has devoted the last five years to creating local sustainability groups. Born in French-speaking Quebec, she worked for years in Silicon Valley, then in 1999 moved to Pacific Grove. In 2005 she became one of the founding board members of **Citizens for a Sustainable Monterey County**



(CSMC). The group’s mission is: “To meet the challenges of climate change and peak oil by helping our communities transition to sustainable uses of energy and natural resources.” So far, CSMC has fostered groups in **Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside, Marina, Big Sur, Carmel Valley, and Salinas.**

Although Denyse acknowledges that global threats posed by climate change require national and international action, she believes individuals can make a difference at community level. Her own activism began in the late 60s in Stanford where she read a flyer on **Homemakers for the Environment**. “That pamphlet changed my life. I wonder what the writer would think if she could see all that I’m doing today.”

LWVMP General Meeting Luncheon

(2nd Wednesdays of month)

Lunch begins 12 noon / Presentation starts 12:30

\$20 per person for lunch (salad buffet, beverage, dessert)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher

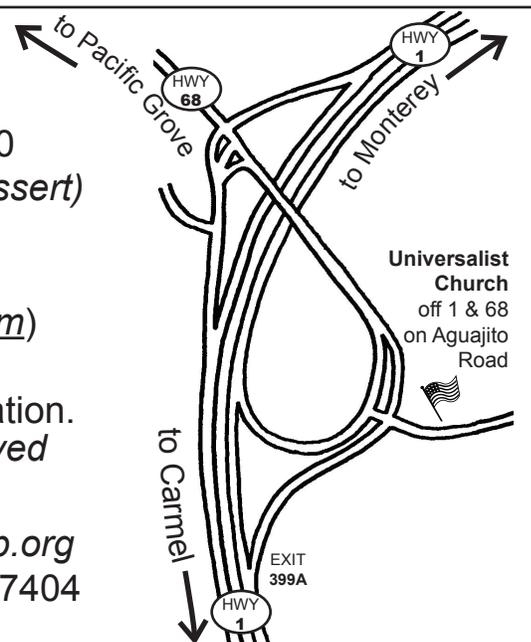
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Payments at the door for lunch only:

Lecture at 12:30 is **FREE** and do not require reservation.

LWVMP General Luncheon Meetings have moved from the Elks Lodge in Monterey to

Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>
 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



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(continued from page 1)

In the 1990's Denyse worked in Silicon Valley. Asked about the obstacles to change posed by corporate interests today, she says that sustainability is actually good for business, driving it toward greater efficiency. The problem she says, comes with up-front costs. *"We are going to have to think long-term. My grandchildren are my biggest motivation. In view of the huge changes required, it is easy to slide into despair. But my work sustains me."*

Being actively involved gives Denyse hope and energy. *"I felt this when one of our action groups met to discuss growing organic and whole foods. Some of us arrived tired and planned to put in just a short appearance. By the end of the meeting, my neighbor's eyes were sparkling and I saw her radiating energy. Me too! I went home with a mind racing, full of plans and possibilities."*

Denyse has a broad vision of what sustainability groups can accomplish. *"If we had more people working on issues, we could have a stronger presence at council meetings and supervisors' hearings to support crucial policies like green building ordinances, water conservation policies, and the TAMC light rail project from Castroville to Monterey. But it's not enough to go in, get action, and then move on. Councils have to be monitored and held accountable. They have to know that citizens are checking. Pressure has to be sustained."*

Asked about involving young people in sustainability, Denyse observed that many are already concerned, but see little hope, and are at times paralyzed by despair. CSMC have just recruited two student interns from MIIS to get more young people engaged.

To sum up, Denyse sees community groups as the basic building blocks for broader social and political change. *"If we wait for government alone to do it, it will be too late, and too little. If we wait for individuals alone to do it, it will be too little, period. So we have to organize together---we have to build resilient communities that can adapt to the changes ahead."*

Interview by Linda Agerbak linda@agerbak.com

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Submission deadline: second Saturday of the month.

Send e-articles information and/or updates to Regina Doyle,

LWVMP Voter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com

or mail to: LWVMP, PO Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942-1995

Voters Service Committee Action

I want to thank Committee Members **Beverly Bean, Marilyn Maxner, Lance Monosoff, Cynthia Hall, Tamara Harris, Candace Ingram, George Riley, and Phil Smith** for a very successful effort to inform voters, and to **Linda Agerbak** who ran the PR effort.

We printed and distributed 500 **Pros and Cons** on the ballot measures; distributed 900 **Easy Voters**; held candidates' forums in Seaside, Pacific Grove and Monterey; and ran pro/con forums on Measure Q and P in Pacific Grove and Seaside, respectively.

Finally, the Committee provided pros and cons on the ballot measures in Monterey. Attendance was outstanding at all events largely due to efforts of co-sponsoring organizations. All but one forum was video taped, and the Sheriff's candidates forum was run live on KION TV. Now is the time for a well-deserved respite.

**Janet Brennan,
Voters Service Director**

November 2010 Program Calendar

Natural Resources Committee

November 3, noon to 1:30pm
(first Wednesdays of the month)
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

General Luncheon Meeting

November 10, noon to 1:30pm
(second Wednesdays of the month)
Unitarian Universalist Church
Junction Hwys 1 & 68, 490 Aguajito Road
Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

Board Meeting

November 17, 1pm to 2:30pm
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMP Membership

Thank you to all members whose recent renewals have been received.

**There are still a few of you
with outstanding dues.**

If you have received a call, postcard or letter as a reminder, please support this important organization and send in your check!

Use the form below or contact:
Tamara Harris, Membership Director
TBHarris146@aol.com or 649-3865

Checks payable to **LWVMP**
Mail to **LWVMP PO Box 1995**
Monterey CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250 Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 75 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 50 Single membership
- \$ 25 Young persons or non-US citizens

Name(s)

Address

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State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons

Because we lobby on public policy issues, membership dues & contributions to LWVMP are not tax deductible. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.



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Lunch & Learn with the League

Date: **Wednesday, November 10, 2010: 12 noon lunch / 12:30 speaker**

Topic: ***“Mobilizing for Sustainable Communities”***

Speaker: **Denyse Frischmuth**
President of Citizens for a Sustainable Monterey County

Denyse Frischmuth has worked to increase awareness about sustainability practices that individuals and communities can adopt to decrease global warming. Denyse also has years of experience as a child advocate. Her professional career has spanned teaching, market research, and corporate technology. In 2007 she was honored as an *“Outstanding Woman of Monterey County”* by the **Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women**.

See page 1 for a speaker’s profile and details for attending the lecture & luncheon.