

Valley Voice

Your Chapter in Action...Darby Mangen

Macy becomes SGV Co-President

Great news! Virginia Macy has been

elected Co-President of the Chapter. She has long been one of our chapter's leading activists. You may already be familiar with her *LGBT Report* in the newsletter. For years Virginia, who uses a wheelchair, made an arduous trip by bus once a week to defend the Family Planning Medical Clinic in El Monte.

Virginia also sits on the on the Board of *Rolling Start*, an independent living center that helps people with a wide range of disabilities achieve independence.

Chapter Raises More Than \$3500

The chapter raised \$3,509.95 from our

annual yard sale. A check for \$351 goes to *WINGS* women's and children's shelter. Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, priced, and clerked — with **special thanks to Jackie Riley**, who holds the sale at her home and is fund raising chair.

Chapter Endorses Candidates

The Chapter has endorsed Linda Wah for

the Pasadena City College Board, **Vicky Santana** for the Rio Hondo College Board

in Whittier, and **Marcia Garcia** for the Baldwin Park City Council. We hope Chapter members and friends will vote for these women who share our views on the issues that are important to us.

Chapter Helps Wisconsin Recall

When the Wisconsin state legislature

passed a bill taking away key bargaining rights for Wisconsin unions, Democrats responded by organizing recalls of several State senators. Volunteers from our chapter joined union rights' supporters from all over the nation, calling Wisconsin voters and urging them to vote in the recall elections. Democrats won back two former Republican seats in the Wisconsin Senate.

Next spring, when Governor Walker is eligible for recall, we will resume our work with local Wisconsin activists to restore the rights of Wisconsinites, who are fighting hard against this push to end unions. Similar legislation, ala **ALEC**, (see page 4) is being pushed in other states.

Chapter Website Updated

Raven Palomera, a college student and the youngest member of our Board, has

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SGV/W NOW on the Frontlines for Choice

... Henry Howard reporting on the *Summer Celebration of Choice* in Germantown, Md.

"Trust Women," read one of the banners. "Dr. Carhart Saves Lives," read another. More

than 220 people from 18 states marched in 97° heat on July 30 in the *Walk for Choice*, organized by Dr. Leroy Carhart — one of only three late-term providers in the nation — as the highlight of his *Summer Celebration of Choice*.

Carhart brought together representatives of *NOW*, the *Feminist Majority*, *World Can't Wait*, and diverse clinic defense organizations to defend his new Germantown clinic and raise funds to provide abortion services for women who can't afford them. We raised \$10,000 from walk sponsors and online donors, and another \$2,000+ donations the day of the walk, more than \$12,000 for the Abortion Access Fund!

Dr. Carhart moved his practice to Germantown after he was driven from his home state of Nebraska by a "fetal pain" law passed last October that bans abortions after twenty weeks.

Henry, page 2

Act

NOW

to bring

women

into the

mainstream,

exercising

all the

privileges

and

responsibilities

thereof

in truly equal

partnership

with men.



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Whittier NOW

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Your annual dues cover national, state
and local membership:

Regular: \$40 Reduced fee: \$10 – \$29

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Please make your check payable to
National Organization for Women.

Mail to SGV/W-NOW

16065 Doublegrove St.

Valinda CA 91744

Darby, from page 1

brought together a team of experts to update our website. She, Kyle Calvert and Sierra Tavasolian are completely reconstructing the site, which will reopen soon.

Go to our website: www.sgvwnow.org, for our Facebook and Twitter links. Thank you, Raven, and friends!

Henry, from page 1

(More than twenty states have now passed similar laws on the basis of Operation Rescue's unsubstantiated theory of "fetal pain.")

Operation Rescue mounted a nine-day protest outside Dr. Carhart's Germantown clinic. We were present for O.R.'s entire siege. Dr. Carhart's antagonists managed to gain direct access to his clinic, but we maintained a strong, peaceful line of defense.

The clinic closed for the week, and patients were shunted to Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Carhart bravely reopened his clinic the following Monday, despite the continuing protest. All patients were cared for, and local activists have begun organizing for ongoing defense. Community members, who are *not* supportive of the anti-choice movement, provided us with food, logistical help, comfort and compassion.

Nevertheless, choice opponents are winning legal battles. About 300 anti-abortion bills have passed this year in state legislatures. Many anti-choice tactics are bizarre, such as having a nine-week-old fetus "testify" (via live ultrasound) in the Ohio Senate chambers. Yet the so-called "fetal pain" bill subsequently passed. Also, Planned Parenthood has been forced to close three of its rural clinics in Arizona, because they offered abortion services, which were utilized by fewer than 3% of their patients!

New Voice for Choice — Carhart's Landlord in Germantown

Voice of Choice was founded by Dr. Carhart's landlord in Germantown, Md., after his young daughter's school was picketed by anti-choice protesters. He says on his website: "Voice of Choice was established as a calm, measured response to anti-abortion activists who engage in misguided, raging protest tactics that are often ill-informed and only serve to victimize women, pro-choice professionals, law-abiding businesses, and unaligned bystanders. We use email, telephone and social media in peaceful, person-to-person counter-protests against groups that target abortion facilities, providers and patients, as well as their families and communities. We don't question anyone's right to express opinions and ideals; we challenge their bullying tactics and their contempt. If you are willing to volunteer your time or talent to make calls, send emails, or help in counter-protests, please join us." <http://vochoice.org/>

Battleground: Los Angeles

Forty Days for Life, a nationwide anti-abortion group, plans to picket the HER

Clinic in Los Angeles from September 28 to November 6. Interestingly, their webpage claims — falsely, that they were instrumental in shutting down the Family Planning Clinic in La Puente, which Darby, Virginia, I and others defended for over a decade.

Few Doctors Perform Abortions

*Kaiser Health News, August 22 — **Ninety-seven percent of ob-gyns have encountered** patients seeking abortion services, but only 14% have provided abortion care, according to a study published in the journal Obstetrics and Gynecology. A 2008 study found that 87% of U.S. counties lacked an abortion provider.*

Personhood Amendment in Mississippi

*from Care2, September 12, 2011 — **The "Personhood" movement faces its next test in** Mississippi as voters there will decide on Amendment 26 after the state supreme court refused to block it from the November ballot. The ruling follows a decision, three months ago, to charge **Rennie Gibbs of Mississippi with murder after her baby was stillborn.** Gibbs is the first woman to be so charged, but across the U.S., more and*

more prosecutions are being brought seeking to turn pregnant women into criminals. Amendment 26 seeks to undo all abortion, cloning and stem cell research by redefining legal personhood to begin at the moment of conception. Should it pass, the effect would be a statewide ban on what proponents call “medical cannibalism” and the staging ground for a federal court case over the ban’s conflict with Roe v. Wade.

Personhood Mississippi is the group pushing the initiative. Earlier in the year they sponsored a “Conceived in Rape” tour and insisted on comparing its efforts to abolitionists — a familiar and particularly offensive form of historical revisionism.

Abortion Funding Ban Defeated in Senate

September 15 — **The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Dist. of Columbia** spending bill without additional riders or bans on spending local funds for abortion.

Idaho’s Ban on Self-Induced Abortion is Blocked

Care2 News, September 24 — **Jennie McCormack, the Idaho mother of three who was** arrested for inducing her own abortion late in 2010, has won her case to block the longstanding state law that makes ending one’s own pregnancy a felony. Her attempt to also block the new law banning abortions after twenty weeks was unsuccessful, because her abortion took place before that law went into effect.

LGBT Issues in the News...

Virginia Macy

Transgendered Can Still Be Ousted from Military

“...we are troubled that the military still expels some members of our community simply because of who they are. Transgender people continue to serve our country honorably, and our country needs to do the same for transgender service members by reexamining this outdated ban,” Mara Keisling, executive director of the *National Center for Transgender Equality*, stated in a press release in July.

Overtuning California LGBT History Law Won’t Be Easy

September 4 — **Those seeking to reverse a new law requiring California public** schools to teach about the historic contributions of LGBT individuals must gather more than half a million signatures to get the question on a statewide ballot, which would normally require a professional, well-funded operation. Such an operation has so far not materialized, but LGBT advocates say they’re not underestimating their opponents.

Monogamy Rates Up Among Same-Sex Couples

USA Today, September 5 — **A study in the September issue of the journal Family Process** finds gays and lesbians in relationships reporting higher rates of monogamy. “Some might expect monogamy is not something that typifies same-sex couples, but clearly the trend is in the opposite direction,” said a psychologist at the University of Illinois.

Grant for LGBT Health

September 8 — **The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an** agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, announced that it will give a \$248,000 grant to the Fenway Institute to create a National Training and Technical Assistance Center to help community health centers improve the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

Obama Admin. Ends Practice That Led to Transgender Job Loss

The Social Security Administration no longer allows gender to be matched in its S.S. Number Verification System (SSNVS). The S.S.A. has stopped notifying employers when the gender marker on an employee’s W-2 does not match S.S. records. Last year alone, 711,488 gender no-match letters were sent to employers. “[This practice] was extremely dangerous for transgender people, who still face significant disrespect, discrimination and violence in the workplace,” said Mara Keisling of the National Center for Transgender Equality. <http://transequality.org/>

NOW CALENDAR

October 17 • Domestic Violence Action Coalition (DVAC) Meeting (Call Darby for details: 626.918.0492)

October 22 • 12P.M. SGV/W NOW Board Meeting

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Letter from Russell, SGV/W NOW member in Italy:

“Here in Italia something good is happening. Many younger women (well, younger than me) are fed up with the Italian male “culture,” which is based on cheating, bullying, mobbing, contempt for those who merely want to work and produce something, etc.

“So they consciously attempt to run things themselves. They do not exclude men, many of whom (quite amazingly) resist that culture — maybe they were well-trained by their mothers...”

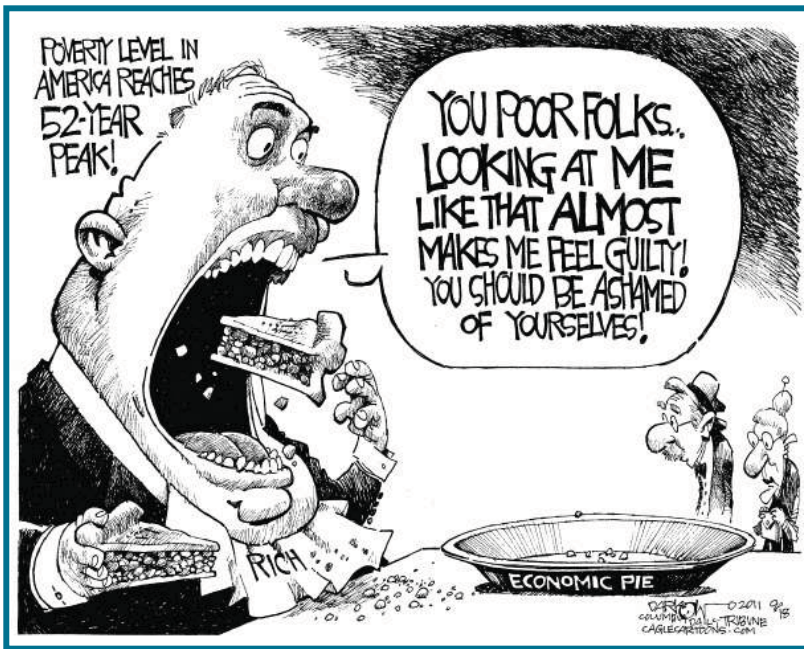
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Nonmembers may subscribe for \$20 per year.

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New Protection for Victims of Violence

California SB 723, to increase protections for domestic violence victims has been signed into law. The bill, jointly sponsored by the California District Attorneys' Association and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, will allow criminal court judges to impose restraining orders for up to ten years for felony and domestic violence convictions.

Another Judge Endangering Children

Judge Peter McBrien from Sacramento County is currently under scrutiny for the mishandling of cases in Family Court. According to several reports, Judge McBrien refused a mother's plea for supervised visits with a father who was a danger to his daughter and himself. Tragically, the father later shot the toddler and then himself in a murder/suicide.

According to reports, this is just one of many tragedies that might have been prevented by Judge McBrien. He has placed countless children with their identified sexual molesters and violent, alcoholic fathers.

UC Davis in Violation of Title IX

August 3 — US District Court Judge Frank Damrell of Sacramento ruled that U.C. Davis failed to allow women students equal opportunities to play college sports and violated Title IX, a law passed in 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination in all levels of education. Judge Damrell wrote, "U.C. Davis did not have a continuing practice of program expansion at the time plaintiffs were students....When an institution loses over 60 opportunities in two years and never fully regains [them] over the next four years, such an institution cannot be held to be Title IX compliant."

Senate Committee Stands Up for Family Planning

September 21, from Population Connection — The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$700 million for international family planning programs in a bill that would eliminate all the onerous restrictions now attached to UNFPA funding. The committee also voted in favor of Sen. Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) bill to prevent a future president from imposing the Global Gag Rule. It's unclear when this bill will reach the Senate floor.

ALEC — Grave Threat to Democracy

The following is excerpted from *Source Watch* (Center for Media and Democracy).

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) describes itself as the largest "membership association of state legislators," but over 98% of its revenue comes from sources other than legislative dues, primarily from corporations and corporate foundations.

After the 2010 congressional midterm elections, ALEC boasted that "among those who won their elections, three of the four former state legislators newly-elected to the U.S. Senate are ALEC Alumni and 27 of the 42 former state legislators newly-elected to the U.S. House are ALEC Alumni."

ALEC is not a lobby; it is not a front group. It is much more powerful than that. Through ALEC, behind closed doors, corporations hand to state legislators the changes to the law they desire that directly benefit their bottom line.

Along with legislators, corporations have membership in ALEC. Corporations sit on all nine ALEC task forces and vote with legislators to approve "model" bills. They have their own corporate governing board which meets jointly with the legislative board. (ALEC says that corporations do not vote on the board.) They fund almost all of ALEC's operations.

Participating legislators, overwhelmingly conservative Republicans, then bring those proposals home and introduce them in statehouses across the land as their own brilliant ideas and important public policy innovations — without disclosing that corporations crafted and voted on the bills. ALEC boasts that it has over 1,000 of these bills introduced by legislative members every year.

ALEC describes itself as a "unique," "unparalleled" and "unmatched" organization. It might be right. **It is as if a state legislature had been reconstituted, yet corporations had pushed the people out the door.** Find out more at <http://alecexposed.org>.

ALEC's agenda extends into almost all areas of law. Its bills undermine environmental regulations and deny climate change; support school privatization; undercut health care reform; defund unions and limit their political influence; restrain legislatures' abilities to raise revenue through taxes; mandate strict election laws that disenfranchise voters; increase incarceration to benefit the private prison industry, among many other issues.

Check out <http://www.sourcewatch.org/>.