



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org (310) 784-7787 May/June 2017

Calendar 2017

Wednesday	May 9	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Wednesday	June 7	County Board Retreat	9am- 5 pm	Mary & Joseph Retreat Center 5300 Crest Road RPV CA, 90275
Saturday	June 10	Local Convention	9:30am-2 pm	Think Café 302 W 5 th Street #105 San Pedro, CA 90731
Wednesday	June 14	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Wednesday	July 12	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Saturday	July 29	Popovers (County League Day)	9:30 am-2 pm	Pasadena Women's Club

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

It is almost time for our convention. We can thank Pat Rome for the unusual array of food available this year—thanks to her choice of the Think Café this year and their willingness to have a selection both for a main course and desert! She is also responsible for obtaining

Dr. David Wittings of the NOAA Federal Restoration Project as our speaker. This is a project about building a rocky reef that has raised some minor concerns. The reef will be made of rocks placed about half-way between Point Vincente and Point Fermin off the coast of the Peninsula. This project should help to clean the waters, increase fish variety and provide a new kelp forest. The concern is that old ground pollution in these waters may be stirred-up. We expect Dr. Witting will be able to speak to these concerns.

The Tri-league Brunch sponsored by Torrance was a great success. Not only was the tribute for Jamie Watson most moving, but Dr. Mark Ragins approach to the homeless issue was both original and humane—something that you can read about ---curtesy of our Pat Colby's reporting. Pat also covered the open house event for AltaSea. What would we do without Pat's excellent summaries and notes? Thank you Pat!!

We are hoping to have a garden party for our new members later this summer—watch for the news. Also the county is currently planning the workshops for our annual Popovers. If you have never been to this event – register early as this event sells out early and is always invigorating.

Until we meet at Convention we wish you all a very "Merry May" and hope to see you soon.

Katy Watkins (310-408-6211) and *Vi Jungerich* (310-541-5092)
Co-Presidents

Member Profiles - We will be doing profiles of our new and longtime members with the hope that we can get to know them better and meet them in person at our various activities.

Viola Iungerich- Longtime Member of the League



Vi was born and raised in Quincy, Massachusetts. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts in biology and spent the next ten years working in various fields of research. Coming to Los Angeles in the late sixties she taught school for the City of LA in an "Opportunity School". This school (Betsey Ross) – now defunct—was instrumental in stimulating an interest in social work.

In the 1970's, with two children at home, Vi decided she needed more adult conversation and decided to join the Local League because of our involvement in the community and with local land use issues. At that time, the League had been instrumental in forming the City of Rancho Palos Verdes – in part to save the coastline from high rise development. In the years that followed, Vi published a weekly law publication with her husband and got an MSW (Master of Social Work). Vi worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Families for 15 years as an adoption caseworker.

Now retired, Vi has again become active in the League and is on both the Local and County League Boards with a specialty in Social Policy...an ever-changing field. She encourages new and other members to be part of the Social Policy focus.

Gayle Jensen - New Member of the League



Gayle Jensen, who currently lives in San Pedro with her family, grew up in the Balboa/Newport Beach area and attended Orange Coast College before going into the nursing profession.

She retired after a career that spanned 49 years and included working at UCLA, St. John's Hospital, Daniel Freeman, Providence Little Company of Mary and finally Torrance Memorial Hospital where she worked in the Oncology Department.

She continues to work for Home Health Agencies on a part-time basis and in her spare time, sings in two choirs including her church and the Torrance Civic Chorale.

Her concern for climate change and the environment, clean money Laws, women's rights and the poor brought her to membership in the League of Women Voters. Her interest in affordable housing could result in her involvement in the Land Use Committee.



League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes

2017 Annual Convention

Saturday, June 10

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Think Cafe, 302 W. 5th Street San Pedro CA

\$30 per person



Our Speaker: Dr. David Witting, NOAA
Project Manager for Fish Habitat Restoration for the Montrose
Settlements Restoration Program.

Topic: Fish Habitat, Kelp Forest and Rocky Reef Project

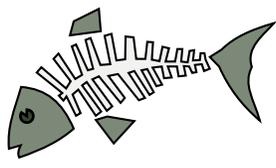
Come learn about this important project right off our coastline



Name: _____ \$30 per person

Menu Selections. Please choose one item from each column:

- Entrees:**
- Grilled Salmon
 - Seafood Pasta
 - Steak and French Fries
 - Mediterranean Salad with Chicken



- Desserts:**
- Cheese Cake
 - Carrot Cake
 - Apple Tart



Reservations are due by June 5. Please send your check payable to LWV PVP to Cindy Kondon, 29910 Avenida Anillo, RPV 90275

LWV ATTENDS ALTASEA'S OPEN HOUSE

April 15, 2017

by Pat Colby

The Land Committee of the LWV/PVP attended open house at AltaSea, April 15, 2017, to hear Executive Director, Jenny Krusoe give an overview of the plans for the AltaSea campus and Catalina Sea Ranch's Director of Marketing and Sales, Kelly Stromberg, provide an overview of her company's aquaculture development.

Background:

The 50 year lease agreement signed in 2013 between the Port of Los Angeles and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, a nonprofit organization that currently serves as the fiscal sponsor for the AltaSea project, involves approximately 35 acres of land and water at the Port's 100 year old City Dock No. 1 site, Berths 56-60 and Berths 70-71.

The AltaSea site will be developed through a public-private partnership that includes the Port, AltaSea and a host of regional and public and private universities. Funding commitments for Phase 1 of the project total \$82 million to date, including \$57 million in site-related capital investments by the Port and a \$25 million gift by the Annenberg Foundation.

The planned AltaSea campus is slated to feature circulating seawater labs, classrooms, lecture halls, support facilities, an interpretive center, a facility for marine-related commercial ventures, offices and an opportunity to develop the world's largest seawater tank for studying tsunamis and rogue waves. The anchor tenant of Phase I will be the Southern California Marine Institute, a strategic alliance of 12 major universities in Southern California that have marine science academic and research programs. The entire project cost is estimated at more than \$500 million with completion over a 15 to 20 year time frame

AltaSea Overview:

Attendees viewed a wall-sized rendering of the proposed 35 acre AltaSea campus designed by the architectural firm Gensler.



Jenny Krusoe explained that the dock area will have major facilities for marine research, education and waterfront business incubation. This vision is of a sprawling new campus that would harbor a symbiosis between these interrelated fields—researchers would have better access to water, businesses would be better connected to research break-throughs and students would benefit from increased connectivity to all sectors of the field. Krusoe envisions a future in which researchers investigating sea level rise will work alongside technologists developing new tools for undersea exploration and entrepreneurs testing new ways to feed the world. Bringing scientists, researchers and businesses together will help accelerate solutions to critical problems that no one sector can solve alone—issues like air and water pollution, sea level rise and the depletion of fisheries. AltaSea could be the foundation of a new economy for San Pedro and hopefully, a driver of research, and development and entrepreneurship to the entire region.

Continued on page 6

Krusoe also outlined accomplishments to date:

- 1) welcomed new donors and foundations, including the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation;
- 2) took possession and began renovation of the first 80,000 square foot warehouse and wharf space for Sustainable Aquaculture and Blue Tech classes;
- 3) Executed a Memorandum of Understanding between AltaSea and Boeing, working on opportunities to support Boeing's Echo Voyage vessel;
- 4) AltaSea partner, California Sea Ranch, became the Berth 58 anchor tenant in the Sustainable Aquaculture cluster;
- 5) Launched the Community STEM education program to bring ocean education to Los Angeles Unified School District students;
- 6) partnered with the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) to allow Dr. Bob Ballard (discoverer of the wrecks of RMS Titanic in 1985, the battleship Bismarck in 1989 and John Kennedy's PT-109 in 2002) to choose AltaSea for the winter home of his research vessel, Nautilus; and
- 7) Dr. Sandra Whitehouse, named AltaSea's Chief Scientific Officer, bringing her highly respected global oceans expertise to the organization.

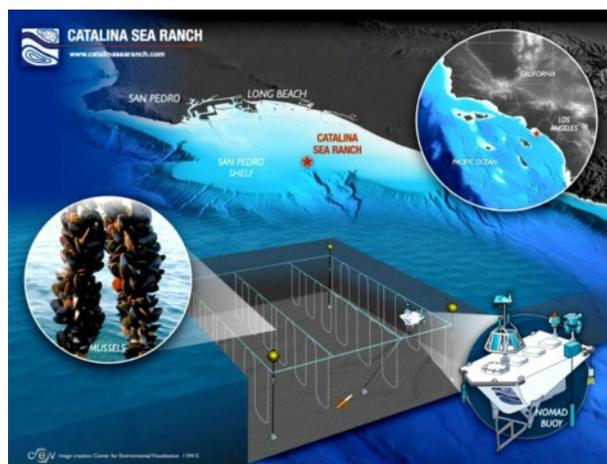
Catalina Sea Ranch

Background:

Globally, filter-feeding bivalve shellfish are key players in sustainable aquaculture in the marine environment. They are environmentally sensitive monitors and water purifiers. Shellfish are farmed around the world and represent a legitimate use of the ocean environment for sustainable food production.

In the United States, (the National Ocean's Atmospheric Administration), NOAA's National Shellfish Initiative goals are to increase commercial shellfish aquaculture while improving ecosystem health. Selected as a model for the Shellfish Initiative, Catalina Sea Ranch (CSR)'s off-shore shellfish cultivation in federal waters is in the public interest for increasing jobs and reducing America's \$10 billion seafood trade deficit.

CSR, the first shellfish ranch in U.S. waters, has raised millions in grants and funding for its off-shore mussel farm, high tech innovation and revolutionary research.



Catalina Sea Ranch Overview

Catalina Sea Ranch's Director of Marketing and Sales, Kelly Stromberg, reminded us that the ocean is our last frontier; it's where new solutions lie. Under the auspices of the Southern California Marine Institute, Catalina Sea Ranch is poised to become the first commercial shellfish producer in federal waters off the west coast, farming 100 acres of Open Ocean for mussels. So how is the fish farm configured? The ranch is located on the San Pedro shelf—a large underwater plateau about 150 feet deep that drops off to 3,000 feet. This creates a natural upwelling that delivers an abundance of nutrient rich phytoplankton from the deepest water. On the shelf itself, anchors are installed

16 feet into the sea floor to which are attached underwater frames; mile-long hooked “fuzzy” lines covered with mussel seeds (larvae that have grown into small mussels of two centimeters) are then suspended from the underwater frames to feast into maturity on the phytoplankton. 1,400 floats are needed to keep the lines 15 feet below sea level as the mussels grow heavier. The ranch is expected to be profitable by the end of this year with its first harvest of 7,000 pounds of mussels. The ranch has 58 million mussel seeds growing currently and another estimated 58 million seeds scheduled for planting in the next few months as part of the wider 100-acre project. The company is projecting the harvest and sale of over 1 million pounds during 2017 at a farm gate price of \$2.40 per pound.

Philip Cruver, the man who conceived this innovative business concept, is collaborating with various partner companies in the technological and environmental areas. A critical component of the offshore ranch and research programs is CSR’s use of revolutionary marine technology the team is applying to monitor and manage their efforts while also offering opportunities for collaboration with other scientists.

The company utilizes a modified Navy Oceanographic Meteorological Device (NOMAD) buoy, provided by NOAA and anchored at the ranch to gather and transmit data (in real time) from the ranch to a team of scientists and researchers. The NOMAD can gather information about ocean temperatures, salinity, current pH, density of phytoplankton (mussel food) as well as security information from perimeter buoys.

CSR is also embarking on creating a wireless data capturing system for the ocean which is trademarked as the Ocean Internet of Things (I o T). CSR also uses ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles) equipped with sensors and HD cameras to inspect the mussels and infrastructure remotely as well as enabling

researchers to collect data. The team is also collaborating with Blue Robotics, a Torrance based start-up that builds low cost, high-performance components for marine robotics, to create a customized mini-ROV outfitted with underwater cameras and multiple thrusters to help it remain steady while transmitting HD footage.

CSR was recently rewarded a \$95,000 research grant to explore the possibilities of genetics-based selective breeding. The team is exploring the potential of using a cryogenic freezing process to preserve mussel larva to increase the number of spawnings throughout the year beyond two per year. Other recent grants with USC and other institutions are enabling the company to find ways to use selective breeding to improve yields and increase crop uniformity. The genomic R & D program has the potential to be transformative to the world of aquaculture. This selective breeding program is accomplished through genomic selection—finding exactly what alleles (DNA codings) are linked to traits wanted and subsequent testing for the presence of those specific alleles in breeding. This means that what once took decades or centuries to do, this program can do in a few years. No genetic engineering is involved, just the use of a detailed knowledge of genetics to do extremely selective breeding.

The Land Use Committee’s information-packed day gave us a broad perspective regarding AltaSea’s plans for the future and Catalina Sea Ranch’s innovative use of technology and research. If AltaSea and its future tenants succeed, San Pedro will go from blue collar long shoring and unions to a center of white collar high tech innovation.

Want to try delicious mussels? Kelly Stromberg says try *Pier 76 Fish Grill* on Pine Avenue in Long Beach.

Los Angeles County Children In Poverty

(based on an article in Public Policy of CA)

by Vi lungerich

- This report is based on children from 0-5 years.
- In California about ¼ of children live in poverty.
- In LA County the rate is almost 30% but varies from region to region from southwestern (4%-- Beach areas) to southcentral (68%).
- Safety net programs do not take into account the difference of living costs in different areas.
- In La County, the cost of housing is higher than other areas like the Inland Empire.
- These families (69%) depend on CalFresh (food stamps), EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) 51%, and less on Calworks 37%.
- These families tend to have low educational levels, low level employment and these factors tend to predict the children will also not finish school or gain better employment.
- 67% of poor children in LA live in overcrowded conditions.
- This study is intended to help officials develop policies which can improve these children's lives.



- Most poor families have at least one parent working.
- The general profile of these families are Latino, children of immigrant, young or single parents.



**TRI-LEAGUE BRUNCH AT THE DEPOT RESTAURANT:
JAMIE WATSON HONORED;
DR. MARK RAGINS SPEAKS ABOUT THE HOMELESS**

The April 8, 2017 Tri-League Brunch at the Depot Restaurant featured a touching tribute to Jamie Watson, long time member of the Torrance Area LWV (LWVTA) who passed away this year and guest speaker Dr. Mark Ragins who addressed the hard work of recovery for the homeless.

Jamie Watson received lovely tributes from Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey, Torrance Councilman Milton S. Herring, Historical Society representative and LWVTA member, Sue Herbers, Jamie's school days friend, Carol Nadalsky, and Torrance Area League president, Athena Paquette. All reflected Jamie's wide-ranging contributions to community affairs, her love of books and travel, her ability to suggest provocative ideas for local improvements and her love of storytelling. Mayor Furey presented a city council proclamation to the LWVTA honoring Jamie's 30 years of dedicated volunteerism.

Guest speaker, psychiatrist Dr. Mark Ragins, spoke of the hard work of recovery for the homeless. Working at the Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA) Village in Long Beach, he came to the conclusion that many things besides illness treatments helped people—getting them money and an apartment, listening to them, understanding their point of view (misunderstood prophet of God) and soothing them. This work involved healing the homeless to reconnect to families and in helping them come to terms with their conditions even if those terms weren't in "medical" words and helping them to work again. No one, he says, got better with medications for illness alone.

Additionally, almost no one had one well defined condition. So our system created a fragmented, multispecialty approach where the more

diagnoses (panic disorder, depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar etc.) you have the more specialists you need to see, each separated from the other with their own treatment plans. Any effort to build true "health homes" will need to reverse this "fragmentation by diagnosis" system.

Many people Dr. Ragins met did not fit into specific categories of mental illness. Many had experienced severe neglect and abuse in childhood, modest developmental disabilities that led to being overwhelmed by life, rape, domestic violence, substance abuse, dropping out of school, unemployment, incarceration, loss of a means of self-support because they were undocumented immigrants, chronic debilitating pain or other physical conditions. Note that 85% of inmates at the Women's Lynwood Jail are homeless as are youths aging out of the foster care system (80-90%) and returning veterans (85%). If these individuals keep drifting away, disconnecting, they find themselves in a "River of Suffering." They are at risk of homelessness, hospitalizations, institutionalization, suicide, violence and early death. They need help to get out of the river. And that means meeting these individuals where they are and helping them to build a bridge from the river to connectedness in the community. The first step is engagement: Someone reaches out, connects with them, helps them understand how they got in the river and what relationships, dreams and goals they have back on shore in the community and pulls them onto the river bank. The second step is rebuilding: They shake off the water—leaving behind some destructive things and roles, check the damage and begin to climb, with support, back up the river bank to the community up above. They may stumble or slide, learning they need more healing skills or supports or relationships to make

it back, and then resume climbing up again. The third step is arrival: Even if they are scarred or permanently impaired they can become self-responsible for living as healthily as possible, with mutually beneficial relations, contributing to the community. The three core recovery transformations move from illness-centered to person centered, from professionally driven to client driven collaboration, and from deficit-based to strength-based building resilience along three dimensions—personal, relationships and roles. We need to make highly individual assessments and recovery plans using a whole team of people with different skills and life experience to help the “river people” engage in the program, overcome obstacles and become more self-responsible and self-reliant. This approach stands in contrast to most determinations about the homeless—an almost magical belief in the power and infallibility of psychiatric medications.

Dr. Ragins also cautions against building institutions in the river. Doing so, forever isolates prisons, huge housing projects or psychiatric institutions. When the money that once supported these off-site “river projects” is withdrawn, the public tends to point a finger saying, “What’s wrong with the people running these organizations? Why aren’t they producing positive results?” Even more insidious is that those criticizing the river institutions or those running the river institutions are less compassionate.

We need to work with our communities to increase welcoming and inclusion as is the case in Geel, Belgium. At the center of Geel is a church dedicated to Dymphna, a 7th century saint believed to have the power to cure mental illness. St. Dymphna has inspired a centuries old practice: residents of Geel have been accepting people with mental disorders into their homes and caring for them for over 700 years. Over time, mentally ill boarders become such a

part of life and society that distinctions between them and non-boarders blur.

Since its inception in 1990, Dr. Ragins has worked at the MHA Village, a large chapter of National Mental Health of America. The Village, located at 456 Elm Avenue, Long Beach 90802, operates a variety of programs centered around advocacy, public education, service delivery, innovation, workforce training and community development. The site includes ACT (Assertive Community Treatment Teams that provide multidisciplinary, flexible treatment and support, believing that when mental health care providers work together people receive better care), psychiatric rehab, supportive housing, education and employment, integrated substance abuse services, family support, crisis services and facilitated health care. These multiple fronts assist a continuum of recovery-based programs as clients grow and recover. Recognized as an “exemplary practice” nationally and a “best practices” in California, the MHA Village is a model for mental health care.

Dr. Ragins is currently the psychiatrist at the Student Health Services and Counseling Center at CSULB.

Note:

Most of the language for this report comes from Mark Ragins’ own writing on the subject. Several of his articles can be found in the Internet.



Join The League!

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWW PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWW PVP*

Membership Form

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day/cell) _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$80.00 one member

\$40.00 additional member in the same household.

Dues are tax deductible. LWW PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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