

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / October 2021, Volume 94, Number 2

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

## **"REDISTRICTING: Why and How You Can Use Your Super-Powers During the Process"**



**D**id you know that **redistricting is now happening**, not just at the state level, but also at the county, city, school, and local levels? At this month's General Meeting a distinguished panel of speakers—**Dr. Jeanne Gobalet, Demographer; Ms Rosemary Soto, Monterey County Management Analyst; and Mr. Timothy Ryan, Deputy Superintendent, Monterey County Office of Education**—will describe the background of and provide opportunities for your participation in the high-stakes process of redistricting.

***Decisions made in the next few months will impact Monterey County for a decade.***

Find out more about changes in the demographic make-up of Monterey County, new laws around redistricting, ensuring that every vote counts, preventing gerrymandering, and how you can serve on a redistricting board or make your voice heard at the appropriate commission. There will be a Q&A session after the panel discussion. To answer as many of your questions as possible, we encourage you to send them ahead of time to **Sharon Miller** at [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com) (during the meeting you can submit questions via the Zoom Chat feature). As always, you are welcome to invite non-members to participate in this Zoom meeting. *(continued on page 2)*

### ***How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings***

The free **October LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Questions & Answers. **11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.**

**All current LWVMryCo members** will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, October 11** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

**Not a member?** Non-members can send a message to [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com) requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

**Having trouble getting into the meeting after trying the link and instructions?**

Call **Tama Olver** (831) 869-2748

(continued from page 1)

**Dr. Jeanne Gobalet, Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc.**, has four degrees from **Stanford University** (including an **MA Education**, and a **PhD Sociology/Demography**). She met business partner **Dr. Lapkoff** at **UC Berkeley** in her year as a **Postdoctoral Fellow** in **Demography**. Dr. Gobalet is an expert on demographic issues, political redistricting, disparate impact on communities of interest, spatial analysis, GIS, and redistricting software. She was involved with redistricting in Monterey County after the **2000** and **2010 Censuses**, so knows our area well.

**Ms Rosemary Soto** is not only Management Analyst, Monterey County Administrative Office of Community Engagement & Strategic Advocacy, but has worn many hats in connecting the County to community groups through the **Monterey County Gang Violence Prevention Initiative**,

**Advancement of Governing for Racial Equity in County Government, Community Alliance for Safety and Peace, Seaside Youth Violence Prevention Task Force, Four Cities for Peace, North Monterey County Community Alliance, and Impact Monterey County**. She recently led the County's efforts on getting a complete count for the **2020 Census** and is now managing the process on redistricting for our supervisorial districts.

**Mr. Timothy Ryan** has built a 25-year career in education, with a background in science, and has served as **High School Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Superintendent, Chief Business Officer**, and now **Deputy Superintendent, Monterey County Office of Education**. One of his many current assignments is managing the redistricting process for MCOE.

Sharon Miller

## ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2021 ★

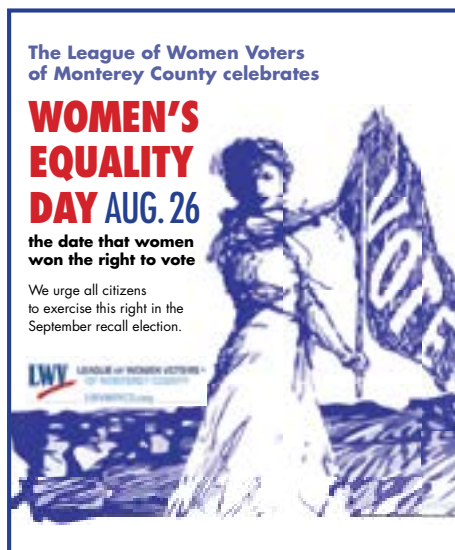
**H**earfelt thanks to all of you who fortify our local League with your membership. Collectively our members bring a variety of talents, experiences and perspectives—more of us is not only merrier but also smarter and more powerful. Assist our League in cultivating new members and raising its profile in the community by joining in some of these outreach efforts:



**Arlene Guest** constantly ensures that our **Facebook** page is a lively, timely source of accurate information on topics of concern to Monterey and California voters. **You can help if you are active on social media by "Liking" and commenting on these posts, and sharing them on your own Facebook page.** Go to <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMRYCO>, or use **@LWVMRYCO** (which gets you there with an additional click).

**Beverly Bean** provides publicity to media outlets and other organizations with details of our community events. The **Publicity Committee** has been brainstorming fresh approaches to

publicity including sponsorship announcements that you may have heard on **KAZU radio**.



You may also have seen the ad for **Women's Equality Day** in the **Monterey County Weekly**, suggested by committee member **Whitney Gravel** and created by Student Intern **Juliet Oliver**.

**You can help by joining the committee, and/or sending personal invitations to friends to attend events.** Why not start by resolving to invite at least one friend to this month's "**Redistricting**," or next month's "**Changing Values on Community Safety**" meetings?

**Sharon Miller** and **Carol Kaplan** developed a **Youth Outreach Program** and made presentations on voting and elections in local high schools and colleges during last year's presidential election. This year, our Student Intern **Juliet Oliver** is working with us on a wide variety of projects. Connecting with youth is an important way to make sure the League is part of problem-solving for the future. **You can help by asking young people you know to join our league.** Next month, we will be establishing a new membership category for students.

**Bob Evans** keeps our website *LWVMryCo.org* up-to-date with information on topics such as the Recall Election and Redistricting. After many years of service, Bob wants to retire. **You can help by being or finding his replacement. The job requires only a few hours a month. Website management experience is a plus but training is available.** You can also help by visiting our website, using its resources, and sharing with others.

Finally, as the gift-giving season approaches remember that gifts of experience bring the greatest rewards. **You can help by considering a LWVMC gift membership for a friend or young relative or by making a year-end donation to our League.**

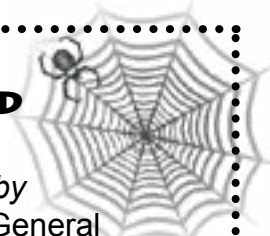
As one who joined with her own mother's encouragement, I can attest that membership is a gift that can bring a lifetime of satisfaction.

**Marianne Gawain**

**LWVMC WEBSITE  
COORDINATOR WANTED**

Update **website calendar**,  
**post official letters** (*provided by President*), **videos** of monthly General Meetings (*produced by our Videographer*), and **monthly newsletter** (*published by our Newsletter Editor*). About **two hours a month**.  
**On-the-job guidance** provided.

**Bob Evans, *LWVMryCo@gmail.com***



**VOTER SERVICE REPORT 2021:  
CA GOVERNOR RECALL ELECTION**



**L**WVMryCo assisted voters in the **Tuesday, September 14 recall election**. Our Monterey County League staffed polling places for two precincts. Both polling places were co-located at the **Community Center at Soper Field** in the **City of Seaside**.

Beginning with the November 2020 election, all Monterey County registered voters received vote-by-mail ballots. Consequently, fewer voters came to the polling places than in previous years. However, these voters often needed assistance that could be best provided by the Election Clerks. In addition, over 300 vote-by-mail ballots were dropped off at the Community Center.

The League participates in the **Monterey County Election Department's "Team Up for Democracy"** program which allows non-profit organizations to operate polling places with Election Clerks who work four-hour shifts instead of all day (16 hours).

Staffing the polling places with clerks working four hours instead of 16 requires a lot of volunteers. Current and past League members who participated included **Beverly Bean, Beth Benoit, Sandi Berman, Janet Brennan, Nona Childress, Linda Deutsch, Bob Evans, Alice Ann Glenn, Nancy Green, Anne Herendeen, Candy McCarthy, An McDowell, Konny Murray, Roberta Myers, Anton Prange, Sylvia Shih, and Philomene Smith.**

We also thank many friends of the League for volunteering for shifts: **Jay Asling, Joe Asling, Ron Baxter, Frank Degnan, Thomas Hughes, Debby Majors-Degnan, Bruce Merchant, Ruth Roy, and Robin Winfield.**

Special thanks go to **Somsak Pitak** and **Pamela Stewart** for volunteering to work the entire 16-hour day. **Marilyn Maxner** and I served as Precinct Inspectors.

**Dennis Mar**



The **California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act** (SB9, Atkins) passed the State Senate in May and subsequently the Assembly on August 26th. The Bill was signed by Governor Newsom on September 16th.



DATE: August 25, 2021

LWVMryCo@gmail.com (831) 648-8683

TO: **Assemblymembers Robert Rivas** (D 30-Salinas) and **Mark Stone** (D 29-Monterey Bay):

Homeownership in California is at its lowest rate since World War II. That's due in part to antiquated, discriminatory bans on building more than one home on a single lot in most of the state. But it doesn't have to be this way. The legislature is about to vote on the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act (SB 9, Atkins) to make homeownership a reality for more Californians.

Too many first-time homebuyers, especially low and middle-income workers, and people of color, are locked out of the housing market. SB 9 will make it possible to build more affordable homes that California desperately needs. This bill will:



Let homeowners who meet specific criteria divide their property into two lots and build up to two homes on each lot.



Provide the opportunity to create up to 800,000 new smaller and naturally lower-cost homes that fit within existing neighborhoods in urban areas.



Help homeowners build intergenerational wealth—a key tool to combat inequity and create social mobility.

***This isn't just about increasing the housing supply, it's about unravelling systemic racism in housing.***

In some neighborhoods redlining or restrictive covenants were historically used to segregate communities. The problem is perpetuated currently by exclusionary zoning practices that keep largely white and higher-income neighborhoods unaffordable.



With SB 9, we can take strides toward alleviating the housing crisis and make our communities more inclusive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Marianne Gawain**, President



## ★ ★ UPDATE ON REDISTRICTING IN ACTION ★ ★

**D**esignated members of our League's **Redistricting Committee** have been watching the virtual meetings of the **State Citizens Redistricting Commission**, responsible for congressional, state legislature, and Board of Equalization district lines. Communities of Interest (COIs) that have emerged in the comments pertinent to Monterey County include agriculture, The Coastal Zone, Spanish-speaking communities, farmworker families, Black community, Highway 101 corridor, and tourism areas. You can access the Commission's webpage for information on the schedule and how to submit your comments or suggested maps at <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org>.

After diligently reaching out to all the local entities slated to redistrict this year, we are reaping the benefits by being kept in the loop and the League has been sought out to sit on various redistricting boards. Our members have Zoomed in on meetings where redistricting is addressed, making comments or asking questions, as warranted. In fact at one such meeting, League members made up a full third of the audience!



*We hope that more LWV of Monterey County members will volunteer to sit on local redistricting boards when they reach out for participation.* It's a relatively small time commitment, but it's more likely that redistricting will be fair and unbiased when we participate and/or watch the process unfold.

Which governmental body, school, or agency is of most importance and interest to you? **County-wide Boards?** County Board of Supervisors, Monterey County Board of Education, Hartnell College, MPC; **School Districts?** Alisal Union, Carmel Unified, Chualar Union, Gonzales Unified, Monterey Peninsula Unified, North Monterey County Unified, Pacific Grove Unified, Salinas City, and Salinas Union; **Cities?** Greenfield, King City, Marina, Salinas; or **Special Districts?** Monterey Peninsula Airport, Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park, and Monterey Peninsula Water Management.

Contact either of us for more information or to participate in our League's Redistricting Committee activities.

**Sharon Miller and Bev Kreps**

## ★ ★ STUDENT REDISTRICTING PROJECT: UPDATE PART 2 ★ ★

**A**s the school year gets underway, a growing number of students are making progress on the **Redistricting Project** mentioned in the September **Voter**. The first meeting took place in August, hosted by **Kurrun Sethi** and me, but with low attendance. But it gave us new focus and a goal to improve and extend outreach.

Originally three, now nine students are involved in the Redistricting Project plan to reach out to community members through various media. Many already volunteer at libraries and will make use of public bulletin boards, and others will create and manage social media accounts such as **Instagram** and **Nextdoor** to reach out to younger audiences. The next few meetings will focus on



neighborhoods in which one or more students live, creating stronger bonds within their communities. We hope that more students will join the effort to expand geographical reach, particularly into the Salinas area.

Our ultimate goal is to help as many people as possible give "community of interest" testimony to the county so that the new districts will be accurately and justly drawn to reflect the diverse peoples and interests of Monterey County residents.

Keep an eye on your local bulletin boards and social media platforms. Contact me if you'd like to see a meeting in your neighborhood.

**Juliet Oliver**



## LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: AN MCDOWELL



**A**n McDowell was inspired to join our League of Women Voters chapter about two years ago by her mother, **Emily Start**, who belonged to the **Claremont chapter** of the League for decades. In addition, An says, *"I've lived in this area since 1978 and I've always known people who were active in the League."* After a long career, she's now working part time, so she finds she has more time to do volunteer work, some of which includes several LWVMC activities.



One summer, An says, she worked in the clinic at **Calexico**, on the California-Mexico border. *"I answered the phones and spoke Spanish all day. Studying Spanish in high school didn't help me a lot with speaking it, but that job really got me up to speed. I loved that summer!"*

For two years, An worked in **Coachella**, part of that time as a **field organizer** and part as a **clinic director**. *"I did the billing and coordinating," she says. "I also worked on a farm workers' boycott in San Jose and Marin Counties for two years."*

Most recently, An worked with **Board member Sharon Miller** on a local high schools outreach project designed to motivate students about voting. *"We tried to get them interested in voting and we taught them to pre-register to vote at age 16,"* she reports.

Following this work, An went back to college and earned her **BA in Hispanic Studies** from what was then called the **Monterey Institute of International Studies** and later earned her **MA in Social Work** from **San Jose State**.

Also, during the **2020 Presidential election**, An worked a 16-hour shift as the coordinator for all the poll workers at the **Sherwood Elementary School** polling place in **Salinas**. *"There were five or six other workers there and I supervised them,"* she recalls. That lengthy stint was so exhausting that she switched to a four-hour commitment at a **Seaside** polling place for last month's gubernatorial recall election.

Post-college, An's career path has included thirty years working at the **Salinas Adult School**. She taught classes in **English as a Second Language, Citizenship, Spanish GED** and **Distance Learning**. Since 2015, she's been a **Spanish 1 instructor** at the **Pacific Grove Adult School** and an interpreter for the **Rotacare clinic** in **Seaside**. In addition, for a year she prepared **Monterey County Jail** inmates for high school equivalency tests.

An has spent most of her adult life as a dedicated advocate for racial justice and equal rights. She grew up in Claremont and, after graduating high school, went to **UC Santa Cruz**. *"Then I dropped out and went to work for Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and the farm workers' union they planned,"* she reports. *"I worked for them full-time for four years. They paid me room and board and five dollars a week."*

She also worked as a **bilingual medical social worker** for **Salinas VNA & Hospice**, a **Wellness and Mental Health Associate** for the **Salinas Alliance on Aging**, and a **field and office representative** for **Bill Monning** when he was a member of the **California State Assembly**.



An has been married to **Dan O'Brien**, now a semi-retired mechanical engineer, for the past 21 years. *"When we got married, I was a single parent of a 4-year-old daughter that I named Emily after my mother."* An's daughter is now a **Medical Assistant** and a student at **Humboldt State University**.

An has now moved her mom, who is now 98, from Claremont to Ave Maria Convalescent Hospital in Monterey so they could be closer together. *"We take her out to eat at our favorite Italian restaurant once a week and, before Covid happened, I'd*

*often take her out to lunch as well,"* she reports. Emily Start remains a member of the League of Women Voters.

An McDowell makes it clear that she plans to remain active in the League of Women Voters. *"I love all the work the League is doing to preserve voting rights,"* she says, adding, *"I'm completely aghast about all the efforts to limit voting across the country and I'm definitely interested in helping to do as much as I can to stop that!"*

**Nancy Baker Jacobs**

## **PUBLIC BANKING: LOCAL SOLUTION FOR LOCAL FINANCING**

**H**ow do **public banks** differ from standard banks? They use local public agency funds in an independent lending structure (the regional public bank) to finance local projects of any type. **Public banks have lower fees and lower interest costs, can be quicker to arrange, and can return excess earnings to local jurisdictions.** Defaults are rare because the agencies know each other. They are also less expensive, because they do not have shareholders, promotion expenses and a profit motive. Also they can choose not to invest in selected corporate interests and products like tobacco and fossil fuels.

Public banks are prohibited from competing with credit unions and community banks; however, they can partner with them for larger projects.

However, up to now only one state has a public bank—**North Dakota**. Formed more than 100 years ago, it operates statewide, and has been enormously successful. Public banks are fairly common in other capitalist countries.

### **Renewed Interest and Legislation**

Public Banking in the US was rejuvenated after the financial crisis of 2008. **Ellen Brown's** book ***"The Public Bank Solution-From Austerity to Prosperity"*** (Millenium Press, 2013) and numerous articles have raised its profile. Several

states, including California, have begun looking at it. In 2019, **Assemblymembers David Chiu** (D - San Francisco) and **Miguel Santiago** (D - Los Angeles) introduced **AB 857** (<https://californiapublicbankingalliance.org/ab-857-california-public-banking-bill-text-digest-and-fact-sheet/>). The Legislature approved it, authorizing the chartering of up to ten public banks.

### **Public Banking Coming Closer to Home**

As a result, substantial organizing efforts are underway in **San Francisco, East Bay, and Los Angeles**; and in the five counties of **Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara** and **San Benito**.



The organizing group, **People for Public Banking Central Coast** (PPBCC)

([peopleforpublicbanking.com](http://peopleforpublicbanking.com)), has requested county and city governments in the five counties to indicate their interest in looking at the viability of a public bank to serve the central coast.

To date, support has been approved by three counties, **Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara**, and eight cities, **Capitola, Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Salinas, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Seaside, and Watsonville**. The current five-county effort is to recruit more public agency interest in a viability study. Stay tuned for updates as they happen.

**George Riley**



**Join the League of  
Women Voters of  
Monterey County**



**MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR  
2021-2022 WERE DUE IN JULY!**

**If you have not already done so,**  
renew for this program year July 1, 2021  
through June 30, 2022 using the form below,  
or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>.

**New Members Wanted!**

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

Use the form below or contact:  
**LWVMC Membership Director**  
**Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995**

**Monterey, CA 93942**  
**Checks payable to LWVMC**

**Membership Levels**

- ☐ \$250+ **Carrie Chapman Catt**
- ☐ \$200 **Sojourner Truth**
- ☐ \$150 **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- ☐ \$100 **Susan B. Anthony**
- ☐ \$ 95 **Household (2 persons, 1 address)**
- ☐ \$ 65 **Single membership**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone e-mail

**~Florence Curlee Scholarships~**  
are available to pay  
**household or single membership fees.**  
Contact:

**Janet Brennan, [Brennan\\_Janet@comcast.net](mailto:Brennan_Janet@comcast.net)**

*Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo  
are not tax deductible,  
nor are donations to the  
Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.*

**However, donations to the League of  
Women Voters of California Education Fund  
(LWVCEF) are tax deductible.**

**MEMBERSHIP  
UPDATE**

**Welcome new Member!**

**Sandra Berman**

2030 Cross Street, Seaside 93955

(831) 333-6916

[SandiBerman@hotmail.com](mailto:SandiBerman@hotmail.com)

**Thank You to Our Generous Donors**

**~In Memory of Lorita Fisher~**

**Jean Stallings \$35**

**~LWVMC General Fund~**

**Tama & John Olver \$250**

**Karin Strasser Kauffman \$150**

**Barbara Baldock & Phillip Butler \$105**

**Whitney Gravel \$100**

**Konny Murray \$85**

**George Riley \$85**

**Contact Updates**

**Beverly Bean (831) 236-1611**

**Linda Deutsch (831) 236-5878**

**Konny Murray (831) 595-7853**

**Please Send Updates to**

**Janet Brennan**

**VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR  
NEEDED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!**



**A matter of Equity and Justice: we need  
stronger outreach to Salinas Valley voters!**

**A part-time but crucial job:**

*organize candidate and Pro & Con forums,  
encourage voters to register, participate in  
elections, and vote! Mentoring provided.*

Contact: **Bob Evans or Marianne Gawain,**  
[LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)





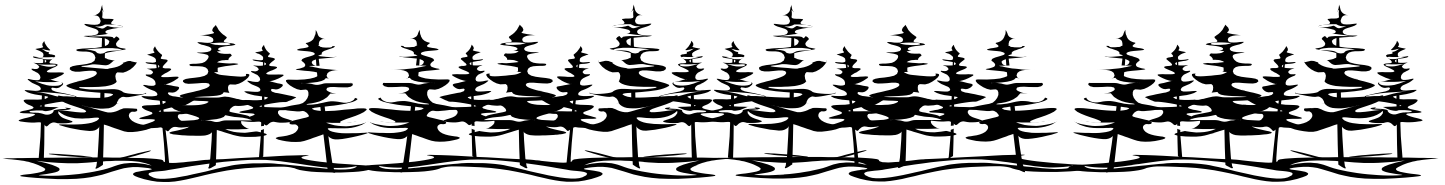


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF MONTEREY COUNTY  
"THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942  
(831) 648-8683

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Monterey, CA  
Permit No. 115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**LWVMryCo Calendar 2021**  
**OCTOBER**



**LWVMC Board Meeting**

**Monday, 4 October, 11:30am, Zoom Online**  
Board Members will be sent link/instructions  
contact: Marianne Gawain,  
[LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)

**Redistricting Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 October, 12:15pm, Zoom Online**  
contact: Sharon Miller or Tama Olver,  
[LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)  
to request meeting Zoom link and code.

**LWVMC General Meeting**

**Wednesday, 13 October, 12 noon**  
**"Redistricting: How and Why You Can Use  
Your Superpowers During the Process"**  
(see page 1 for details)  
Contact: Sharon Miller, [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)

**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 14 October, 12 noon, Zoom Online**  
contact: George Riley,  
[LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER**

**LWVMC Board Meeting**  
**Monday, 1 November, 11:30am**  
Zoom Online

**LWVMC General Meeting on Zoom**  
**Wednesday, 10 November, 12 noon**  
**"Changing Values for Community Safety"**  
(details page 9) contact: Sharon Miller

**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 11 November, 12 noon**  
Zoom Online  
contact: George Riley

**Redistricting Committee Meeting**  
Date and Time to be Announced  
contact: Sharon Miller