



# Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 3 March 2005

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

## April Means Taxation: Show your Representation!

### LPSCC Protest at Post Office

by **Bob Goodwyn**  
Activities Chair, LPSCC

Paying your taxes? I suggest that you make up for it by doing something good for your country: take part in the LPSCC tax protest on that dreaded income tax filing deadline, April 15!

I view protests as a matter of communication. We should let the government know that we still don't like being the victims of extortion. Also, as Libertarians, you know that taxes are bad for America. This is a good time to spread the word.

You could also look at it as a way of getting a little revenge, for what you're enduring this past couple of weeks.

We plan to be out in force on April 15, passing out Libertarian literature at the San Jose Main post office (1750 Lundy Avenue, at Hostetter). Let me know if you would like to participate.

**Zander Collier**, our 2001 Publicity Chair, who organized that year's tax pro-

test, reports that the visibility of our event that year—with sixty or so activists showing up to demonstrate and distribute LP literature—generated a good deal of interest by reporters the following year. Let's not disappoint those seeking a story!

This event always offers a spirit of abundant camaraderie, as all taxpayers are in the same boat.

If there is a post office in your neighborhood where you would prefer to promote the party and protest taxes, please let me know that, too.

E-mail me at [BobFlight03@Yahoo.com](mailto:BobFlight03@Yahoo.com), or create your volunteer profile at the LPSCC web site: [www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org). ■



**Bob Goodwyn**,  
Activities Chair, LPSCC

Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

### Tax Day Symposium

Our county will be home to a Tax Day Symposium, put on by the National Tax-Limitation Committee, in cooperation with the Lincoln Club of Northern Calif.

This will be the NTLIC's 30th anniversary and the kick-off of the Center for the California Taxpayer's *Project Permanent Offense*.

- Panel discussions will include:
- Reform through the Initiative Process
  - Instituting a State Spending Cap
  - Improving K-12 Education in Calif.

Special guests will include Nobel laureate economist **Milton Friedman** and State Senator **Tom McClintock**.

*Where:* Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel  
4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

*Time:* 2:00-6:00 P.M. Panel  
6:00-8:00 P.M. Reception

*Fee:* \$95 at door, \$75 in advance  
\$50 for reception only (\$35 advance)

To register for the symposium, visit [www.CaliforniaTaxRevolt.org](http://www.CaliforniaTaxRevolt.org), or call 1 (877) 786-9401. ■

## Tax Fighting Allies Say "No" to New Assessments

The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County has again joined forces with the nonpartisan Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association (SVTA) and local Republicans to win the desirable ballot argument spot in the County's special election of May 3rd.

While gasoline and housing prices are skyrocketing, we will have the chance to just say "no" to more depletion of our wallets—this time for the County library.

Libertarian Party representatives **Allen Hacker**, Chair of LPSCC, and **Mark Hinkle**, former Chair of the LP of California, were among the four local tax fighters, from three groups, who joined forces to draft the argu-

ment against the dastardly duo of Measures A and B. **Dennis Umphress** signed the argument as President of SVTA, along with **Jack E. Davis**, President of the Santa Clara Valley Republican Assembly.

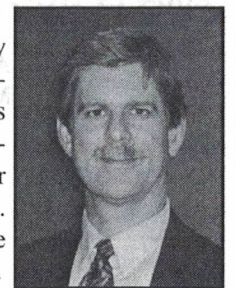
The pair of measures would impose an annual assessment per parcel of either \$33.66 (Measure A alone) or \$45.66 (including Measure B, if both pass). The beneficiary would be the County's Library District Joint Powers Authority.

An existing assessment, due to expire in June—much to the relief of certain residents—is being cited by the proponents in an attempt to camouflage this new, ten-year fee as merely an extension of the existing

assessment. Conveniently downplayed are increases for owners of commercial properties, who'll bear the brunt of this tax. These folks create jobs for the rest of us.

Luckily, to pass, a two-thirds majority is required. But those voting exclude property owners residing elsewhere. The assessment would be imposed on home owners whether or not they live here or use the County library.

Watch for more teaming up by LPSCC and our fellow tax foes on future such measures—bonds, taxes, & assessments alike. Next up? Another Palo Alto school tax, on June 7. ■



**Mark Hinkle**, argument signer and former Chair, LP of California

Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

#### Read more on the measures:

[www.SCCVote.org](http://www.SCCVote.org) (click on "Elections," then "May 3")

[www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org) (click on "May 3 Santa Clara County," then "Local Measures")

**Vote "no," on or before May 3!**





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From 1998 on: [www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/)

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## ■ Message from the Chair

# Judgment

If a task you've resolved to do is in conflict with your values, you will not give that task a high enough priority. Or, perhaps you've assigned it the correct priority, but you allow other things to "come up" and prevent you from doing it. Worse, if you have a particular value in play, you may overemphasize certain things. Either way, you find yourself doing the wrong tasks, and getting skewed results.

How our values affect our time and task management was the focus of a talk I gave in February to local Libertarians who want to be more effective in their activism.

Suppose the libertarian movement is your overriding value in life. By definition, it has pushed aside everything else you might do with your time; taking it to fruition is almost all you think about. But there are downsides. You may become so preoccupied with this drive that you forget to have a life. That might lead to your becoming a bitter old person whose most precious desire was sacrificed.

Along the way, you might find yourself critical of the Libertarian Party, its officers, and its activists, because although you are giving your life to the cause, the others don't seem to understand or embrace the actions you think they should take. Not that they

completely ignore you, but *everything* you propose is important, and it hurts to be ignored or rejected.

But what if your devotion to the movement is driving you to view the LP as constituting the entire libertarian movement, rather than just the *political arm* of the movement? In that case, much of what you're pushing for could be inappropriate, outside the scope of a political party. What if, inadvertently, you've become an obstacle to the LP achieving its purpose, simply by fighting so hard for all the other things you felt it should do to actualize the movement?

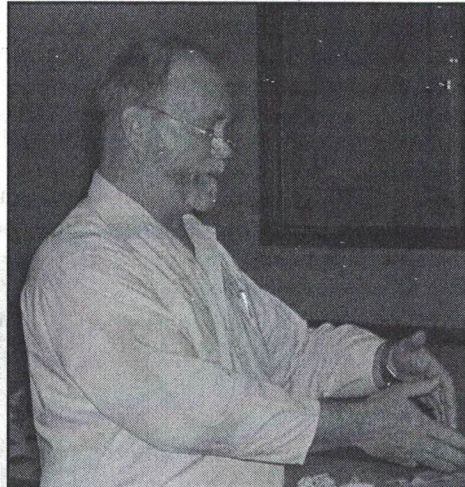
What if this were you, and what if you noticed it? Might that give you insight into why so many of your hard-developed offerings are ignored, even ridiculed? If it did, wouldn't that be good, since now you'd have a better grasp as to what's appropriate and how to present it?

Obviously, there's some value to be had from analyzing one's motives. Ask yourself, "What are the values I factor into my judgments as to what to do and what to propose?"

Now, what if you have operative values that you don't know about? Or values you never question because you assume they are within the natural order of things? Values such as, "be respectful," and "thou shalt not...." Or, "all men are sinners, so...."

■ See **Judgment**, page 3

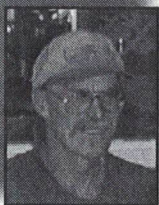
Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



*LPSCC Chair Allen Hacker brings home a point during his talk on Time and Task Management at LPSCC's quarterly speaker's meeting; March 10.*

# "Advocates for Self-Govt." Honors our Volunteers

## 2004 LPSCC Winners



•David Hacker

•Allen Hacker  
•Mark Hinkle



•Laura Ferrer

Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierly



•Kevin Takenaga

Each year, *Advocates for Self-Government* rewards libertarians who have done outstanding volunteer work for liberty.

The libertarian organization has announced its 2004 **Lights of Liberty** award winners. The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County has the auspicious claim to six of the eleven Californians honored with this award (see sidebar and photos). The award is presented to those freedom-fighters who, throughout the calendar year, have done at least one of the following:

- Had three letters to the editor published (in a non-libertarian newspaper or publication) that used the word "libertarian" in a positive light.
- Participated in three "Operation Politically Homeless" booths, for two hours or more per day at each.
- Delivered three speeches to non-libertarian groups such as service clubs, classrooms, Toastmasters, or political rallies.

The award is accompanied by a handsome

"Lights of Liberty" certificate, recognition at the "Lights of Liberty" 2004 honor page (at [www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html](http://www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html)), visited by thousands of people each day. Each year's honor page remains posted through the years, to inspire others.

Winners also receive discounts on *Advocates'* extensive selection of libertarian products and workshops. This year the discount may be applied toward their gala 20th anniversary celebration this fall. Winners' names will be entered into a drawing for libertarian prizes, such as books, tapes, and T-shirts, as well as for a fabulous grand prize: the "Libertarian Library"—autographed copies of every LP presidential candidate's book since John Hospers in 1972, a collection normally given only to those who contribute \$250 or more to *Advocates'* in their fund raising.

Write those letters and make those speeches! Get yourself into the winners' circle for 2005! ■



•Dennis Umphress



# Smart Growth: An Oxymoron

by Bob Goodwyn  
Activities Chair, LPSCC

**R**andal O'Toole's lecture on so-called Smart Growth at San Jose State University in February was a real eye-opener about the economics of public transit. O'Toole's experience with public transit in Portland, Oregon, translated all too well to what's happening with light rail and high-density housing in San Jose.

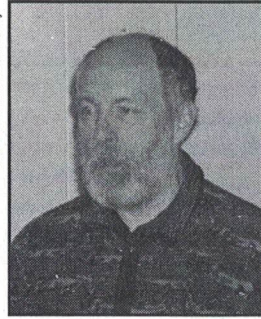
I want to thank those of you who attended! The rest of you missed an enlightening, and at times, humorous, examination of the unintended consequences of theoretically well-intentioned public officials. You also missed the fun when we got together for beers after the lecture. I will make sure there are other opportunities for that.

\*\*\*

Mark your calendars for LPSCC's next **Central Committee** meeting, on April 14, and of course, our tax protest on April 15.

Have you filled out a volunteer profile yet? This is the best way of letting us know that

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



**Randal O'Toole** of *Thoreau Institute* spoke at three Bay Area venues recently.

you're available to help, and in what way you would like to—everything from making a suggestion to taking writing assignments, from making phone calls to helping with mailing.

Just visit our web site: [www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org); click on "Volunteer"; and fill in the boxes. (It's

not a trick. You don't have to commit much, or anything, really.) This year, I will be especially interested in enlisting precinct captains and people to man tables at conferences and festivals.

I look forward to hearing from you, and having some good times. ■

# Judgment *continued from Page 2*

Maybe you won't understand yourself in tough situations, and you'll eventually get into a vicious cycle of failure and self-criticism. You'll scold yourself for never doing the things you know you should, and for spending all your time on pie-in-the-sky stuff. Again, the solution is to ask yourself the question above.

Even so, just knowing your values isn't enough. You must learn how far they drive you. My own primary value which drives me to be politically active is to help the world. But *specific* help for particular individuals and groups? Or *general* help benefiting no one directly—but upgrading the world itself, so that everyone is somehow to some degree benefited? Or, what if I fail to discriminate, and overapply the "help" to such a degree that I give myself away to the pleas and demands of those around me, never getting around to the big things I should be doing, that in fact *would* have helped "the world"?

I know, anything one does affects everything. Help *here* is helpful *everywhere*. But not all "help" is help. Giving a bum a dime doesn't improve the world, if he has alcohol on his breath. Saving that dime to make a fundraising call—now that's worth doing, and if the call is successful, there will be that many more dimes for making even more and varied calls. All you did by giving the bum a dime was to get him off your back—temporarily. He'll be there waiting again tomorrow, and so will all the things you're not doing because you didn't make that call.

Simply knowing your values and making sure they're admirable isn't enough. You must also ensure that you're factoring them in to your decision-process in the most constructive manner, to support your activities and pave the way for success.

That's why internally-contested decisions are called "*value judgments*."

This might explain "agendas," but not all destructive agendas are evil on their face.

What about this horrific proposition: liberty is our value—the value we cherish, and the value we offer. But what if we've so lost ourselves into it, that we're dealing with a world unaware of the meaning of that word?

Might we waste our efforts trying to sell the *benefits* of liberty, when we should be sowing the seeds of an *understanding* of liberty? Do we have the patience to take the long view, the slow path?

It's a lot to think about. No wonder I didn't even attempt to cover the entire subject in the two hours of our meeting!

The solution? Let's get together on which values need to be in play, and build a plan atop that. The plan will gel more easily, and since we'll be incorporating values we've all agreed on, it might even come to fruition! ■

For more of my philosophizing about values and effectiveness, visit [www.ArtMan.com](http://www.ArtMan.com); click on "Articles," and then "Misalignment."

—Allen Hacker, Chair of LPSCC

# We're Not the Only Ones! libertarian Events

In addition to LPSCC, many Bay Area organizations are working toward individual liberty and smaller government. Several provide speaking events that can broaden our knowledge—beyond what we hear or see in the local mainstream media—or from each other.

Rich Newell has established a web-based calendar, open to the public, of libertarian-related events throughout the Bay Area (see sidebar for URL).

These diverse events are coming up:

## Civil Society Institute, Santa Clara University

**David Henderson:** Social Security:

*Why It's Bad and How to End It*

When: Wed., April 13, 5:30–7:00 P.M.

Where: **Brass Rail, Benson Center**

For info: [www.SCU.edu/csi/](http://www.SCU.edu/csi/)

**Lawrence McQuillan:** The 50 States by

*Economic Freedom (Calif. is 49th!)*

When: Wed., April 27, 5:30–7:00 P.M.

Where: Brass Rail, Benson Center

For info: [www.SCU.edu/csi/](http://www.SCU.edu/csi/)

## Pacific Research Institute

**Dr. Bruce N. Ames,**

Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Dr. Elizabeth Whelan,**

President, Amer. Council on Science & Health

*America's War on "Carcinogens"*

When: Tuesday, April 19

7:45 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Where: **Bankers Club**

555 California St., Floor 52, SF

Fee: \$25 (+ take one guest for free)

For info: [CDonegan@PacificResearch.org](mailto:CDonegan@PacificResearch.org)

## Jefferson Club

**Peter Thiel, PayPal Founder**

When: Tuesday, April 26, 12:00 P.M.

Where: **Ristorante Don Giovanni**

235 Castro St., Mt. View

For info: [www.JeffersonClub.org](http://www.JeffersonClub.org)

Pat Peterson: (408) 732-1832

## Golden State Second Amendment Council

**Various gun rights speakers, monthly**

When: Thurs., April 28, 7:00–9:00 P.M.

Where: **Harry's Hofbrau**

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

For info: Jim Barry: (408) 268-4894

## San Jose State University

**Dwight Lee:**

*Misers vs. Philanthropists: And the Winner Is?*

When: Tuesday, May 10, 5:00–7:00 P.M.

Where: **SJSU, Morris Daily Auditorium**

For info: [www2.SJSU.edu/depts/economics/](http://www2.SJSU.edu/depts/economics/)

## Bay Area libertarian Calendar of Events Now on Web!

Groups.[Yahoo.com/group/ba-liberty/calendar?s=2&mp;t](http://Yahoo.com/group/ba-liberty/calendar?s=2&mp;t)

or for short:

[www.TinyURL.com/476es](http://www.TinyURL.com/476es)

Be sure to set your time zone (upper right of screen).

Courtesy: Rich Newell





# Santa Clara Libertarian

Libertarian Party of California State Central Committee  
Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County  
P.O. Box 60171  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171

NON PROFIT



**Election Material. Postmaster: please expedite.**

## Chance to Inform Youth! Junior Statesmen in Town in April

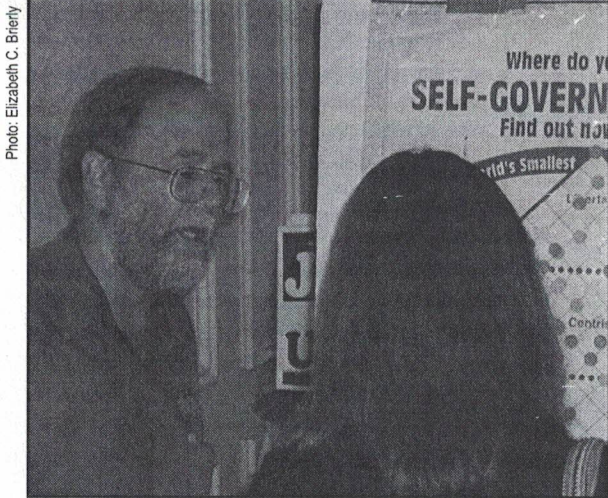


Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

LP of California's Northern Vice Chair, **Lawrence Samuels**, enlightens high school students at the 2004 JSA convention

**H**elp wanted! We need volunteers for the next local convention of the **Junior State of America (JSA)**, on the morning of **Saturday, April 16**.

Last year, over 1,000 high schoolers attended, and had the chance to learn about liberty. Since representatives of one of the Communist parties were also exhibiting at the political fair, it's critical that we imbue these young people with the importance of individual liberty, and self-ownership and responsibility.

Formed in 1934, the Junior State of America is the largest student-run high school organization in America, with over 16,000 members throughout the U.S. and Canada.

It is a nonpartisan group filled with members interested in politics, government, debate, the law, and education. What makes JSA so special is that students organize every aspect of it, from the school chapter level to the national administration. These youths are really engaged with public policy.

**Where: Santa Clara Marriott Hotel**  
2700 Mission College Blvd. (off Great American Pkwy.), Santa Clara

**When: Saturday, April 16, 9:30 A.M. to 12 noon**

We'll plan to have the volunteers go out to lunch afterward. Contact **Lawrence Samuels** at [LawSamz@Hotmail.com](mailto:LawSamz@Hotmail.com) for more information. ■

## Fun in the Sun! 2nd Annual "Area 420" Barbecue for Medicinal Marijuana

**O**n April 24, Area 420 will co-host their second annual potluck barbecue. The barbecue will feature live music, and is a benefit for their co-host, **National Marijuana Assn.**, a grassroots lobbying group, and **Green Aid: The Medical Marijuana Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.**

At 2004's inaugural event, several LPSCC candidates addressed the group, sharing the LP's support of the right to personal medical choices.

The Mercury News provided good coverage of the event.

NMA organizes letter & phone campaigns for legalization of medical marijuana; Green Aid's mission is "to legislate the will of the people where it matters most—in the courts." They have detailed the ongoing case of **Ed Rosenthal**, deputized by Oakland as a provider of medicinal marijuana, but persecuted and prosecuted by the

federal government, despite California's law.

**When: April 24, 12:00-4:20 P.M.**

**Where: Vasona Lake Park, Los Gatos**

**For info: Jim Lohse, (408) 246-0052**

[www.Area420.com](http://www.Area420.com)

[www.Green-Aid.com](http://www.Green-Aid.com)

Libertarians who would like to attend may also contact **Dennis Umphress**, at [DMUmphress@Hotmail.com](mailto:DMUmphress@Hotmail.com). ■