



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 9 September 2004

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats



Photo: Mark Hinkle

This summer, Libertarians have been staffing exhibit booths all over Santa Clara County, taking advantage of our glorious California weather to talk to new people about the election and libertarian principles. And we're not done yet.

Kevin Takenaga, Campaigns Chair, has been seen running around the Valley carting cases of Party literature and borrowing lawn chairs. **Allen Hacker**, who attended the LP's Presidential debate demonstration in New York, conceived and implemented a new banner (pictured above) which flouts the preposterous and ironic procedure of penning demonstra-

tors into a "free speech zone" five to 20 miles away from the event being protested. **Michael Badnarik**, LP Presidential candidate, has maintained that here in America, the whole country is a free speech zone. On Aug. 31, during the Republican Party convention, Badnarik debated his Green Party counterpart, **David Cobb**, right there in New York; the debate was covered by C-SPAN.

On Labor Day weekend, downtown San Jose's Tapestry in Talent Festival of the Arts was our hot spot. Kevin Takenaga reports: "The Tapestry booth was a success! We were fully staffed all

■ See **Free Speech**, page 3

Tapestry in Talent Festival of the Arts, San Jose

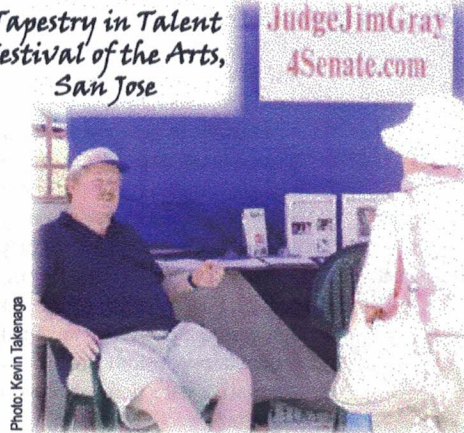


Photo: Kevin Takenaga

Left: Dennis Umphress, Chair of our Ballot Measures & Initiatives Committee, speaks with a festival-goer in downtown San Jose over the Labor Day holiday. Judge Jim Gray's U.S. Senate campaign against Barbara Boxer is being highlighted at all our booths this year.

Right: Manning our booth at Mountain View Art & Wine Festival on Sept. 12 were (from left) candidate Zander Collier, Ballot Measures

Committee Chair Dennis Umphress, Newsletter Chair Mark Hinkle, and LPSCC Chair Allen Hacker.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

Attacks on our Income: Tax Freedom Rally Fights Back

by Al Newman

Member, Santa Clara County LP

The Free Enterprise Society hosted their annual Tax Freedom Rally right here in Sunnyvale on the weekend of August 28-29. I have attended a number of their events and I was especially inspired by this one.

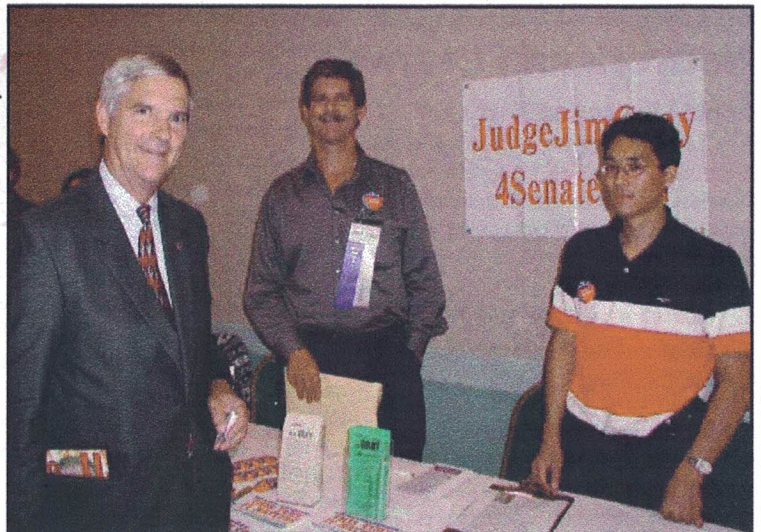
One of the most inspirational speakers was LPC's **Judge Jim Gray**, who spoke on general freedom and Libertarian issues. My other favorite speaker was **Vernice Kuglin**, the courageous FedEx pilot who defeated the IRS and so-called "Justice" Department in a criminal trial. She won because she was well prepared by her attorney, **Larry Becraft**, and she was able to ask the question, "Where is the Law making me

LIABLE?" Evidently the IRS witnesses could not or would not answer that simple question. I have been asking that question myself for over ten years and I have not received an answer either!

In my opinion, the Income Tax is a hot issue for us as Libertarians. Our platform calls for its abolition, but most of our candidates are not as knowledgeable as they could be on this issue. I would be happy to share my knowledge on this subject.

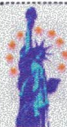
I have been a non-filer for 29 years, and I am still walking around on the right side of the Graybar Hotel. Most people know that there is something wrong with the Income Tax but are too frightened or knowledge-poor to

■ See **Tax Free**, page 3



Judge Jim Gray, LPC candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke at the Rally, while Mark Hinkle (center) and Kevin Takenaga (right) took turns manning the LPSCC's table, handing out literature and encouraging donations to Gray's campaign.

Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery



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PAST ISSUES

Issues from 1998 are available on line at www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/.

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Network and Learn

Local Libertarian Party

The LPSCC's quarterly meeting of the **Central Committee** is a policy-level business session in which members may make, participate in discussion of, and vote on motions. Invited guests may attend.

October 14, 7:00–9:30 P.M.

For venue and last-minute changes, check www.SC.CA.LP.org.

Civil Society Institute

Daniel Klein invites us to the **Civil Society Institute's** fall series of events at Santa Clara University. Next up is economist and author **David Henderson**.

October 13, 5:30–7:00 P.M.

Also save October 27 & November 16!
www.SC.U.edu/civilsocietyinstitute. ■

■ Message from the Chair

Are Law Makers the Law Breakers?

Yoo-hoo! Is there anyone there? Calling all members: we need your help! There's an election coming!!!

Seriously, folks. One of the weaknesses of the LP is that the load is carried on the backs of only a few activists at a time. If we want to make an impact, that must change.

Usually, a newly-activated Libertarian arrives offering help, and since there are so many great projects waiting to be done, too much is piled on. After awhile the volunteer, who may even have made it all the way to becoming a Party officer, breaks.

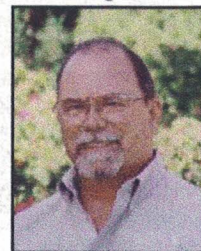
I don't mean emotionally or mentally, although I suspect that even these have happened. Usually it's just a matter of him or her finally having to make a choice between activism and living. That's a shame. After all, what's activism if you don't get to live the benefits?

Which raises the killer question: When do we get the libertarian society we envision? There appear to be two unhappy answers.

First: No time soon! Most cannot agree that we will get anyone elected to partisan office within the

next election (or decade or century). It may seem I'm exaggerating, but just ask someone, "When?" and see if you don't get the dull, blank look I've been seeing.

Second: We don't really see it at all! Not that we can't imagine it, but that we spend so much time



Allen Hacker

looking at what's wrong, we forget to keep our eye on the goal. It's easy to understand. Who can smile and speak from a warm and fuzzy place about how wonderful our society will be with real education occurring in our children, without snapping off into a snit about government-controlled indoctrination centers? Why, just this election cycle alone, those very abominations are trying to suck away another \$885 million of ours (plus interest!), just in Santa Clara County alone, to pay for various boondoggles which still won't fulfill our children's needs.

■ See **Law**, page 3

■ Newsletter Committee

Keeping in Touch with Team LPSCC

While presenting a report on my activities to the Executive Committee of the local LP of Santa Clara County, it dawned on me how significant is the amount of time, money, and energy which a number of dedicated people put into publishing our newsletter each month.

As Chair of the Newsletter Committee, I thought it appropriate to document that process, and to say a word or two of thanks to the many people that make this enterprise a success.

The lion's share of the responsibility for *Santa Clara Libertarian* goes to our editor extraordinaire: **Elizabeth C. Brierly**. Not only does Elizabeth serve as editor of our newsletter, but she's also the one responsible for obtaining articles, photos, and announcements from our candidates and activists, and failing that, covering events herself and writing much of the material. And she manages to squeeze all this in, while simultaneously serving as editor of *California Freedom*. Amazing!

Once the newsletter is laid out, nearly ready to print, Elizabeth sends it to me to proofread. If any corrections are needed, they're quickly updated and then it's off to the printer, Internet style.

Elizabeth creates a PDF document (thanks to **Mike Laursen** of Adobe for the software) and

transmits it via FTP ("file transfer protocol," for you non-nerds among us) to **Jascha Lee**, who lives in Santa Cruz County. Once it's in his hands, Jascha prints the newsletter; downloads the latest updates to the membership database; prints address labels; prepares the post office paperwork; and then delivers the entire package to **VTF Services** in Mountain View.

VTF Services is a nonprofit firm which in Dec., 2003 was the second to be named Mountain View's "business of the month" for its service to its city. The nonprofit, which receives no additional funding from the government, began as Veterans' Task Force in 1968. Its vocational program gave disabled veterans new skills and a new purpose, and now offers job opportunities to "anybody who has trouble getting and keeping jobs," explains **Susan Hamilton**, executive director. We libertarians sure like to see and reward this type of private enterprise/charity instead of those relying on yet another government (a.k.a. taxpayer) handout. VTF provides all kinds of manual services, such as assembling gift baskets for pet owners and cleaning machine parts for an aerospace company. But for LPSCC, they assemble our newsletter and prepare it for the post office (ZIP code order, etc.).

Hiram and **Arden Pierce**, who live in Palo Alto, collect the assembled newsletters from VTF and

■ See **Team**, page 3



Mark Hinkle

Law

continued from Page 2

Whew!

The problem is, too many of us are too angry—secretly, if not overtly—about the way things are. We look around our perfectionist selves at a world that shoves rules and laws upon us by the ton while the very people imposing those rules and laws too often ignore them in their own lives.

For example, we staffed a booth at the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival this year. Adjacent to us on Saturday were the two factions of the MegaParty. Both violated the major rules: stay in your designated area, and no funds shall be solicited for any purpose whatsoever. We, meanwhile, the truly good and moral people that we are, refused to break the rules.

I wondered: Is this what moves a person to become a Libertarian? Do we so respect people and laws that our only recourse to aggression and law-breaking is to remove enough of those laws so we can breathe again? Because we obey where others don't, and so we must remove laws that others simply ignore?

I wondered: Is this why so many Libertarians are in such a bad mood? Is trying to live an ethical life, as perfectly righteous a life as possible, bad for one's emotional and mental health in a world where the law-givers are also the worst law-breakers?

I wondered: Is this bad mood, inarticulate and possibly only subliminal, the reason we eat our own young? Can it be that we unthinkingly

direct our frustration at only the handy target of our own kind, they being the only ones we can challenge against inadequate performance?

Are we ourselves the only ones any of us still expect to do the right thing? So that when we see ourselves not being perfectly perfect, we turn on each other?

We don't have any serious enemies "out there" yet. A few liars who misrepresent us, certainly, but they could not get away with that if we didn't always look so bloodied from infighting and factionalism.

But it's not as bad as it could be. Locally, it's a lot better. We've been finding better ways to cooperate, and we're communicating at a higher level than usual.

So if the real reason you stopped being so active was that you tired of criticism and back-biting, I implore you to call me. Give me a chance to help you talk it out, and to protect you from it recurring.

We're in this mess together. And we're not getting out of it by each of us in turn "doing a John Galt" (dropping out, à la *Atlas Shrugged*). We're going to change the world only through a concerted effort. That means, playing together with the cooperation and precision of a symphony.

I know it's possible. All each of us has to do is accept a part, take a little coordinating direction, and seek joy in a job done well enough.

We can do this. Ask me for my help. It's what the Chair is for. ■

—Allen Hacker, Chair
(650) 964-4488

Team

continued from Page 2

whisk them off to San Jose's Main Post Office on Lundy. There the job is "red tagged"—given high priority as election material, even though we send it bulk rate.

Usually you'll receive the newsletter the next day. However, some neighborhoods may take up to 3-4 days (ah, the mysteries of the U.S. Postal Service). By the time the newsletter hits the post office, **Bill White** should have posted the on-line version of the newsletter to our web site, www.SC.CA.LP.org—especially useful to those of you who simply can't wait for

the mailman.

As you can see, many people are involved in the process, and a lot of e-mails and phone calls take place each month to get you your *Santa Clara Libertarian*.

I hope you appreciate the final product, but of course we're always looking to improve. If you have suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me, at Mark@Garlic.com. ■

Yours in liberty,



Mark Hinkle, Newsletter Committee Chair

Free Speech

continued from Page 1

three days. We registered three Libertarians and renewed one membership to boot. Countless others were exposed to the Libertarian Party, and we answered the Democrat and Green presence with our own.

We're poised for more of the same as Election Day nears. We simply need to apply and staff up, as the equipment and literature are all still available.

Next up is **Oktoberfest!** Cupertino Rotary Club will sponsor this 34th annual celebration on October 9-10 in Memorial Park. We'll hand out literature, register voters, engage in political discussion, and show the Libertarian flag. Spend a day with like-minded people and share the joy of individual liberty with passersby!

To sign up, contact Allen Hacker (Allen@LPty.net) or Zander Collier (Zander@ElectCollier.org). Let's keep celebrating liberty this fall! ■

Tax Free

cont. from Page 1

oppose it openly. There are other third parties who also oppose the Income Tax—the Constitution Party for one—and I think we should collaborate on those issues on which we can agree.

Along these lines, **Don Grundmann** (www.TruthUSA.org) is organizing a local monthly "freedom meeting" along with a dinner. At the last one, we heard from former IRS agent

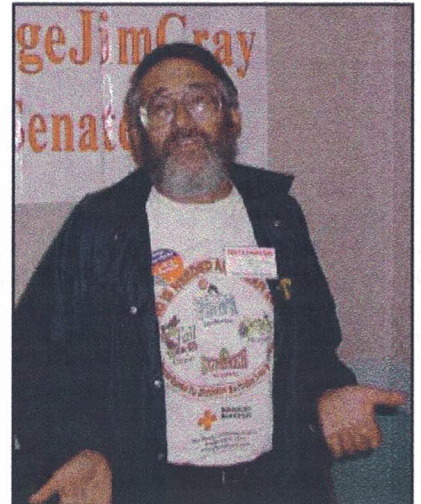


Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Al Newman was pinch hitter for LPSCC's exhibit at the annual Tax Freedom Rally in Sunnyvale; Aug. 29.

Joe Banister (www.FreedomAboveFortune.com) and tax protestor **Robert Clarkson**, two of the speakers from the Tax Freedom Rally.

Free Enterprise Society was formed in 1979 by a small group of individuals who were very concerned about the simultaneous expansion of bureaucracy, erosion of individual rights, and plunder of private wealth by slick government debt and taxing schemes. Their mission is to promote free enterprise worldwide and restore lost liberties and freedoms in America under the organic National Constitution of the Republic of the USA, and they offer seminars and study courses which "have determined lawful ways of avoiding intolerable debt and tax burdens." Visit Free Enterprise Society on the Web at www.FreeEnterpriseSociety.com or by phone at (209) 966-7040. ■

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Candidates Out and About

COMPAC Barbecue, Aug. 26

LPSCC candidates **Zander Collier**, **Mike Laursen**, and **Allen Rice**, and nearly every other elected and aspiring politician in Santa Clara County, attended the Annual Barbecue hosted by San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce to raise funds for its active, bipartisan political action committee, COMPAC.

The Chamber provides a forum to “market your business, to save [you] money, and to fight battles for the business community on public policy issues.” So COMPAC “advocates for pro-business candidates and initiatives to create a positive business environment.” Just the place for the LP.

COMPAC endorses candidates and ballot measures, and runs drives to influence elections in favor of business and jobs. The barbecue, now entering its 22nd year, is considered a key Silicon Valley political event, drawing nearly 800 business, community, and political leaders.

—Mike Laursen

City of Campbell Candidates’ Forum, Sept. 23

This real live candidates’ forum in Campbell turned out to be well worth missing the reality of TV’s “The Apprentice.”

Our candidates **Zander Collier** (Assembly District 24) and **Allen Rice** (Senate District 11) did very well in this, their first forum of the season. At times, I wished we had been able to prepare more. We have much to work on—but we’re not as far from the goal as we may think.

Photo: Mark Johnson



At the COMPAC Barbecue on Aug. 26, Mike Laursen (right), running for State Assembly, District 13, greets Shane Connolly (left), his Republican opponent. Their Democratic opponent is incumbent Elaine Alquist.

At times our candidates exuded brilliance in their impromptu arguing from principle, and more importantly, elaborating on why those principles would be practical in government.

Democrats were missing, and those present made hay over the fact that the two Democratic challengers failed to attend.

—Kevin Takenaga

SV Taxpayers’ Association, Sept. 23

On the same evening, **Allen Rice** also visited members of Silicon Valley Taxpayers’ Association to introduce his campaign to this nonpartisan, fiscally conservative organization. With property rights as a hot button issue, SVTA was receptive to both Rice and his Republican opponent, **Jon Zellhoefer**.

—Elizabeth C. Brierly

The Campbell forum will be aired on local cable TV. We hope to schedule a feedback session to help our fine candidates polish their messages and performance to a shine. The more perspectives, the better, so send e-mail to Kevin@ElectCollier.org if you can help—with this or any other campaign activity in these last few busy and exciting weeks before Election Day! ■