



# Golden Gate Libertarian

Libertarian Party of San Francisco August 2005

## Tales of Sheltered Lives

by Marcy Berry, LPSF Chair

During a *News Hour* interview with KQED's Jim Lehrer, William F. Buckley described several conservative groups, including "libertarians, who tend to live rather sheltered lives." Libertarians lumped with conservatives?! Leading sheltered lives?!

## Libertarians: Economically Conservative, Socially Liberal

On April 15, Libertarians in San Francisco once again greeted the afternoon downtown crowd with a lively rally to remind everybody that we view the income tax as unconstitutional, counterproductive, and an all-around nuisance. Signs were direct, such as "Income Tax is Theft!" Symbolism was rampant, with one participant dressed in ball and chain, and another tending a cage of "Slave Kittens"—really homeless kitties rescued and made ready for adoption.

Once again, in June, Libertarians marched in San Francisco's premier festival, the Gay Pride Parade, under the banner of the Outright Libertarians. Our Operation Politically Homeless booth distributed hundreds of our featured brochure "Honoring LGBTQI Rights—And Everyone Else's."

## Libertarians: Thinking Outside the Box

Last February we asked ourselves what ever happened to the "jitneys" that transported working people cheaply and efficiently to and from work, from the '40s to the '70s. We realized that as in the case of so many other services, transportation had shifted from private to government hands. We will continue to promote privately owned, environmentally friendly, efficient transportation.

Another question: How did San Francisco, a town where rugged individualism reigned during its early days, grow into a city where government endeavor crowds out so much private effort? We are working on a cable TV show that visits San Francisco sites that were once symbols of *laissez faire* and documents their transformation.

This "Libertarian Walking Tour" will join our current show, "The Libertarian Revolution," shown on cable channel 29 on the first and third Sundays at 12:30 P.M. This show is a lot tamer than we hope our future walking tour show will be, and deals with traditional Libertarian subjects, such as downsizing the government to decrease its influence in our private and economic lives.



*LPSF member and past chair Chris Maden marching in the 2005 San Francisco Pride Parade. Photo by Brian Radzinsky.*

## The San Francisco Team

Thank you to the team for its commitment to personal liberty and personal responsibility: Justin Sampson, Newsletter Editor; Phil Berg, Vice Chair; Michael Acree, Treasurer; Jawj Greenwald, Secretary; Chris Maden, Communications Director; Bryce Bigwood, Webmaster; Starchild, Outreach Director; Kelly Simpson, Publications Manager; and the faithful who attend our monthly meetings, run for office, and otherwise contribute in so many ways.



*LPSF members marching with the Outright Libertarians in the 2005 San Francisco Pride Parade. Phil Berg is in the foreground. Photo by Brian Radzinsky.*

## Reaffirming Firearms Rights

*The following Resolution to Oppose the San Francisco 2005 Ballot Measure “Prohibiting Firearms Distribution and Limiting Handgun Possession” was adopted unanimously by the LPSF members present at our August meeting.*

WHEREAS the right to defend oneself is a natural human right; and

WHEREAS handguns are one of the most effective tools for this purpose; and

WHEREAS the City and County of San Francisco has placed on the November 2005 ballot a “gun ban” measure that would prohibit handgun possession by residents, and would require surrender of all handguns possessed by residents within its corporate boundary, and would ban the sale or transfer of ALL firearms and ammunition, with only minor exceptions such as for non-residents, certain law enforcement officials, and other government employees; and

WHEREAS under this measure the former owners of handguns so confiscated would not be granted any compensation, and

WHEREAS the measure would effectively put out of business an ongoing firearms retailer within the city limits, thus destroying the owner’s equity in the business as well as the owner’s and employees’ livelihoods, also without compensation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco reaffirms the right of San Francisco residents to possess handguns, whether for self-defense or sport or any other moral purpose, such as they see fit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco reaffirms the right of individuals and the businesses they create to participate in a free and open market in firearms and ammunition; and the right to own and operate or to be employed in firearms related businesses, without them being arbitrarily and capriciously shut down;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco considers confiscation of legally obtained private property, namely handguns, to be an improper function of government, whose role should instead be to protect private property; and that this impropriety is compounded by not granting just compensation to the former handgun owners; and finally

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco wishes it to be known far and wide that, for these and other reasons, it opposes the ballot measure “Pro-

hibiting firearms distribution and limiting handgun possession” that is slated to appear on the ballot in San Francisco in November, 2005.

## End the Occupation of Iraq

*The LPSF members present at our July meeting voted to support the following Anti-War Resolution being considered throughout California.*

WHEREAS American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world, and conduct foreign policy upon the enlightened principles of non-intervention;

WHEREAS the United States government should return to its historical libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, foreign quarrels and imperialist adventures, and recognizing the right to unrestricted trade and travel;

WHEREAS the United States has intervened in the affairs of Iraq—a nation that neither directly attacked nor threatened America—our invasion of its sovereign territory is an attempt to impose our values over people in another land. Such overt hostilities are immoral and contrary to the principles of the Libertarian Party.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we demand that the President and Congress act to end the occupation of Iraq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Armed Forces of the USA have the full support of the Libertarian Party. We believe that the withdrawal of U.S. forces as quickly as possible will better ensure their safety and create a more manageable situation for the elected Iraq government to maintain civil order.

## Against Paternalistic Government

*The LPSF members present at our June meeting voted to endorse as the opinion of the Party the following letter written by Jawj Greenwald.*

We hope that the recent tragedy of a boy mauled to death by the family dog will not become an excuse for the government to act *in loco parentis* to us all. Mayor Newsom’s comment, in his call to action on pit bulls, that “If we can’t change people’s behavior and make them think what’s in their best interest, then that’s when government comes along and becomes a bit paternalistic,” fills us with deep foreboding.

The nanny state will invariably overreact to the isolated incident. It will use a case involving unique circumstances or poor decisions by one set of parents as the excuse for ever more laws, as broad and far-ranging as it thinks it can get away with. Pet bans, compulsory sterilization, breeding restrictions, leash and muzzle laws, and licensing of every dog, cat, parakeet and goldfish in town—who knows what the pols, aided and abetted by a vocal minority of bossy activists, will dream up next.

But people like to make their own decisions about risk. People also like to make their own decisions about their pets, in the same way as parents do about their children. They have the right to do so, and are generally far better at it than government. One child was killed by a dog, in an accident that is almost guaranteed not to recur as a result of the publicity and outpouring of private response it has already sparked. Perhaps someplace else this year, a child’s life was saved by a pit bull that protected a home against a burglar.

Let’s trust our system of private rights and voluntary initiatives to work here.

Even before this incident, the San Francisco SPCA was offering free spay/neuter for pit bulls. Shelters throughout the Bay Area were developing educational programs and reviewing their own policies on pit bull adoptions. Strong liability laws and private insurance systems can deal with people whose dogs are a threat to others. Owners of certain types of dogs may not be able to get homeowners' insurance or may want to get behavioral certification of their dogs to get landlords to rent to them. The owners of the dogs that killed Diane Whipple were jailed for manslaughter, and parents who negligently or willfully expose their children to harm run afoul of child protection laws.

## Protesters are Heroes

by Starchild, LPSF Outreach Director

In the June issue of California Freedom, Aaron Starr used his "From the Chair" column to argue that Libertarians should avoid being seen as protesters and complainers because "people like to associate themselves with winners" and "people who protest and complain do not have power." The piece had the rather offensive title "Winners or Whiners."

Does Aaron believe that Libertarian activists like Paul Ireland, who was arrested at a Los Angeles County Post Office for bravely refusing to give up his right to free speech at an anti-tax protest, are "whiners?" Or does he "merely" want to distance the party from such acts of courage? Besides Libertarians like Paul Ireland and Ron Crickenberger, a tireless crusader against the "War on Drugs" whose arrest in front of the Department of Justice was also held up as a negative example in Aaron's column, I would like to remind Aaron of a few other people who he is thoughtlessly branding as "whiners" and "complainers":

- Lech Walesa (protested for the right to form independent unions and played a key role in bringing down the Soviet Empire)
- Lady Godiva (rode a horse naked through town to protest taxes)
- Organizers of the Boston Tea Party (threw tea into Boston Harbor to protest taxes)
- Mahatma Gandhi (practiced civil disobedience in protest of British occupation of India)
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (jailed for advocating equal rights)
- Emma Goldman (deported for promoting birth control)
- Andrei Sakharov (sent into internal exile and went on hunger strike to protest the Soviet regime)
- The nameless Chinese hero of the Tian'anmen Uprising (stood down a line of Red Army tanks)
- Galileo (arrested for daring to publish a book suggesting that the earth revolves around the sun)
- The drag queens and other patrons of the Stonewall bar in Manhattan (rioted against police in response to anti-gay raids)

What do these individuals have in common? Simply this: At the time they chose to stand up for freedom, truth and justice, no one knew they would ultimately prevail and that history books would look back on them as winners. (Historical vindication of the Chinese patriot's action is yet to come, but I have no doubt that it will. In the eyes of much of the world, he has already won.) No doubt their actions would have made professional marketers highly uncomfortable. No doubt in many cases their opponents, and members of the public, tended to view them as "whiners" or "losers" promoting extremist causes which would never succeed.

In some ways this comes down to how much faith you have in the libertarian cause. Do you believe that freedom will ultimately prevail, and people like Paul Ireland and Ron Crickenberger will be remembered as the heroes they are? Or have you mentally "given up?" Are you assuming that our cause can only prevail if we turn our backs on the best and bravest among us; if we hide their noble acts like dirty secrets? Are these the actions of a winning team? Are winners obsessed with how their chances are viewed by others? No. Winners have confidence and faith in the future. Like Dr. King, like the Boston Tea Party patriots, we shall overcome!

Toward liberty, indeed!

## Calendar

*Regular LPSF meetings are held the second Saturday of every month, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Round Table Pizza on Geary Blvd. at 16th Ave. The third hour, from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., is a free pizza social.*

Deadline for submitting *free ballot arguments* for and against local propositions to appear on the November 8 ballot, at noon

..... August 19

Deadline for submitting *paid ballot arguments* for and against local propositions to appear on the November 8 ballot, at noon

..... August 24

Free State Project meeting, from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Pyramid Alehouse in Walnut Creek; special guest Bernard Von NotHaus, founder of the Liberty Dollar. Contact Morey Straus, [morey.straus@gmail.com](mailto:morey.straus@gmail.com) or (510) 326-0804. See also [www.freestateproject.org](http://www.freestateproject.org) ..... August 27

San Francisco Taxpayers Union meeting, at Double Play Restaurant. See [www.sftaxpayersunion.org](http://www.sftaxpayersunion.org) .... September 7

### Regular LPSF meeting ..... September 10

Free State Project meeting, from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in Golden Gate Park (exact location TBA). Contact Morey Straus, [morey.straus@gmail.com](mailto:morey.straus@gmail.com) or (510) 326-0804 .... September 24

A.N.S.W.E.R. anti-war march, 11:00 A.M. at Dolores Park. See [www.actionsf.org](http://www.actionsf.org) ..... September 24

LPSF member and psychologist Dr. Michael R. Edelstein teaches a Learning Annex class based on his book, *Three Minute Therapy: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life*, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. See [www.learningannex.com](http://www.learningannex.com) or call (415) 788-5500 ..... October 8

**LPSF ballot endorsement meeting.** The LPSF will be considering endorsements and recommendations for ballot measures and candidates on the November 8 ballot .....

..... **October 8**

Last day to register to vote for the November 8 election ...

..... October 24

<b>Libertarian Party of San Francisco</b>		
2215-R Market St. #170 San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 775-LPSF <a href="http://www.lpsf.org">www.lpsf.org</a> / <a href="mailto:outreach@lpsf.org">outreach@lpsf.org</a>		
Chair	<b>Marcy Berry</b>	<a href="mailto:chair@lpsf.org">chair@lpsf.org</a>
Vice-Chair	<b>Phil Berg</b>	<a href="mailto:vicechair@lpsf.org">vicechair@lpsf.org</a>
Treasurer	<b>Michael Acree</b>	
Secretary	<b>Jawj Greenwald</b>	
<b>Golden Gate Libertarian</b>		
Editor	<b>Justin Sampson</b>	<a href="mailto:editor@lpsf.org">editor@lpsf.org</a>