



Vol. XXVI No. VIII

The Palo Alto *VOTER*

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

June/July 2012

Primary Election is June 5

- Early voting at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) office: May 7 - June 4
- Last day for Registration is May 21
- Last day for ROV to receive a Mail Ballot request is May 29
- Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm on June 5

For Palo Alto and Stanford Voters:
Our District Numbers have changed!

- U.S. Congressional is now No. 18
- State Senate is now No. 13
- State Assembly is now No. 24



Don't Forget to Vote!

For more info go to: www.sccvote.org or www.smartvoter.org



CANDIDATES FORUM

Friday, May 18

State Senate Districts 13 and 15
State Assembly Districts 24 and 28

6:30 pm Reception; 7:00 - 9:30 pm Forum
Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

This forum will focus on education and particularly on education funding at the state level.

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino/Sunnyvale, and co-sponsored by the Leagues in Santa Clara County (including Palo Alto) and many other civic organizations.

JUDGE CANDIDATES FORUM

Thursday, May 24

Santa Clara County Superior Court No. 5
7:00 - 7:50 pm

Chris Cobey, Paul Collin and Alexis Cerul

Santa Clara County Superior Court No. 7
8:00 - 8:45 pm

Steven Pogue and Cynthia Sevely

Mountain View City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street (public parking underground)

Presented by the Los Altos-Mountain View League of Women Voters
Co-sponsored by the Leagues of Palo Alto and Cupertino-Sunnyvale

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The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved participation in government through voter service, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Message from our President

Have you ever wondered what your League board members do beyond the city limits of Palo Alto? I have been or will be attending County, Bay Area, State and National events representing our Palo Alto League in the next few weeks.

On May 5, the **LWV of the Bay Area** held their convention in Lafayette. **Phyllis Cassel, Doris Petersen and I** represented the Palo Alto League. Currently there are about 3,275 members in 20 local leagues. The LWVBA was formed in 1959 to address region-wide issues and to facilitate communication among Leagues in the Bay Area. Some of the regional positions are: Regional Government and Planning, Environment (Air, Land Use, Water, Solid Waste Disposal), Natural Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Housing and Transportation including surface and airports.

The speaker was **Will Travis**, the recently retired executive director of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. He now serves as senior adviser to the Bay Area Joint Policy Committee, an alliance of agencies supporting the effort to draw up a long-term regional plan that takes into account both environmental and economic needs.

His message focused on the **impacts of climate change in the Bay Area**. The theory of global warming is 100 years old, and Travis used humorous slides to illustrate how change has and is occurring in and around San Francisco Bay. If we do not change our ways, 100-year floods will become 10-year floods, with as many as 250,000 homes as victims, most in low-income areas. The message he left us with was clear: we must think and act regionally. When asked how the LWVBA can be most useful he said, "Change political dynamics so a candidate can get elected if he/she supports vertical development outside of San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland." [Editor's note: please read Phyllis Cassel's article on Plan Bay Area on page 4.]

I urge you to keep informed about all the issues the Bay Area faces now and in the future. Be an educated voter by attending candidate forums and reading each issue of our *VOTER*. Democracy is hard work!

Mary Alice Thornton



Save the Date for our annual Summer Social!

Thursday evening, August 23

at the Garden Court Hotel

Barbara Babcock, Professor Emerita, Stanford Law School, author of *Woman Lawyer*, *The Trials of Clara Foltz*, will speak about Clara Foltz and suffrage in California.

LWV of Palo Alto: Officers, Directors, Off-Board Roster (650) 327-9148, www.lwvpaloalto.org

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May Board Meeting Summary

At its May Meeting, the board took the following action:

- Accepted the March minutes with amendments and the Treasurer's Report. It was reported that we're in good financial shape even though contributions from members are down.

The Board also learned that:

- Plans for the **annual meeting on Saturday, May 12**, are arranged. The speaker, Marian Lee, will discuss Caltrain and plans for modernizing it. A continental breakfast will be provided.
- The **June Board Retreat will be on Saturday, June 23**. Discussion will include alternative ways to structure the board and ideas from the Task Forces that met in the last year.



- The **Summer Social will be on Thursday, August 23**. The speaker will be Stanford Law School Professor Emerita Babcock who has written a book about the first woman admitted to the California Bar.

- Heard a report on voter registration held at Gunn and Paly in April. A total of 72 were registered – 57 at Gunn and 15 at Paly.

- Heard a report about the April 26th General Meeting on "The Rules Have Changed".

The two speakers did an excellent job explaining the initiative process and the voting process for the June 2012 primary election. The program was well received by the audience of 35.

- The Voters' Guide will go out soon to all members and donors.

Submitted by Trina Lovercheck, Acting Secretary

Your LWVC Nominating Committee is looking for **PROVEN leaders for the LWVC Board of Directors slate.**

*Do you know of a League member who is **P**assionate about League, has **R**espect for the League mission, is **O**bservant of League traditions, has a **V**ision for League's future, is **E**xperienced in League procedures and has **N**otable achievements?*

If so, nominate her/him to the LWVC Board! Nominations are due September 1, 2012.

Click on the link below for the nomination form or contact Chairperson Trudy Jarratt at ftjarratt@charter.net.
http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/forms/nomination_form.html



LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!

Look for your **Membership Renewal Letter and Statement** in early June.

We ask that you **update information** about your address, phone number and email address **for the new 2012-2013 membership handbook**.

Please send your renewal check and statement to the League office as early as possible but certainly by August 15 so you will be current in the new membership handbook. **There is no increase in the dues this year.** Thank you!

Chris Logan, Membership Director



High School Spring Voter Registration

In April, LWVPA completed two very successful Student Voter Registration events at Palo Alto High School and Gunn High School. We registered a total of 72 students. Without the wonderful

help of the following people we would not have been so successful:

League Members: **Eve Agiewich, Ellen Forbes, Betty Gerard, Gretchen Hillard, Sue Kemp, Mary Jo Levy, Pat Saffir, Alice Smith, Lee Sendlebeck, Mary Alice Thornton, Julia Weber, and Sallie Whaley.** **Lisa Hall** and **Lynn Glover** at Gunn High School and **Matthew Hall** at Palo Alto made the necessary arrangements and **Lance Nottle** from the Registrar of Voters office answered our questions. Many thanks to everyone.

We will return to the high schools before the General Election in November.

The history teachers and the Senior Class at Castilleja School have requested that we register their 18-year olds in May. I have given them registration forms so that the current 18-year olds can register before the June election. *Submitted by Liza Taft*

Thanks

to **Gretchen Hilliard, Veronica Tincer, Julie Barney, Sue Kemp, Mary Alice Thornton, Barbara Bowden, Alice Smith and Bonnie Packer** for getting out our mailing of the **Voters' Guide** in record time on May 8. And special thanks to **Veronica Tincer** for putting the **Voters' Guide** together with help from **Alice Smith, Trina Lovercheck, Phyllis Cassel and Bonnie Packer.**



Call to LWVUS 50th National Convention!

The LWVUS 50th National Convention will be held on **June 8-12, 2012, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC.** For information go to: www.lwv.org/member-resources/council-and-convention The LWVPA board will be sending three delegates: **Mary Alice Thornton, Doris Petersen and Bonnie Packer.** Anyone who is interested may attend as a non-delegate.

Plan Bay Area vs. Palo Alto by Phyllis Cassel



In response to AB 32 (2006) requiring Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions, SB 375 (Steinberg 2008) requires all Metropolitan Planning Organizations in California to develop

a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) are the responsible Bay Area agencies with ABAG and MTC taking the lead. The initial scenario for what is being called **ONE Bay Area** or **Plan Bay Area** was released for comment in the spring of 2011. In the fall of 2011, three "Alternative Scenarios" were released for further public comment. As noted in the LWVPA April VOTER, **the purpose of Plan Bay Area is to reduce greenhouse gases, accommodate job growth, provide adequate housing for all income levels in compact communities and allocate funding for transportation projects according to those plans.**



On March 9, 2012, Plan Bay Area released the current planning draft - its "**Jobs-Housing Connection Scenario**". This latest proposal reflects new estimates for population, employment, and housing growth expected between the 2010 census and 2040, including changes in the economy over the past decade. The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for Plan Bay Area's latest scenario adjusted the previously expected growth to reflect comments from Bay Area cities and counties and new calculations from a team of economists. Each county and city is assigned an expected job growth, household growth and housing need. PLAN Bay Area continues to expect most of the housing growth to be in Planned Development Areas (PDAs) along major transportation routes. Lower numbers of units are assigned to the four northern-most counties that have large conservation districts (PCAs) with the goal of preserving agricultural land and open space.

The Palo Alto City Council has had a number of issues with Plan Bay Area and its regional planning process. Based on recent jobs and housing statistics, the Council objected to the initial housing unit and employment projections feeling that they were too high. Plan Bay Area states that each local government retains local zoning control yet the SCS expects most housing development to be concentrated near transit nodes in PDAs and incentivizes the choice by assigning most of the regional transit funding in those PDAs. The ONE Bay Area Transportation Grant proposal requires that communities receiving transportation funds have

certified Housing Elements by June 2013. (Housing Elements place minimum expectations on the number of housing units realistically allowed by its zoning code.)

The goal of the Plan Bay Area proposal is to reduce the per capita generation of transportation-related greenhouse gases (GHG) to 15% below the 2005 numbers by 2040. Although the principal purpose of the SCS is to reduce GHG, rough estimates indicate that concentrating housing in PDAs only reduces greenhouse gas emissions by about 7-9%. Palo Alto Councilmember Pat Burt stated at the February 21, 2012, City Council meeting, that Plan Bay Area does not have high enough goals for reduction of greenhouse gases. He indicated that if the goal is to remove greenhouse gases there are better solutions such as Palo Alto's zero waste program.

Palo Alto designated the California Avenue area as its sole PDA area. The area was already zoned with a Pedestrian Transit Overlay District (PTOD). At the February 21, 2012, City Council meeting, Council directed staff to not include El Camino and the Downtown area as PDAs because they were afraid the City would be assigned more housing units if it had more designated areas of growth.

In addition to the Plan's numbers, the City finds two provisions of the Plan highly objectionable. First, there is a requirement that to receive transportation funds a city must have a Housing Element certified no later than June 2013 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Palo Alto's Housing Element is still being considered by the Planning and Transportation Commission and likely will not complete the certification process by June 2013. Further the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) would be based on a Plan Bay Area SCS that has not yet been approved. Second, the proposed prerequisites now include a resolution of intent to align the city's RHNA, PDAs and zoning consistent with the Bay Area SCS. The City feels that such a resolution is premature, as the Plan Bay Area SCS will not be adopted until June 2013. The City would like to have the transportation funding grants available to potential growth areas (PGAs) such as along El Camino. The City does support a complete streets policy.

Changes included in the latest draft Plan Bay Area are based upon comments submitted to MTC and ABAG from cities and counties including Palo Alto. Under the original projections, Palo Alto would have been expected to create 25,000 new jobs and 12,500 additional housing units by 2040. The new numbers

(continued on next page)

Plan Bay Area vs. Palo Alto (cont.)

are 29,270 new jobs, and 7,130 new housing units, an increase in jobs and a decrease in housing units. The proportion of transportation funds assigned to the PDAs has been reduced to about 50%. The growth projections will be reviewed every four years. Support for the Safe Routes to School program has been explicitly continued as well as funding for complete networks of bike paths. In the latest draft scenario, it is proposed that cities that produce affordable housing will receive credit (good for Palo Alto), however certified Housing Elements continue to be required. Palo Alto will again object to the requirement of a certified Housing Element; rather the City desires a requirement that there be a City-approved Housing Element. The next cycle for the One Bay Area Transportation Grants is 2013-2015, and applications will possibly be due this summer or early fall 2012 before the grant guidelines are finalized and before Palo Alto would be able to comply with the requirements.

The MTC and ABAG will consider adoption of the draft Jobs-Housing Connection Scenario and draft Transportation Investment Strategy at its combined meeting on May 11. The approved plans will

then be evaluated as part of the CEQA-required Program EIR which is expected to be completed between November 2012 and February 2013.

Whether or not the Plan Bay Area proposal is the best way to meet the Bay Area greenhouse gas emissions goals, if the Bay Area is going to grow, the region still needs to figure out how to house its population and locate its employment. Is it random growth or focused growth, and if focused growth, how will it be accomplished?

Sources:

Jobs-Housing Connection Scenario – Draft, Plan Bay Area, Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission, March 9, 2012-04-05

Alternative Land Uses Scenarios Report, Housing Needs Mandate Committee, City of Palo Alto, 2-23-2012

Attachment B: February 28, 2012 Palo Alto Letter to MTC re: One Bay Area Grant Program 27: Update of One Bay Area

Review of SCS Preferred Scenario, Housing Needs Mandate Committee Staff Report and attachments ID #2697, City of Palo Alto 4-19-2012



Advocacy Report

Palo Alto: Housing Element LWVPA sent a letter and we testified at the April 11 meeting of the Planning and Transportation Commission, encouraging the Commission to complete the **Housing Element**. No decision was made that night, but they passed it on May 9. It now goes to City Council.

California: DISCLOSE Act, AB 1148 Phyllis Cassel joined 90 other people testifying in favor of the **DISCLOSE Act** at the Assembly Appropriations Committee Hearing on April 18 in Sacramento. Her small group lobbied the staff of two Assembly persons from our district and they thanked Assemblymen Jerry Hill and Rich Gordon for co-sponsoring the bill.

California: AB 1585 and SB 1220 We responded to a call for action from LWVC to support this **housing bill** that will protect existing housing funds of dissolving redevelopment agencies. Letters of support went to Assemblyman Perez and Senator DeSaulnier.

National: Disclose 2012 Act Responding to a call to action from LWVUS, letters were sent to thank Congresswoman Eshoo for co-sponsoring the Disclose 2012 Act, HR 4010, and Senators Feinstein and Boxer for co-sponsoring the Disclose 2012 Act S.2219. Please thank them yourself. *Submitted by Phyllis Cassel*

LWVC Positions on June Ballot Measures

LWVC **supports Proposition 28, the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act**. This simple reform will help make our legislature more accountable and effective. The current limits on how many terms an individual can serve in the legislature would be replaced by a twelve-year limit on the total number of years one could serve—whether in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of the two.

LWVC has taken a **neutral** position on **Proposition 29, the California Cancer Research Act**. This measure would add a one-dollar per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, and law enforcement. While the League supports the causes underwritten by this measure, we believe that earmarking state revenue for specific expenses reduces the flexibility needed by the legislature in setting budgets to respond to current needs.

From LWVC April 4 News

The Rules Have Changed!

Our recent League meeting on the Initiative Process and Open Primary (April 26) provided much needed information about new Congressional and Legislative Districts and the confusing new Primary and Top Two system.

Joyce Tavrow, of the LWVC Committee on the Initiative Process and a LWVPA member, went back in history to describe **the origin of California's Direct Democracy and the growth of constitutional and statutory initiatives on our ballots**. An example of the initiative process, Proposition 11 in 2008 called for the establishment of a Citizens' Commission to draw up new boundaries for Congressional and Legislative Districts as required every ten years after the Census. The Citizens' Commission replaced the former process where Legislators agreed amongst themselves on their own and fellow Legislator district boundaries. **The June 5 Primary will use the new boundaries as a result of the passage of Propositions 11 and 20.**

Lianne Campodonico, LWVC Voter Service Director, provided a clear explanation of the new **Open Primary and Top Two voting systems**. When you see your ballot, you will notice that **candidates for Congress, California Legislature and the State Board of Equalization**, which were formerly on separate party ballots, **are now all together on each race**. For example, there are 24 candidates listed for the U.S. Senate race and they comprise members of all parties in California and also those who are not affiliated with any party. All voters, regardless of party or no party affiliation, will vote for a candidate on that list. The top two will then move to a run-off in November. Even if one candidate has more than 50% of the vote and the next one only has 10% of the vote, both will appear on the November General Election. This does not apply to non-partisan races such as County Supervisor or Judges. In these primary races, a candidate achieving more than 50% of the vote is elected automatically and there is no November run-off.

Confused? Check last month's *VOTER* for more detail (you can find it on our lwpaloalto.org website) and check our upcoming **Voters' Guide**.

We wish to **thank our co-sponsors** of this informative meeting attended by over 35 people: **Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, AAUW Palo Alto Branch and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce**. Also, thank you to **Betty Gerard** for arranging publicity and **Diane Rolfe** for community outreach.

Trina Lovercheck and Veronica Tincher



Evaluate the Candidates via SmartVoter.org links

Santa Clara County voters can evaluate candidates by watching videos **online** produced by various LWV chapters and various community media centers. The videos will be linked on SmartVoter.org on the page of the particular race. Here is the schedule when they are expected to be available.

- May 16 - Superior Court Judge No. 5 Candidate Statements
- May 16 - Superior Court Judge No. 7 Candidate Statements
- May 16 - Santa Clara County Supervisor Interviews
- May 23 - U.S. Congress 18th District Candidate Forum
- May 24 - State Assembly District 24 Candidate Forum
- May 24 - State Senate District 13 Candidate Forum

*Submitted by Elliot Margolies,
Midpeninsula Community Media Center*

Two Great Programs from the



The Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council invites LWVPA members to a free presentation:

"Iran Today and Its Place in the Nuclear Puzzle"

Martin Hellman, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University; Founder, nuclearrisk.org, and Ralph Kuiper, Chairperson, Peninsula Chapter, World Affairs Council

Wednesday, May 16

Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm
The Los Altos Youth Center
1 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos
For more information, call Carol Stevens 494-0757

The Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council, the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Los Altos Library

sponsor

"International Humanitarian Law and its Intersection with Technology Driven Warfare"

Professor Kate Jastram, Lecturer in Residence, University of California Berkeley Law School
Professor George R. Lucas, Jr., Professor of Ethics and Public Policy, Naval Postgraduate School

Wednesday, June 20

Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm
The Los Altos Youth Center
1 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos
For more information, call Carol Stevens 494-0757

The *VOTER* welcomes articles from you. Please submit them to: lwpvpaoffice@gmail.com or bbpucker@comcast.net. The deadline for the August *VOTER* is July 9!

The LWVPA Education Committee

will be meeting on
Thursday, June 14
at 2:45 pm ; location TBD
For more information, contact Nan Prince.

**Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto and
The Palo Alto Adult School present
An International Café Featuring
Iranian-born Author and Chef, Donia Bijan
Friday, May 18**

6:30 pm - assemble for beverages and greeting
7:00 pm - sample food from various countries
7:30 pm - Speaker Donia Bijan

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room

Free and open to public but seating is limited.

Please RSVP to Barbara Evans
(650) 856-0618, leave name and number

**Co-sponsored by AAUW Palo Alto and
League of Women Voters of Palo Alto**



Thanks to **Mitzi Henderson** for organizing the **Channing House mailing party** for the May *VOTER* and to **Isabel Arabian, Vivian Blomenkamp, Jean Colby, Mitzi**

Henderson, Gretchen Hillard, and Mary Alice Thornton for helping fold and seal that issue.

Also thanks to all the Board members who reviewed this *VOTER* and a special thanks to **Sally Probst and Trina Lovercheck** for their extra careful and invaluable proofreading.

Submitted by Bonnie Packer, VOTER editor

**Welcome New Member
Wynne Furth
We are delighted that you have joined our
League!**

The next meeting of the **LWVPA Book Club** will be **Friday, July 13, 10:00 am**, at Rosalie Lefkowitz's home, 3468 Greer Road, Palo Alto, to discuss:



"The Garden of the Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by **Erik Larson**

The compelling true story tells the experience of a mild-mannered professor from the Midwest who finds himself the ambassador to Germany in the early days of the Nazis' rise. His daughter's initial sympathy for the Nazis gradually gives way to a more realistic assessment of the regime.

The LWVPA Book Club meets every two months. All League members interested in discussing the current book are welcome.

Submitted by Betty Gerard

Marilyn Burnes

We are saddened by the news of the passing of Marilyn Burnes. Veronica Tincher remembers Marilyn as a long-time member of the League. She participated in League-a-thon for several years by calling our donors to raise funds for the League and by opening her home for membership program meetings. Marilyn was a loyal League member and supporter -- she will be missed.

It's easy to join the LWVPA —Do it now! You will be glad you did.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

National, State, Bay Area and Palo Alto.

Men are encouraged to join. Dues grants are available.

For more information, call the League office (650) 327-9148.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ email _____

Annual membership: \$70. Additional membership, same address: \$35. Student membership: \$35.

Mail check with this form to LWVPA, 953 Industrial Ave., Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Membership dues to the LWVPA are not tax deductible.

League of Women Voters of Palo Alto
953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 327-9148

Address Services Requested

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How to contact your elected officials:

UNITED STATES

President Obama (202) 456-1414
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>

Senator Feinstein (415) 393-0707
<http://feinstein.senate.gov> - click "email me"

Senator Boxer (415) 403-0100
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm>

Rep. Anna Eshoo (650) 323-2984
<http://eshoo.house.gov/>

CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown (916) 445-2841
<http://gov.ca.gov/interact>

Senator Joe Simitian (650) 688-6384
<http://www.senatorsimitian.com/main/contact>

Assemblyman Rich Gordon (650) 691-2121
<http://asmcd.org/members/a21/>

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Liz Kniss (650) 965-8737
liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org

LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Locate your elected officials with your street address
<http://www.guidetogovernment.org/>

CALENDAR

Sat, May 12, 9 - noon
LWVPA Annual Meeting
First Presbyterian, Cowper

Fri, May 18, 6:30 pm
State Senate, Assembly
Candidates Forum
Cupertino

Sat, May 19, all day
LWC Leaders Council
Sacramento

Thu, May 24, 7 pm
Judge Candidates Forum
Mountain View

Tue, June 5, 7 am - 8 pm
Primary Election
Your precinct polling place

Wed, June 6, 7 - 9:30 pm
LWVPA Board Meeting
Tincher

June 8-12
LWVUS Nat'l Convention
Washington, D.C.

Thu, June 14, 2:45 pm
Education Committee
Location TBD

Sat, June 23, morning
LWVPA Board Retreat
Moldaw Residences

Tue, July 3, 7- 9:30 pm
LWVPA Board Meeting
location TBD

Mon, July 9, noon
August VOTER Deadline

Fri, July 13, 10 am
LWVPA Book Club
Lefkowitz

Tue, Aug 7, 7- 9:30 pm
LWVPA Board Meeting
location TBD

Thu, Aug 23, 7 - 9 pm
Summer Social
Garden Court Hotel