



SPRING 2004

Volume 10 • Number 1

Coalition Against Gun Violence is a non-profit coalition united against gun violence and committed to creating a safer community for Santa Barbara County residents.

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SAVE THE DATE: May 16th



CAGV Brings “JUVIES” Back To Santa Barbara

Arrested at age 15, Liz serves her sentence at an adult woman's state prison.

by Lisa O'Hagan 2003

The documentary film, “Juvies,” first shown at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, will be shown admission-free under the auspices of the CAGV at the new Marjorie Luke Theater located on the campus of Santa Barbara Junior High School, 721 East Cota Street, Sunday, May 16, at 3:00 P.M. The film’s message cries out to be brought to the larger community. Under present laws, thousands of young people are being tried and sentenced as adults, often given Draconian sentences vastly disproportionate to the severity of their offense. Many become embroiled in the law because of easy access to guns, hence the Coalition’s involvement. The complexity of this problem has evoked wide interest; therefore other community groups are endorsing the event or assisting us with it, including the Teen Legal Clinic, CASA, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Santa Barbara Pro-Youth Coalition, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Glendon Association.

A panel discussion will follow, to be moderated by Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson, which will include Judge Frank Ochoa, Juvenile Justice District Attorney Jeff Gittler, Public Defender Karen Atkins, other leading juvenile justice system professionals, and young people. The audience will be invited to ask questions of the panelists to learn about juvenile justice in our community and the resources various entities provide, as well as directing questions about the documentary to the director and the panelists.

Prior to the film’s showing, a gala reception honoring the director of “Juvies,”

Leslie Neale, will be held at the theater at 2:00 P.M. Reception attendees will be seated in a special reserved section. While the film and panel discussion are admission-free, money raised at the reception will hopefully provide us with the funds we need to carry on our work. If you are able to be a sponsor or to help underwrite this public event, it would be greatly appreciated.

Ed. Note: Please note that the reception will be our ONLY fund-raising activity for the year; we will not have our usual fall dinner because of the urgent need for all individuals to focus on the coming presidential election.

About the Documentary

For two years, the director of “Juvies,” Leslie Neale, taught a video production class at Los Angeles Central Juvenile Hall to 12 juveniles who were all being tried as adults. “Juvies” is the product of that class. Narrated by actor Mark Wahlberg, himself a former juvenile offender, “Juvies” follows the lives of a group of young people who will serve most, if not all of their lives behind bars. The kids talk about the mistakes they made and what they would do if they had the chance to do things differently. They exhibit courage in the midst of the most despairing conditions. And they force us to ask, “Why is this happening? Why have we allowed it to happen? And what can we do now to change laws that we as a citizenry have allowed to be enacted?”

America’s juvenile justice system was originally designed to keep youth out of the adult prison system. However, thousands of kids are now being thrown behind bars in adult prison. Youth in adult prisons receive little or no education or rehabilitation, and youth jailed with adults are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted and eight times more likely to commit suicide than youth detained in juvenile facilities. In adult facilities, 47% of juveniles suffer violent victimization, including violence at the hands of staff.



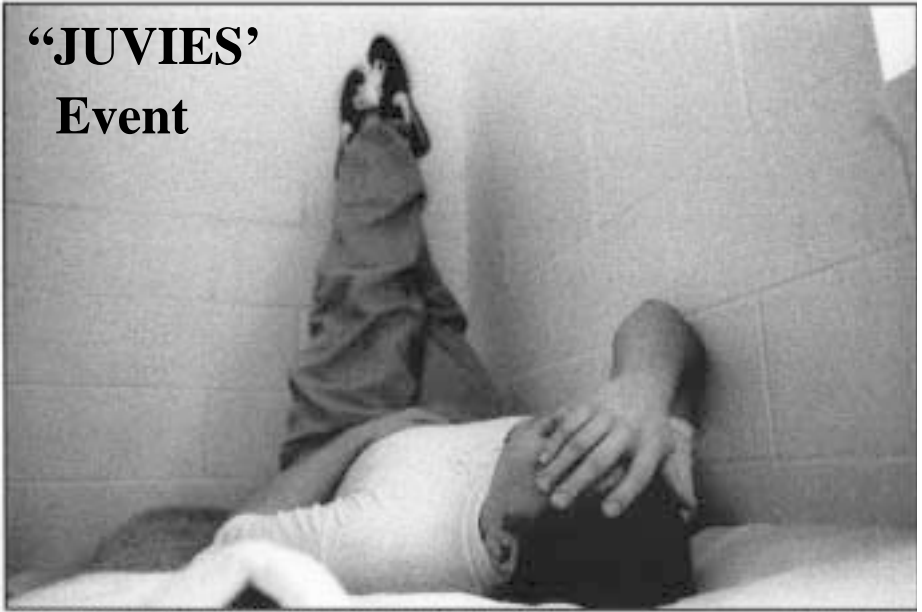
Teen Legal Clinic

Co-Sponsors

We are very pleased to have the collaboration of the **Teen Legal Clinic** in planning for the May 16th "Juvies" event. By way of introduction, the following provides information about this important community organization.

The **Santa Barbara Teen Legal Clinic** is a panel of pro bono attorneys who give free legal advice and representation in many areas including: civil rights, emancipation, guardianship, health care, immigration, pregnant and parenting minors, education, truancy, suspension, expulsion and advice on criminal issues. Their mission is to educate youths on their legal rights and responsibilities and to empower them to make decisions that will allow them to grow into responsible and productive adults in our community. As attorneys, they represent children and teens one-on-one and observe strict attorney-client confidentiality.

"JUVIES" Event



200,000 kids are prosecuted as adults each year in the United States.

(c) Art DeGagne 2003

The Teen Legal Clinic also runs the Street Law Program which puts lawyers and law students in the classroom teaching junior high and high school students their rights and responsibilities, in hopes that this knowledge will create a citizenship with not only an increased interest in the law, but a deeper respect for the entire legal system.

TV Violence Increasing: What Are Your Kids Watching?

WAR TV: The Hidden Casualties

A study by the Parents Television Council (PTC) finds that television shows that depict fighting, shootings, blood and gore are on the increase. (*Associated Press*-12-10-03). We also know that teenagers' exposure to violence is linked to increased use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The PTC analyzed prime-time shows that aired on the six major broadcast networks, ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, WB, and UPN, during the first two weeks of Nov. 2003. Fox had the most shows with violence, followed closely by CBS. NBC was the only network where shows with violence declined. "In both quantity and quality, it is getting worse," said Brent Bozell, founder of PTC. "I think it is a cause for concern."

How does the exposure of the real violence of the war in Iraq affect children? During the first days of America's invasion of Iraq, regular programming was pre-empted on all major networks. Though powerless to stop the visual aspects of this war and the actions of suicide terrorists, as caretakers of our nation's youth we must be prepared to deal with its impact on kids. Adults know that violence and death are real. Not so for most children. Playing violent video games, watching violent cartoons and movies, children become inured to violence as they see the characters and actors walk away.

Add to the fact that many American youths don't have far to look to find easy access to alcohol and guns. They only need to look into their parents' liquor or gun cabinet. A study (1995 survey of 18,500 youths aged 12 to 18 in Sept. 2002 issue of

Injury Prevention) found about 29% of adolescents report having easy access to alcohol at home. About 24% said they had ready access to a gun, with shotguns and rifles being the most common. About 2 million youths (10%) reported that they had access to both alcohol and guns at home. Of particular interest, the study found that adolescents who were white, living with both parents, not receiving welfare, and had mothers who are highly educated were more likely to report having access to guns or alcohol. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control said that prevention efforts should focus on white, middle class families who are not traditionally considered high risk.

Video Game Violence: What Are Your Kids Playing?

"Manhunt," a newly released video game for PlayStation 2 which comes from Rockstar Games (rated M for 17 and older) "pushes the envelope with its violent content," the *Associated Press* reported Jan. 27, 2004.

The game is centered on a convicted killer named James Earl Cash, who is about to be executed. Instead of being injected with lethal drugs, he is given sedatives. The player of the game then leads Cash through a Midwestern town killing thugs and gang members in a number of violent ways. The player may advance 20 levels and is rated on a five-star scale on the brutality of their killings.

Parents need to carefully monitor the video games their children play, as violence is not a game we want our children playing.



SEND A MESSAGE TO STATE LEGISLATURE BAN THE SALE OF .50-CALIBER SNIPER RIFLES IN EVERY CALIFORNIA LOCALITY

Contra Costa County Unanimously Passed Ordinance Banning Sale of .50-Caliber Sniper Rifles (3-24-04)

The Spring and Summer issues, 2003 (Vol. 9 Nos. 2 and 3), of CAGV's newsletter included articles about the lethality and threat to public safety of .50-caliber rifles. We reported that the Los Angeles City Council banned the sale of these weapons in June of 2003, an action firmly supported by Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton.

The CAGV hopes our communities on the South Coast will take similar action, joining a groundswell of opinion that deems this firearm inappropriate for civilian use. Our local law enforcement officials have stated that this is strictly a military-type weapon and should not be in civilian hands or even used by law enforcement personal.

Currently several localities are considering the ban following the lead of Los Angeles City and now Contra Costa County: San Francisco City and County, Los Angeles County, Cities of Long Beach and Santa Cruz.

"I believe it's our responsibility in terms of health, safety and welfare to move ahead with this ordinance," said Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema of Lafayette, who sponsored a measure to ban firearms dealers from selling and distributing .50-caliber sniper rifles in Contra Costa County's unincorporated areas.

To highlight the weapon's destructive power, Contra Costa County supervisors showed a Marine training video of a .50-caliber rifle blowing holes in a 3 1/2 inch thick manhole cover and a stack of 8-inch thick cinder blocks.

The Contra Costa County board voted 4-0 to ban this military-type weapon. The ban will go into effect 30-days after a scheduled second reading April 6, 2003. The board plans to magnify the ordinance's impact by urging cities throughout the county to adopt similar measures.

The usual irrational comments came from about 20 gun advocates who blasted the supervisors for passing a meaningless ordinance that they said violates their Second Amendment rights. The legislation hurts gun owners, but does nothing to combat terrorism, said Al Di Prima, a Concord resident. "After 9/11, we didn't ban airplanes or tall buildings because we were afraid of terrorism," he said. "After the Oklahoma City bombing we didn't ban Chevy vans and fertilizer."

The California Rifle and Pistol Association intends to file a complaint. Responding to accusations that adoption of the ordinance was fiscally irresponsible when the county faced budget problems, Juliet Leftwich, managing attorney for the nonprofit Legal Community Against Gun Violence, offered to help the board find pro-bono legal help to defend against lawsuits from gun lobbyists.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) has introduced a state ban on selling .50-caliber rifles in California. The Senate Public Safety Committee is reviewing the bill. This bill did not pass in committee last session, which is why localities are now taking up the cause to ban the sale of this weapon.

SECOND AMENDMENT SETTLED AGAIN BY SUPREME COURT

The United States Supreme Court, in December 2003, refused to hear a Second Amendment challenge to California's strongest-in-the-nation Assault Weapons Ban.

The case at issue, *Silveira v. Lockyer*, 312F3d1052 (9th Cir. 2002), represents a Second Amendment challenge to the state's assault weapons ban law. The NRA had filed a "friend of the court" brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the *Silveira* decision, but the Court declined. The NRA's brief also opposed the Appeals Court ruling that the Second Amendment confers a right to possess and use firearms only in connection with state militia activities. The High Court's action leaves undisturbed an earlier ruling by the U.S. 9th District Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the California Assault Weapons Ban statute and represents the Court's continuation of its Second Amendment "hands off" policy.

This action by the High Court has special significance in light of a letter to the NRA (May 2001) from U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, reversing the Justice Department's interpretation of the Second Amendment. Ashcroft asserted a view

contrary to the U.S. Supreme Court, saying that the amendment protects an individual right to gun ownership. Ashcroft's assertion is in opposition to all federal court decisions regarding this issue spanning 60 years. The Court addressed the meaning of the Second Amendment in *U.S. v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), holding that the 'obvious purpose' of the Amendment was to assure the continuation of the state militia. **The Second Amendment reads as follows: A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.**

Since *Miller*, lower courts have considered Second Amendment challenges in hundreds of cases, not one of which has struck down a gun law on the basis of the Amendment. Additionally, the *Silveira* decision marks the sixth defeat for legal challenges to California's Assault Weapons Ban, originally passed in 1989 and strengthened since.

The NRA chooses to ignore the well-established judicial interpretation of the Second Amendment, arguing instead that the Amendment guarantees every American the unfettered right to possess firearms – even assault weapons.



Million Mom March to Urge Congress “Halt the Assault” on Child Safety

The Million Mom March (MMM) along with the Brady Campaign is gearing up for a long weekend of activities focused on the assault weapon ban, closing the gun show loophole and countering the NRA's lobbying power. Concerned citizens, community leaders, gun violence victims, a coalition of state-based gun safety groups and many thousands of supporters across the nation hope to make a statement during this election year.

“There are war casualties all around us. We need to stand up and say we've had enough,” said Shikha Hamilton, official spokesperson for the Mother's Day March. “America's mothers have had enough. We are calling a timeout in the war against the next generation – our children.”

The weekend will be preceded by events throughout America urging rational steps to reduce gun violence through legislation, public education, lobbying and other activities. Further details of the weekend will be posted of the official website, www.mmm2004.com

Essence Communications Partners and ESSENCE magazine have agreed to underwrite some of the event's costs and to reach out aggressively to attract supporters over the next three months.

The festivities will begin Saturday, May 8th with **The NRA Blacklist Ball** (have you signed onto that list?—www.NRABlacklist.com). On Sunday, there will be a large

Mother's Day March. Monday, May 10th will be Lobby Day where participants will meet with legislators to gain support for gun control legislation.



“Since our last march (May 2000 pictured above), 120,000 Americans – almost 14,000 of them children – have died from gun violence. We are deeply disappointed that Congress hasn't made progress – instead is trying to turn back the clock on the progress we've made,” said Mary Leigh Blek, president emeritus of the MMM. “We are resolute, and we won't rest until our children are safer.”

Brady Campaign Sues Justice Department Over Assault Weapon Law

(Associated Press 3-19-04)

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence lawsuit filed against the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Justice Department and Edgar Domenech, acting director of the ATF, claims the ATF permitted gun makers to replace the housing for the firing mechanism on semiautomatic assault weapons. “By allowing gun makers to manufacture new receivers, ATF has been allowing the manufacture of new assault weapons, in contravention of the statute,” the Brady Campaign said in a statement. Correspondence gathered through the Freedom of Information Act showed that the ATF outlined for Bushmaster Firearms how to replace receivers in semiautomatic weapons and obtain new serial numbers. This will ensure that thousands of grandfathered assault weapons will remain functional.

STATE LEGISLATION Two Important Gun Control Bills

- California will become the first state in the nation to require guns to have two new safety devices under a bill that was signed September 24, 2003 by then Governor Davis. Gun safety advocates said the bill, which will require semiautomatic pistols to have both a chamber load indicator and a magazine disconnect device by 2007, will make the state safer and bolster California's reputation for tough gun laws. The bill requires gun manufacturers to add indicators that show if there is a bullet in the chamber or make it impossible to fire if the ammunition magazine is not inserted in the gun.

“If this had been a law a long time ago, my son might be alive,” said Lynn Tsumoto Dix, whose 15-year old son was killed when his teenage friend shot him with a gun both boys thought was empty.

- A gun safety bill authored by Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-SB) was also signed into law on September 24, 2003. Ms. Jackson's AB1290 prohibits anyone who is the subject of emergency protective orders due to stalking and/or restraining orders for elder abuse, from owning, purchasing, possessing or receiving a firearm while the order is in effect.



Politics and Gun Control – An Unusual Victory

On March 2nd the Senate overwhelmingly rejected a measure to shield gun manufacturers and dealers from lawsuits and immunize the gun industry from civil liability (S. 1805, named the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act). The defeat came after Republicans abruptly withdrew their support from the bill because Democrats had tacked on amendments to renew the 10-year assault weapons ban and require background checks on customers at gun shows, as well as an amendment to include child-proof locks (authored by Sen. Boxer (D-CA) when selling handguns). The two former amendments were issues Bush, prior to his election, said that he would not oppose, which does not translate to support.

By defeating the immunity bill the amendments went down with it. However, the Senate had taken two historic steps in approving the renewal of the 1994 assault weapons ban and closing the gun show sales loophole. The proposals passed as amendments to the gun industry immunity legislation then being debated. The passage of the amendments – by votes of 52 to 47 and 53 to 46 respectively – on the assault weapons ban and the gun show sales loophole mark major victories. Police officers and gun violence prevention advocates have been fighting hard to renew the 10-year-old historic legislation that bans 19 different kinds of military assault weapons, including AK-47s and Uzis, and to close the gun show loophole.

The lockstep reversal to S. 1805 was in response to emergency actions by the NRA. Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the NRA, sent email messages to senators urging them to reject the bill due to the passage of the amendments. Some Senate Democrats who supported immunity were spotted reading the email message on their pagers within minutes after a copy of the message was being circulated. “I’m a bit numb,” Senator Feinstein (D-CA), lead sponsor of the assault weapons ban, said after the final vote. “They [the NRA] had the power to turn around at least 60 votes in the Senate. That’s amazing to me.”

Gun control advocates were viewing this as a victory while realizing the gun lobby will not be deterred. Backers of the immunity bill that would shield gun makers and dealers from lawsuits, so long as they did not sell defective weapons or violate any laws, vowed to try again.

The prevailing political wisdom, as proposed mostly by the media (and Americans for Gun Safety - a more conservative gun control organization) is that Democrats shouldn’t talk about gun control. However, the *Washington Post Weekly* (3-17-04) found the opposite, “that when a Democratic candidate doesn’t say where he stands on guns, most voters assume he holds the default liberal position.” What is the default liberal position? They don’t elaborate.



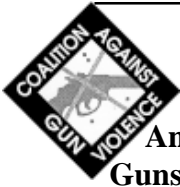
Democrats, many of whom had been backing away from the issue since 2000, embraced the assault weapons ban, trigger locks and background checks. Sen. Kerry delivered an eight-minute speech on the Senate floor in support of the amendments. Kerry is said to have placed the gun issue on assault weapons firmly back into the presidential debate.

The assault weapons ban, enacted in 1994, expires in September and the failure of the immunity bill (and its amendments) left its future in doubt. Backers of legislation extending the ban* said they would attempt to pass it on its own or try to tack the measure onto other bills; though it is unclear if they can generate the 60 votes necessary to overcome a Republican filibuster.

It is politically interesting that five Democrats and three Republicans voted in favor of final passage. This puts Senator Tom Daschle, the minority leader in a political quandary. He faces a tough re-election race in South Dakota, where many of his constituents favor gun owner’s rights. Daschle voted in favor of the assault weapons ban and background checks, but was a co-sponsor with Sen. Craig of the immunity bill. He appeared to be mystified that Republicans would defeat the “bipartisan gun liability legislation” he and Craig have worked on because of two provisions he believes are supported by both President Bush and a dozen Republicans.

Also mystified was Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) who was chief sponsor of the gun show bill, and stated, “I’ve been around here 18 years and I’ve never seen anything quite this bizarre.”

* *The Two Assault Weapon Ban Bills: Sen. Feinstein’s bill—The Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003 (S. 1034) and Sen. Lautenberg’s bill—The Assault Weapon Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003 (S. 1431). Both bills have almost the same 14 co-sponsors.*



Ashcroft & NRA Win

Anyone – Criminals & Terrorists – Can Now Buy
Guns “Secretly” as Records Wiped Clean In 24 Hours

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Explosives (ATF) is no longer releasing gun-source data under the Freedom of Information Act. The information was often used by the media and researchers for studies on gun dealers and gun crimes. (*Associated Press* 2-14-04)

Release of information ended when Congress passed a spending bill for multiple government agencies in January. The bill contained an amendment restricting access to information on the source of guns used in crimes.

Under the measure, only law-enforcement agencies have access to information gathered about gun dealers. In addition, information obtained during background checks of gun applicants will now be kept for just 24 hours instead of 90 days (which had been the law under the Brady Bill.)

“This is all part of a calculated strategy to basically shut off the flow of information,” said Dennis Henigan, legal director for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. “It’s an effort to make sure that lawmakers, scholars, cities and the general public not have information that could actually inform public policy.”

How Terrorists Could Benefit

Though the FBI has a background check system that notifies counter terrorism agents when suspects on its terrorist watch list attempt to buy guns, the Justice Department rules now prohibit those same officials from obtaining details when a buy is actually made. Thus a terrorist suspect/gun shopper may be traced by agents, but Justice Department officials are now barred from sharing information with investigators about those who succeed in buying the weapons. So if a terrorist buys a weapon in the U.S., the Justice Department’s policy is to refuse to reveal his location to law enforcement officials.

An al-Qaeda training manual recovered by U.S. forces in Afghanistan included a chapter on the ease with which firearms can be obtained in the U.S.; it urged followers to “obtain an assault rifle legally, preferably an AK-47 or variations.” AK-47s are prohibited under the current Assault Weapon Ban; however, modifications are made to slightly alter the weapon thereby changing its classification.

Deborah Barron, a spokeswoman for Americans for Gun Safety, says: “2004 is going to be the biggest year in the gun-safety debate since the Brady Bill passed, and there is going to be a lot of pressure on Congress to pass responsible legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of criminals.”

NRA Seeks to Buy TV Station

The National Rifle Association (NRA) is in the market for a television or radio station so it can avoid spending limits under federal campaign-finance laws for the 2004 general election, the *Associated Press* reported (12-6-04).

The 2002 campaign-finance law prevents the NRA, which is funded in part from corporate money, from airing commercials that mention federal candidates listed on states’ ballots during the period just before elections. But as a media organization, the NRA would be free to communicate what it wants about candidates, and spend corporate money to do so in the form of commercials. They are exploring various funding sources to purchase a broadcast outlet. The NRA may also pursue a campaign-finance law exemption on the grounds that they are one of the largest magazine publishers (about 12 publications) in the United States and provide news over the Internet.

Financial Woes for NRA?

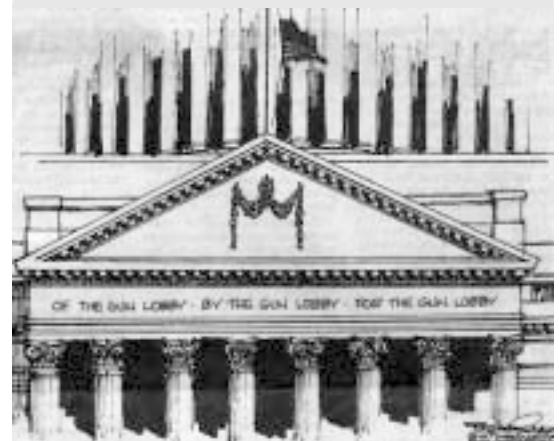
According to IRS filings and NRA records in 2000, when the membership was at a 10-year high, expenses outstripped revenues by \$20.4 million. Wayne R. LaPierre, Jr., Executive VP and chief executive stated that, “Winning takes million of dollars beyond what individual members’ dues cover. Today, if we were faced with a full-blown legislative assault, we simply would not have the war chest.”

One of the largest and most powerful grass-roots groups in the country, the NRA relies heavily on membership dues, but since 2000 membership has slid about 20% from 4.3 million to about 3.4 million. Some members feel the culprit is complacency because they have a Republican in the White House and a Republican Congress. In 2002 they spent \$25 million on TV advertising in political races.

They are also having internal political squabbles over who should control the money and the power. Legal experts on nonprofits and bankruptcy don’t agree about the deficit consequences. One says it doesn’t mean anything, another says they won’t be able to sustain the activities they are currently engaged in.

Members receive a variety of services, but their biggest expectation is that the NRA will successfully lobby against legislation restricting gun use. The NRA lobbied against the McCain-Feingold Campaign Reform Act, national legislation to prohibit lawsuits against gun makers, distributors and dealers (both efforts failed). However, they have persuaded more than 30 states to adopt legislation prohibiting such lawsuits.”

As to the significance of these declines in NRA fortunes, many members believe that the membership “will step” up when needed.





California Handgun Sales Decline

The year 2003 had fewest sales ever recorded in the state since the state began keeping records 30 years ago, according to the state Department of Justice. Sales peaked in 1993 even as the state's population has increased by 70% from about 20 million in 1972 to over 34 million in 2004.

In 2003, 126,233 handguns were sold compared to 433,822 in 1993. (NOTE: Handgun sales began falling sharply in the mid-1990s long before Gov. Gray Davis enacted recent gun laws.)

Handgun sales in 2001 (the last year on record) also fell nationwide as production was at the lowest levels on record, according to the ATF. The declining demand for handguns has led to a sharp drop in national handgun production, which fell below the one-million mark for the first time since records began 20 years ago.

Jan Roth, State Council President of the Million Mom March united with the Brady Campaign, said, "This remarkable decrease in handgun sales represents a sea-change in public attitudes towards handguns as families decide that they are safer without having handguns lying around. Even as the population has nearly doubled in the last 30 years, handgun sales have dropped sharply."

Ed. Note: Readers may speculate on how and what gun manufacturers are doing to maintain market share and revenues. Even a family that wants to have a gun may only need one. Since a handgun is a durable item, it is unlike other "household items" that require replacement, and owners may not wish to replace or upgrade this product. Gun manufacturers respond by attempting to lure gun enthusiasts with more lethal and high-tech weapons. We are also seeing a more visible NRA lobbying for fewer restrictions on their ability to sell any type of firearm and keeping this industry free of any type of government control.

GUESS WHO ARE BIG GUN OWNERS NOW?

Bulletin from the AARP Feb. 2004



A woman checks out a rifle at a show in Orlando, Fla., for gun enthusiasts.

Surprisingly, people age 65 and older are the citizens most likely to own a gun. "Our latest survey shows 36% of all Americans age 65 and older personally own a gun," says Tom Smith, Director of the General Social Survey at the University of Chicago. He says this age bracket's rate of ownership began to rise in the late 1990's and by 2002 overtook younger groups by a significant margin. (Note: in this edition, 72.9% of elderly suicides involved firearms in 2000). More research is needed to determine why older people own the most firearms; it may be because younger Americans are buying fewer guns.

Guns Not Just Used By Criminals

- **In 2000, 56.5% of suicides (16,586) were committed using a firearm.**

Source: Minino A., Arias E., Kochanek K., Murphy S., and Smith B. (2002) Deaths: Final data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports, 50(15), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

- **In 2000, 72.9% of suicides committed by the elderly involved firearms.**

Source: Minino A., Arias E., Kochanek K., Murphy S., and Smith B. (2002) Deaths: Final data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports, 50(15), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

- **In 2000, 58.6% of suicides committed by young people involved firearms.**

Source: Minino A., Arias E., Kochanek K., Murphy S., and Smith B. (2002) Deaths: Final data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports, 50(15), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

What is happening daily in the U.S. is day-to-day violence. The F.B.I.'s annual Uniform Crime Report on gun deaths in 2001 stated that the number of people murdered in the U.S., exclusive of the Sept.11 attacks, was a staggering 15,980. There were no headlines accompanying this disclosure because more than 15,000 people are murdered in the U.S. every year, most of them by firearms. Despite this terrible toll there is tremendous resistance, led by the NRA to any type of gun control. The NRA opposes renewing the Assault Weapon Ban, closing the gun show sales loophole and ballistic fingerprinting, to name just a few laws that might save lives. The NRA boasts that they are now in the Oval office. We must remember that the first job of any government entity is to ensure the safety of the public. However, with more than 15,000 homicide victims a year, neither the Executive nor Legislative branch of government has been able to lower the death toll from gun deaths in America.



CASA Joins CAGV Coalition

The Coalition is pleased to welcome a new partner organization: **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** of Santa Barbara County. **CASA** is a local non-profit organization that recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate in juvenile dependency court for our community's abused and neglected children.

CASA serves children from age newborn to 18. Each volunteer undergoes a 40-hour training and is then assigned to a child that has been appointed to **CASA** by the juvenile court judge. The volunteer performs a long list of duties for the court and spends time with the child weekly until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS • A GROWING COALITION

American Association of University Women, Goleta Valley • American Association of University Women, Santa Barbara
American Association of University Women, Santa Maria • Anti-Defamation League, Santa Barbara • Building Bridges
CALM (Child Abuse Listening Mediation) • CASA • Casa de la Raza • Community Mediation Program
Conflict Management Institute • Congregation B'nai B'rith • Congregation B'nai B'rith Temple Sisterhood
Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse • Democratic League • Democratic Women • Domestic Violence Solutions for SB County
Everyday Gandhis • Families Against Violence Advocacy Network • Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara • Glendon Association
Green Party • Hadassah, S.B. Chapter • Junior League of Santa Barbara • Latinos for Better Government • League of Women Voters
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Social Concerns Committee • NAACP, Santa Barbara Chapter • Pacific Pride Foundation
Peace Education Project • Physicians for Social Responsibility • Santa Barbara Area Council of PTAs • Santa Barbara Friends (Quakers)
Santa Barbara Jewish Community Relations Council • Santa Barbara Pro Youth Coalition • Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center
Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics • Santa Barbara Women Lawyers • Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Social Concerns Commission
United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Barbara • United Nations Association, SB Chapter
Us Foundation • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • Zona Seca

COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE A Project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

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This newsletter is published quarterly by Coalition Against Gun Violence, a non-profit coalition (a project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation) united against gun violence and committed to creating a safer community for Santa Barbara County residents. All members volunteer their time and all funds come from grants and/or donations from interested and dedicated individuals. Please address all correspondence to **CAGV Newsletter** to the address below. **Contributing writers:** Toni Wellen • **Editors:** Ilene Pritikin, Toni Wellen • **Webmaster:** Laura Lynch
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