

# SONOMA CIVIL LIBERTIES

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## THIS ISSUE:

**COME TO AWARDS CEREMONY & DINNER FEBRUARY 3RD**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SUSAN B. JORDAN**

**SONOMA LIBRARY CHIEF ROGER PEARSON**

**TO RECEIVE JACK GREEN CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARD**

EDITED BY STEVEN FABIAN

## SUSAN B. JORDAN KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 2001 AWARDS CEREMONY & ANNUAL DINNER

When Susan B. Jordan started practicing criminal defense and civil rights law 30 years ago, she entered a field where no women existed. She had to endure indignities: not being taken seriously, being insulted by judges and more. That did not deter her. She formed the first all women criminal defense firm in the country and represented a long list of political clients from Marilyn Buck (reputed member of *Black Liberation Army*), Mark Goldstein (charged with harboring a fugitive from a *Venceramos* sponsored prison escape), Judi Bari of *Earth First!*, *Symbionese Liberation Army* member Emily Harris (Patty Hearst kidnap) and most recently, reputed SLA member Sara Jane Olson (conspiracy to bomb L.A. police officers). Nationally renowned, she is

credited for developing the battered woman syndrome defense in her representation of Inez Garcia (acquitted of killing the man who raped her). Susan has been involved in many civil rights cases *Tamara A. v. Berkeley Unified School Board* (civil rights suit on behalf of 12 minors and their mothers arising from sexual molestation and harassment by a teacher) *U.S. v. Ukiah Cannabis Buyers Cooperative* (defending a marijuana club against the government's attempt to close it), and numerous sexual harassment and discrimination suits against law enforcement offices and financial institutions.

Susan's address is entitled: *Old Story, New Plot Line: Police Misconduct and the War on Drugs in Sonoma County, or You Don't Have to Live in L.A. Anymore.*

## ROGER PEARSON, SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY CHIEF TO RECEIVE 2001 JACK GREEN AWARD

Since 1989, the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award has been presented to Sonoma County residents who have promoted civil liberties in our county.

Roger Pearson has been the director of the Sonoma County Library System since 1996. Normally a "quiet" position, he found himself in the middle of a firestorm for the past two years when Sonoma County libraries were placed on the *10 Most Unsafe For Children List* (only twenty libraries were examined, no scientific study was used in formulating the list). A local group, *Help Oppose Pornography's Exploitation*, immediately began pressuring the Library Commission to censor the Internet by installing "filters" on all library computers.

Filters are computer software programs produced by private companies that block access to Internet sites. Companies selling filters refuse to state the criteria used to determine when sites should be blocked or list which sites are banned, stating such information are proprietary trade secrets. Filters block on the basis of a list of "key words" or "objectionable content." Filters using key words do not discern the context such words are used in.

Blocking on content typically blocks access to sites that contain First Amendment protected content. Filters have blocked access to *The Bible*, *U.S. Constitution*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Examiner* and many other sites.

The attacks on the Library Commission by *HOPE* soon degenerated into personal attacks on Roger Pearson and the Commission. The campaign against the Library greatly increased Pearson's workload, requiring him to spend hundreds of hours dealing with Internet issues and the furor it raised in our community. Despite the attacks, Roger Pearson, the members of the Library Commission and the local governing boards all voted unanimously to maintain a policy of free access and individual choice and responsibility. Pearson stood firm in following the *American Library Association's* policy that communications over the Internet deserve the highest level of Constitutional protection and that the role of libraries is to provide ideas and information across the spectrum of social and political thought, regardless of storage medium, and to make these ideas and information available to anyone who needs or wants it.

**COME TO THE CELEBRATION!**

**2001 ACLU AWARDS CEREMONY & ANNUAL DINNER**

**FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**PROGRESSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY, LAW PROFESSOR, PILOT**

**SUSAN B. JORDAN**

***OLD STORY, NEW PLOT LINE: POLICE MISCONDUCT & THE WAR ON  
DRUGS IN SONOMA COUNTY, OR YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN L.A.  
ANYMORE***

**2001 JACK GREEN CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARD WINNER:**

**ROGER PEARSON**

***DIRECTOR OF SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARIES - REFUSED TO CENSOR  
INTERNET ACCESS IN OUR LIBRARIES***

**PUBLIC IS INVITED**

**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> - 6:00 P.M.**

**SEBASTOPOL VETERAN'S AUDITORIUM 282 HIGH STREET, SEBASTOPOL**

**FEATURING: DINNER (VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE), SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLE & AWARD CEREMONY  
\$20 (\$10 LOW INCOME) FOR PAID RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BY JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, \$25 (\$15 LOW INCOME) THEREAFTER  
NEVER BEEN AN ACLU MEMBER? – JOIN NOW & DINNER'S FREE!**

**INFORMATION: 765-5005 • VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.aclusonoma.org](http://www.aclusonoma.org).**

Send Check with Form to: ACLU OF SONOMA COUNTY, P.O. BOX 14181, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402 CNV

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Dinners (\$20; \$25 after 1/26): \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Low Income (\$10; \$15 after 1/26): \_\_\_\_\_

**I WANT TO JOIN THE ACLU & GET THE FREE DINNER(S)!      BASIC INDIVIDUAL: \$20 (1 FREE DINNER) \_\_\_\_\_**

**BASIC JOINT: \$30 (2 FREE DINNERS) \_\_\_\_\_      CONTRIBUTING: \$50 (2 FREE DINNERS) \_\_\_\_\_**

**I Will Place a Dinner Program Ad (\$25 - enclose business card): \_\_\_\_\_ I Will Bring a Raffle Prize to the Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_**

**I Will Donate to the Silent Auction (Receive Recognition for Your Business or Service): \_\_\_\_\_**

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