



# Palm Beach County Chapter

Winter 2005

Vol. 2 No.1

*Working to Defend Individual Rights*

Inside this issue:

- Annual Meeting-----pg 1
- Letter from President---pg 2
- H. Glasner Award-----pg 3
- Legal Committee -----pg 3
- EMA-----pg 4
- Unconstitutional-----pg 4

## 2004 Annual Meeting

The chapter held its annual meeting and election of board members at the Atlantis Country Club on Sunday November 14. About 2% of our 2,200 members attended. We know there was a problem with the mailing of the newsletter which served as your invitation. And it was a rainy day. Next year our goal is to get 10% of our members to attend.

Entertainment was provided by the musical duo "Spanky Monkey", Peter Hearn and Keith Berger. They transported us back to the days of the protest movements of



the 60's and 70's with a few songs, including Simon & Garfunkel's "America," John Lennon's "Imagine" and Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind." The cost of the brunch was underwritten by the law firms of Berman DeValerio, Liggio, and Silber and Valente. We thank them all.

Local ACLU attorney, Jim Green, introduced the speaker, Randall Marshall, Legal Director of the ACLU-FL, after a brief synopsis of the history of our chapter, beginning with the founding by Harriette Glasner. Mr. Marshall reminded us that there was very little discussion of civil liberties in the recent presidential campaign. He said history will judge us by how we react to the crisis of September, 11 2001. In the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's and 90's, our government reacted to perceived threats by repressing civil liberties and history has judged those excesses and mistakes. History is repeating itself with the war on terrorism and the Patriot Act. The war against terrorism has become a war on immigration. The Patriot Act has minimized review and judicial oversight and maximized the administration's ability to do whatever it pleases. The provisions of the Patriot Act have actually been used to fight ordinary crime rather than terrorism.

The ACLU has been fighting the abuses of government and has been successful on some challenges. In Florida

and in Palm Beach County the ACLU has been fighting for privacy rights and voters' rights. The privacy rights case involved the medical records of Rush Limbaugh. The Voters' Rights issues have involved a series of challenges in the past few months in which the State set up obstacles to voter registration. The infamous Felons List, which would have prevented many eligible voters from exercising their right to vote, was challenged and discarded. Several lawsuits on technical issues surrounding absentee ballots were set-pled, some successfully, some not.

The coming year will find the ACLU working on the provi-



sional ballot issue. Public records will be analyzed. Rights Restoration for convicted felons who have served their sentence is a priority.

**Monthly meetings** of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the ACLU are the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 at the office of Attorney Jim Green

222 Lakeview Ave WPB  
659-2029

All members of the chapter are welcome.

We can build a strong, effective chapter by having many interested and active members.

### Email Address Request

The Board would like to be able to communicate quickly and at no cost when an issue demands our attention. We can save a lot of money by emailing newsletters in the future. Please provide your email address by emailing to [pbcacclu@adelphia.net](mailto:pbcacclu@adelphia.net).

It will NOT be shared or used for fundraising.

Following is a list of **standing committees**. Please volunteer for one or more of these committees. Email [pbcacclu@adelphia.net](mailto:pbcacclu@adelphia.net) with your intentions and suggestions.

**Nominating** (Nominates candidates for Chapter Board of Directors and Officer)

**Membership** (conducts membership drives and actively seeks new members for the Chapter)

**Legal Panel** (investigates and presents, for Board approval, cases worthy of ACLU action)

**Fund-Raising** (conducts fundraising activities in conjunction with the State and National ACLU)

**Legislative** (works with State and National ACLU organizations to lobby legislative bodies regarding civil liberties issues).

**Information and**

**Education** (responsible for disseminating information to the public about civil liberties issues).

## Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

The ACLU has joined with a number of other organizations in a statewide petition drive to restore civil and voting rights to persons convicted of felonies automatically upon completion of their sentence. The national ACLU will reach out to newly-registered young voters, particularly on college campuses.

The Harriette Glasner Freedom Award for 2004 was

presented to Lillian Tamayo, CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast. Ms. Tamayo was unable to attend and the award was accepted for her Cory Neering, Director of Youth Services.

The members present elected a new Board of Directors and representatives to the State Board. See the box on the next page for the list of Board members and

Officers and State Board Representatives.

**Save the Date-**  
Poynter Award dinner honoring Rep. Alcee Hastings is scheduled for Saturday May 14, 2005.

## Letter From the President

**The Year In Review:** In the spring of 2004, a group of ACLU members volunteered to reactivate the Palm Beach ACLU chapter. Although the chapter's Legal Panel, under the leadership of Atty. James Green, had continued to function and arrange legal representation for civil liberties claimants, there had not been an elected chapter Board of Directors for several years.

In the ensuing months, this group of volunteers, serving as an interim board of directors, succeeded in several undertakings. We published a chapter newsletter, set up a chapter e-mailbox and established a website. We organized a coalition of 5 organizations that held two meetings with Supervisor of Elections, Theresa LePore. In the meetings, we urged safeguards to ensure that no eligible voters were wrongly identified as ex-felons and removed from the voter rolls; that touch screen machines were adequately tested and audited and that poll workers were trained in the proper use of provisional ballots and voter identification requirements. Before the general election, the interim board joined with the Palm Beach County Urban League to hold a Get-Out-The-Vote Election Fest featuring candidates, vendors and live entertainment. Our year's work culminated on November 14 with the Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting and Election at the Atlantis Club.

**Looking Ahead -** This year, the Board of Directors looks forward to better communication among chapter members through our newsletter, email and website. We will work to educate the public while we counter proliferating threats to precious civil liberties - privacy, separation of church and State, due process, etc.

We encourage you to attend the Palm Beach Chapter ACLU monthly Board meeting, join a committee or volunteer to assist with a specific project.

"IF NOT YOU, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?"  
Ethelene C. Jones, M.D., President

## Harriette Glasner Freedom Award

The Harriette Glasner Freedom Award was presented to **Lillian A. Tamayo**, MSW, ACSW in recognition of her leadership, as CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast Area (PPPBTC), which has been an effective voice in protecting and promoting reproductive rights in Palm Beach County. Under her guidance, PPPBTC organized a large contingency to attend the March for Women's Lives, mounted a state-wide campaign to urge voters to defeat the Parental Notification Amendment, and continues to educate citizens and legislators on issues affecting a woman's right to choose. Ms. Tamayo, has contributed to the expansive growth of the organization over the past several years. Under her leadership, Planned Parenthood has broadened its clinical and educational services to reach the diverse populations and attend to the fast-growing demographics of our community. Ms. Tamayo serves on the board of Toward a More Perfect Union and is a member of the Knight Foundation's Community Advisory Board. She was elected President of the Florida Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates (FAPPA) in 2002.

Ms. Tamayo has more than 20 years of experience in executive management. Prior to joining Planned Parenthood, she served as Executive Director of the Capitol Region Mental Health Center, a large behavioral health organization in Hartford, Connecticut. Ms. Tamayo has also served as a Commissioner for the State of Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and is a recipient of a Special Congressional Recognition Award. She completed her undergraduate education at Fairfield University and possesses two graduate degrees, a Masters in Community Psychology from the University of New Haven and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Connecticut.

## Legal Panel Report CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES by Allan Taylor

The terms civil rights and civil liberties often confuse many people. While both concepts relate to protection of rights there are significant differences as to what those rights are.

**Civil rights** are those rights which ensure all will be treated as equals. Civil rights laws, as a rule, protect people from discriminatory behavior based upon such criteria as age, sex, race, disability, and religion. Often the alleged civil rights violator is a private business, such as a restaurant or hotel, but government officials are also prohibited from discriminating under these laws. Civil rights issues are handled by the EEOC, NAACP, private attorneys and some local

governments' boards that address discrimination, such as the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity. Some municipalities have ordinances that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

**Civil liberties**, on the other hand, are generally derived from the Bill of Rights contained in the U.S. Constitution, as well as Florida's Constitution. Most, but not all, civil liberties give protection against government action. This means that a connection to a Federal, state, or local government official must be found before there can be a civil liberties violation. Therefore, the ACLU often looks to see whether a govern-

ment official is involved, directly or indirectly, before we get involved. Law enforcement officers, public school teachers, and government employees are some of the people whose actions may trigger a civil liberties violation. Police brutality, suppression of free speech, and privacy rights are often issues that fall under the rubric of civil liberties. Since the ACLU is involved with violations of civil liberties only, valid complaints to the ACLU that do not involve civil liberties issues are referred to other organizations.

### Board of Directors

Ethelene Jones  
*Chair*  
Helen Reid  
*V. Chair*  
undecided  
*Secretary*  
Marcia Halpern  
*Treasurer*

Nancy Blackburn  
Jim Green  
Marcia Hayden  
John Pauly  
Allan Taylor  
Jessica Tunon  
Zoe Stout  
Barbara Walker

### State Board Delegates

Ethelene Jones  
Nancy Blackburn  
John Pauly  
Zoe Stout  
Jessica Tunon

UNCONSTITUTIONAL—THE MOVIE

A MOVIE ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL USA PATRIOT'S ACT

at *Stage West* on the Palm Beach Community College's Lake Worth Campus  
(behind the Duncan Theater)

4200 S. Congress Ave, Lake Worth, FL

March 23, 2005

Doors open 6:30 P.M.—Movie at 7:00 P.M.

Post film discussion with Michael E. Pheneger, Colonel, US Army (R), past Commander of the US Army Intelligence School at Fort Devens and past Director of Intelligence, US Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base.

See enclosed flyer for details.

**Emergency Medical Assistance, Inc**

"If you don't have money, you don't have a choice". Harriette Glasner

Emergency Medical Assistance, Inc (EMA) is a nonprofit organization whose sole mission is to help provide funding for poor women and girls who find themselves faced with an unintended pregnancy and do not have the financial means to support a child or terminate the pregnancy. EMA was founded in 1975 by Harriette Glasner.

EMA helps the desperately poor who have nowhere else to turn. Last year EMA assisted 114 disadvantaged women and teenage girls. The majority of our clients are single with an average of three children. These women and girls have compelling reasons for terminating their pregnancies: fetal anomalies, poverty, youth, incest, rape. EMA negotiates the best price with the provider; the women contribute as much as they can afford and EMA pays the balance. After their abortions the women and girls are provided counseling and access to birth control. We want to make every child a wanted child.

For more information or to make a contribution, contact Mim George at (561) 271-5164 or Marcia Halpern at [marciah@adelphia.net](mailto:marciah@adelphia.net).

Visit us on the web:

[http://www.acluf1.org/palm\\_beach](http://www.acluf1.org/palm_beach)  
[pbcac1u@adelphia.net](mailto:pbcac1u@adelphia.net)