

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Tuesday, March 3
PRIMARY ELECTION

March 26
"Suffragette" Movie
California Theatre,
Pittsburg
<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, April 1
4:00 – 5:30 pm
"EqualiTea:
A Subversive Act"
Museum of the San Ramon
Valley
*(watch for invitation in
your email!)*

April 4 - April 9
Student Elections, DVC
Volunteers needed!
(see page 4)

April 22
CSUEB Scholar OLLI
Course on Women's
Suffrage
<https://www.scholarollis.com/product/programs/courses/the-long-road-to-suffrage/>

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Women in Politics



A Panel Discussion
presented by

St. Mary's College Women's and Gender Studies Program & LWVDV

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Member, State Assembly
Stephanie Williams-Rogers, Brentwood Parks and
Recreation Commission

Lauren Babb, California Commission on the Status of
Women

Shawn Gilbert, Educator and Historian

**League members are invited to join the SMC
campus community for this event. Audience
members are encouraged to wear white.**

Monday, March 9, 7-8:30 pm
Soda Activity Center
St Mary's College
Moraga

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

President's Letter from Suzan

Hello League Leaders, Members and Friends:

Can we spot fake news? Not sure? NPR provided news about senior citizens gaining information on how to check for fake news. They suggested the resources of [Snopes](#) or [FactCheck.org](#) to help learn whether the information provided is actually misinformation. Apparently, senior citizens are most vulnerable to fake news if they have not had internet service as a staple in their lifetime. NPR has a [Life Kit](#) Newsletter and Podcast to help us spot fake news. Then we can do our homework to get the facts.



Do you feel you have a handle on fake news? Know how to discuss misinformation with friends and family? NPR suggests, "Yelling probably won't solve misinformation! Consider meeting the individual where they are and be curious -- think about opening with common ground and a question."

Political ads on Facebook need new FCC oversight and regulation including building methods for social media accountability. Facebook and those who place the ads must be clearly identified. The greatest threat is "dark ads" where only individual users are targeted. We already know that the Russians are very accomplished creators of political ads. Brad Parscale, interviewed on *Sixty Minutes* (Feb. 27, 2018), described his use of Facebook in the 2016 election, which provided targeting tools also used by the Russians. These tools were offered to both political parties, and still are offered for political ad creation in 2020. Facebook has a Democratic Party member workforce and a Republican Party member workforce. It's important to know how ads are created to make people react by learning and focusing on their individual Facebook and marketing data. For better understanding, Google "microtargeting".

The League is known for investigating what we are studying, or seeing in ads, to provide information to voters that can be counted on as factually based. **If you feel you would benefit from a presentation on how to navigate through misinformation in "news" and social media, email info@lwvdv.org, or use our Facebook or Twitter accounts, noting: "help spotting fake news" and we will work on a panel presentation** to help us all learn what we can do to protect ourselves and to communicate with others when it is important to our community to have the facts straight.

Want to make a difference? Join in our preparation for November 2020. Help us use our webpage, Facebook, and Twitter effectively. Advise others about Voter's Edge for good online election information. Call our office and leave a message to volunteer - 925-283-2235

Congratulations to Our Own Martha Goralka!

Martha Goralka has been named a 2020 Women's Hall of Fame Honoree by the Contra Costa Commission for Women! She will be featured with other honorees at the Annual Hall of Fame dinner on March 19 at the Crowne Plaza in Concord. If you're interested in participating in this fundraising event for the Commission and honoring Martha, contact her for ticket information at martha@goralka.com. You deserve it, Martha!

VOTERS SERVICE: We've Been Busy!

Martha Goralka, Voters Service Chair

In January, CCTV, the Elections Department, and the Leagues of West Contra Costa and Diablo Valley cosponsored both taped and live roundtables for Measure J, Assembly District 16, Senate District 7, and Contra Costa Supervisor Districts 3 and 5. Our League timed, coordinated and provided a lunch break during this long, but productive day! You can view the taped versions on CCTV and on VotersEdge.org.

In February we followed up these successful CCTV Roundtables with another joint effort by CCTV, the Elections Department, and the Leagues of Women Voters of West Contra Costa and Diablo Valley, this time adding the Contra Costa County Library to our partnership to produce an additional two live-taped forums.

The West County League took the lead with the first forum at the Hercules Library for Contra Costa Supervisor District 5 candidates. For the first time ever, we tried a satellite viewing party location at the Pittsburg Library where attendees could also submit questions which a library employee then forwarded to the main event. We had seven voters attending this viewing party, plus three LWVDV members -- Eileen Hinds, Jan Berckefeldt, and Martha Goralka -- handing out question cards. We also checked three voter registrations for accuracy.

The Diablo Valley League took the lead for the second forum, held at the Brentwood Community Center for Contra Costa District 3 candidates. Thirty-six people attended. Ann Flynn was the amazing moderator with Linda Soliven and Jan Berckefeldt timing, Stephanie Williams-Rogers sorting questions and Martha Goralka handing out question cards. We also checked two voter registrations that evening.

We had hoped for a San Ramon library partnership location – but were unable to secure the candidates for any of the available evenings. Gail Murray had volunteered to moderate that forum.

Our final co-sponsorship was with the Contra Costa Industrial Association Monday, February 10th at the IBEW local 320 Union Hall in Martinez. Association Executive Director Mark Hughes and Martha both counted 71 attendees, which included Industrial Association members, community members, political activists and others. In addition to the audience we had seven League volunteers: Ann Flynn, fabulous moderator, who kept things on a civil discourse path, timers Marian Shostrom and Mary Schreiber, question sorter Ashley Coates, and our president Suzan Requa, who tabled for us, promoting VotersEdge and potential memberships. Martha Goralka handed out question cards. We didn't check any registrations during this forum.

VotersEdge: Marian Shostrom has done a stellar job encouraging candidates to post their information on VotersEdge, as well as posting all of our taped forums and ballot issue information.

Pros & Cons: The Diablo Valley League decided not to do ballot issues pros & cons for the Primary Election. When LWVDV Chair Kay James received requests for presentations she recommended they view the material on VotersEdge – with encouragement to call back for the general election presentations.

Voter Registration: Shawn Gilbert and Janet Hoy registered 88 students at Antioch High school on January 28th. Shawn had such a huge turnout at Pittsburg High School on February 10th she recruited Suzan Requa, who dropped everything to help register 381 more students. Shawn went back to Antioch High School on February 13th and registered even more students. Shawn and her team are reaching out to other schools as well.

Diablo Valley College Student Election – Can You Help? Once again our members will assist with the student elections at Diablo Valley College, April 7th through 9th. Karen Dolder, Ken Coates, Evelyn Graetz, Mary Schreiber, Ling Hunger, Colleen Coll, Martha Goralka, and Nancy Thursby have already signed up to help, with **slots still available on April 8 and April 9th**. We've traditionally done this as a fundraiser – although no one signing up is required to donate their earnings. There will be a training session in advance, although many of our volunteers are repeat participants. Contact Martha for more information: martha@goralka.com.

Take Action This Spring

Marian Shostrom, LWVDV Action Co-Chair

The March 3rd primary is almost behind us, so LWVDV Voter Services activities are slowing down. This might be a good time for you to check out the Action/Advocacy Committee of the League. This lively group meets monthly to discuss issues of concern to our members. When appropriate, we may recommend that the Board advocate for an issue by writing a letter, speaking to a government entity, or recommending a study.

The next meeting is **Saturday, March 7th, from 10 am – noon** in the League office, 500 St. Mary's Rd. The Agenda will include a report from a LWVDV member active in *Moms Demand Action*, information about the 2020 Census, and redistricting. We will have an update on *Schools and Communities First*, and reports from the Observer Corps. You, the members who attend the meetings, drive the discussion. If you are passionate about an issue, come and share it with us.

Schools and Communities First: Down to the Wire!

Carol Murota, LWVDV Campaign Coordinator

In November, 2019, I requested our members to help circulate petitions for Schools and Communities First (SCF) and become speakers. Diablo Valley stepped up! As of this week our League has returned 1,460+ signatures.



The State Campaign just announced we are closing in on our 1.6million signature goal. The League now requests we **return petitions by March 6**. Other organizations may have a different deadline. If you have petitions ready to return (regardless of the number of signatures) please leave them at the League office (use the mail slot!) or contact me before March 6 so I can return as many petitions as possible by my March 6 deadline.

Many thanks to all of you for helping with this effort getting SCF on the ballot! (*See Cathleen and Fred signing up Luann at the California Retired Teachers Association luncheon!*) If you know of anyone with our petitions please let them know of our new March 6 deadline and give them my contact information: 925-324-2646 or LDVCarol@gmail.com.

An Exercise in Exploring Our Own Unconscious Biases

Sue Brandy, LWVDV Administrative Vice President

At the February 13 LWVDV Board Meeting, the Board discussed an addition to the Board meeting agendas which will further our position of commitment to increased Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) throughout the League and the country. The Board agreed that we would make a commitment to further our own personal exploration and understanding of unconscious and institutional bias and racism.

At the beginning of every Board meeting we will be taking 10 minutes to discuss a question from the end of a chapter in "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. This book is Irving's description of her own journey in recognizing blind spots and unconscious biases in herself. Each chapter ends with questions to reflect on for the reader, based on her insights. In upcoming Board meetings, members will be encouraged to read a chapter of the book and think about their own responses to the questions at the end of the chapter. While it is not essential to read the chapter in order to respond to the question, Irving's open and honest assessment of her own discoveries about herself provide an inspiration for everyone else's reflections.

The action of the Board members to incorporate this process into the routine business meeting reflects, in my mind, their willingness to be vulnerable and open in order to make a real commitment to the process of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion. Our goal is to examine possible unconscious barriers that we may be unaware of, thereby opening the doors to furthering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our League and in our lives.

We would like to invite all LWVDV members to join us in this experience.

The book is: "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. We will be reading the first chapter for the March meeting. The question at the end of this chapter is: ***"What stereotypes about people of another race do you remember hearing and believing as a child? Were you ever encouraged to question stereotypes?"***

Suffragists You Need to Meet: Lydia Flood Jackson

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Vice President

Lydia Flood Jackson was a successful entrepreneur, inventor of cosmetics and perfumes, civil rights activist, and suffragist. Her parents were some of the earliest African Americans to settle in California. Her father, Isaac Flood, was a leader in the California Colored Convention Movement, which challenged California segregation laws. Her mother, Elizabeth Thorn Scott, was a teacher and is recognized as the founder of the first public school for African American children in Sacramento (1854) and later in Oakland (1857). As a result of Isaac Flood's successful activism against segregation, Lydia Flood Jackson was the first black student to attend an integrated public school in Oakland, John Swett School.



As a political activist, Jackson traveled to the West Indies, South America, and Mexico, giving speeches promoting democracy and women's rights. She encouraged women to challenge gender stereotypes that limited them from achieving their full potential.

In addition to her more than forty years of membership in the Native Daughters Club and the Fannie Jackson Coppin Club in Oakland, Jackson was a legislative leader in the California Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. As a member and leader of these organizations, Jackson inspired women to demand suffrage. In a speech to the 1918 Federation convention, she stated that "Suffrage stands out as one of the component factors of Democracy."

On her 100th birthday in 1962, the City of Oakland honored Lydia Flood Jackson for her contributions to bettering the community. She died the following year.

Read about more women like Lydia! They are listed on our webpage at <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/suffragists-you-need-meet>.

Lafayette Housing Makes National News

Carol Murota, Lafayette Observer

The definition of an understatement - Housing is a complex issue.

On Thursday, February 13, 2020, the respected *New York Times* used Lafayette's controversial The Terraces/Deer Hill development, opposed by the citizen group 'Save Lafayette', as a poster child to ask – how does a community do its part to address California's housing need and can it or should it strive to maintain the character of its community?

- Fact: California has a statewide housing shortage.
- Fact: Lafayette self-describes as semi-rural in character with ordinances to protect open spaces and ridge tops.
- Fact: Currently, 28% of Lafayette housing stock is rental.
- Fact: Between 2010 and 2020, Lafayette approved 434 multifamily housing units in downtown, with nearly 25% designated for very low, low or moderate incomes.
- Fact: Since 2010, 247 multifamily housing units have been/are being constructed in downtown Lafayette.
- Fact: Currently, Lafayette is reviewing 603 housing units.
- Fact: Lafayette can approve projects but construction timing is up to the developers.
- Fact: While Lafayette City Council has explicitly expressed concern for the teachers and others who work in this community yet cannot afford to live here, Lafayette is not allowed (by CA law) to mandate that affordable units prioritize availability to local workers.
- Fact: When there was redevelopment money, affordable housing was incentivized. The State of California eliminated redevelopment in 2012.



The *New York Times* article highlighted a complex problem and an underlying question – does affordable housing necessitate changing the character of a community or, said differently, how does local control work with increasing housing units?

In 2013, directed by the City Council, then Lafayette City Manager, Steve Falk, negotiated a multi-family 315 unit project (The Terraces) down to a 44 single family unit project (The Homes of Deer Hill). This was thought by some to better retain the semi-rural character of Lafayette. The smaller project included walking access to the nearby elementary school, a bike path to downtown and public transportation, a tot lot, a dog park, a soccer/lacrosse field, and public parking.

Everyone objected to something. For housing advocates, it was an 85% reduction in housing units. For neighbors, it was an unacceptable change to the character of the neighborhood. Everyone feared an increase in traffic, as the property is adjacent to a busy transportation corridor and Lafayette residents consistently decry a lack of parking and over-crowded roads. There is still no housing on that property. On February 24, the Council again discussed the current proposal.

There is another wrinkle when thinking about the housing shortage. Housing is tied to economic inequality, social justice, and local control, but if approved housing projects displace businesses like your corner gas station, your dentist's office, or your local retail store, what happens to the livelihoods of the people who worked at those businesses?

Nothing is easy.

Lafayette leadership has proactively gone to the state legislature. They made three fundamental and important points: 1) Lafayette is committed to increasing available housing, especially in the lower income affordable housing sector; 2) Lafayette can approve projects but developers build them, and that is driven by the market; 3) the legislature can help by offering funding and building

incentives, differentiating between requirements placed on large and small cities, protecting local jobs, and allowing cities to offer affordable units to their current work force.

It will take everyone working together to solve this crisis – the California Legislature, city leadership, developers, and residents.

News about the LWVDV Book Club

Janet Hoy, the original "convener"

The LWVDV Book Club has 6-8 members currently -- some joining in via Zoom and the rest at rotating members' homes. We meet monthly, generally the second Monday of the month. We collectively decided to focus on non-fiction so we kicked off the group with **Eileen Weiss' book,**

The Women's Hour- the Great Fight to Win the Vote (a women's suffrage history). We have also read ***Strangers in Their Own Land*** by **Arlie Russell Hochschild** (a study - by a Berkeley sociologist -of Tea Party members in Louisiana). We then read ***White Fragility*** by **Robin Diangelo**- a discussion of whiteness and what that means. Our current book is ***Between the World and Me*** by **Ta-Nahisi Coates**- a letter from a black Dad to his teenage son.



As you can tell, we have tackled demanding books -- challenging topics full of personal insights and controversies. It has been fun to discuss these books -- over wine and goodies -- and get differing points of view and perspectives. We have never had a discussion that wasn't both respectful as well as lively! Also, there is the added benefit -- for me at least -- of reading books that I would not generally choose (I am an avid novel reader) and expanding my horizons a bit with a fun group of League members. If you are interested in joining us please contact me at: janetahoy@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

If you have a March membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder.

If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chairs Ashley and Cathleen to upgrade your status!



Visit us and LIKE our **Facebook** page.

<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>

Follow us on **Twitter** -- @LWVDiabloValley

See us on **Instagram**: @lwvdiablovalley

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

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LWVDV Board Members:

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- Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*
- Sue Brandy, *Admin. Vice President*
- Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Co-Mgr*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
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- Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
- Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
- Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison, Census*
- Leslie Stewart, *At-Large Director*
- Christina Soto-Maynez, *At-Large Director*

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Barbara Hill at the League office: (925) 283-2235.

- \$ _____ \$75 Individual Membership. NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$110 Family Membership (2). NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$35 Additional Family Membership. NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$10 Student Membership. NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)
- Gift Membership from: _____
- (Please write recipient's information below.)
- \$ _____ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the *Voter* by US Mail
- \$ _____ Additional Donation to LWVDV
- \$ _____ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV.
- (LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR
 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

- Mar 7** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 12** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr 4** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr 9** **Board Meeting**
 6:30 pm - Zoom Meeting*
 8:30 pm [LWVDV Office](#)

***To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on the office phone and meeting link will be sent to you.**