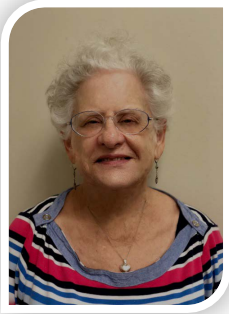




LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LOS ANGELES

VOTER  
VOTER

## FROM THE CO- PRESIDENT'S DESK



As we begin our new fiscal year, I am pleased to say that we have accomplished getting our fiscal house in order by trimming expenses and increasing income. This can only continue with your financial support to the League.

We are continuing to reach out to high school students to register them to vote. Your help is needed so that we can reach as many students as possible. Your volunteer time is needed here.

The move to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the building went relatively well. The interns and staff did a superb job in getting settled within a few days.

On **Saturday, June 23** we held our **Annual Meeting** and elected **Crissi Avila** as the new Co-President, as well as three new board members: David Meadow, Penny Sommers, and Thanayi Lindsey.

The LWVUS had its **biennial convention in Chicago, June 28 through July 1**. Sharon Akins, Crissi Avia, Tom Carson, Marilu Guevara, Martha Sklar, and Elizabeth Valdivia represented our League. The focus of the convention was diversity and a new direction for the **Making Democracy Work** campaign. The campaign includes ensuring free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting. Support for **the Equal Rights Amendment was approved**: When duly ratified, the League of Women Voters of the United States will take the required steps to see it through whatever judicial or other challenges may occur until we see the Amendment added to the U.S. Constitution in clear, bold, black and white.

## September - October 2018

- 1 Co-President's Message
- 2 Connie Schiff Memoriam
- 3 Public Forum on Transit Oriented Development
- 4 Summer Voter Registration
- 5 The Ebell Women's Club Visits Supportive Housing
- 6 Neighborhood Council Congress
- 7 USC'S Homelessness Summit
- 8 New Member Spotlight
- 9 Update from Criminal Justice Reform
- 10 Civic Society, Discussion with Political News Reporter Dave Bryan
- 10 Contributions, Memberships and Tributes
- 11 Celebrating Leadership Awards 2018

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Memberships expired June 30  
Email [info@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:info@lwvlosangeles.org)  
Or call us to inquire whether your membership is current.

**League of Women Voters  
of Los Angeles**

3303 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1732  
T 213-368-1616  
F 844-269-9164

[www.LWVlosangeles.org](http://www.LWVlosangeles.org)

**VOTER STAFF**

Marilu Guevara  
Editor

Elizabeth Valdivia  
Production

Jean Cohen  
Copy Editor

Submit articles to:  
[info@LWVlosangeles.org](mailto:info@LWVlosangeles.org)

**LOCAL UNITS**

Las Virgenes  
Valley  
Westside Evening

**STAY IN TOUCH  
2018  
MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTORY**

If you would like the most up-to-date version of the directory, please email [info@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:info@lwvlosangeles.org) or call our office, 213-368-1616.

The annual **Celebrating Leadership** event is scheduled for **Saturday, September 29** at a lovely home in Sherman Oaks. You should have received your invitation. Please support the work of the League in any way possible. This is our yearly fundraiser (no rubber chicken dinner).

Let us work to keep the organization vibrant for the next generation. We need everyone's support to succeed. The more involved you are with the League, the stronger our voices in the community.

Let us **Make Democracy Work!**

In League,



**Martha Sklar**

Our dear member Connie Schiff passed away August 13. Connie was an original and we are saddened by her loss. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday in the League's Centennial year in 2020. Connie was a vital 50 plus -year member of the League, she and was dedicated and devoted to the work and goals of the League. When Connie retired from her registered nursing career, she became active in the League and was our education consultant. She had a lifelong interest in education and was active in her children's schools and PTA. She observed the Board of Education meetings for the League and advised the League board when it was time to take a position on important legislation.

Connie attended many meetings, fundraising events, and also supported the League as a member of the Civic Society. Connie remained loyal to the end, worrying about the League, its membership and concerned on whether we are doing everything we can to register voters for the upcoming election.

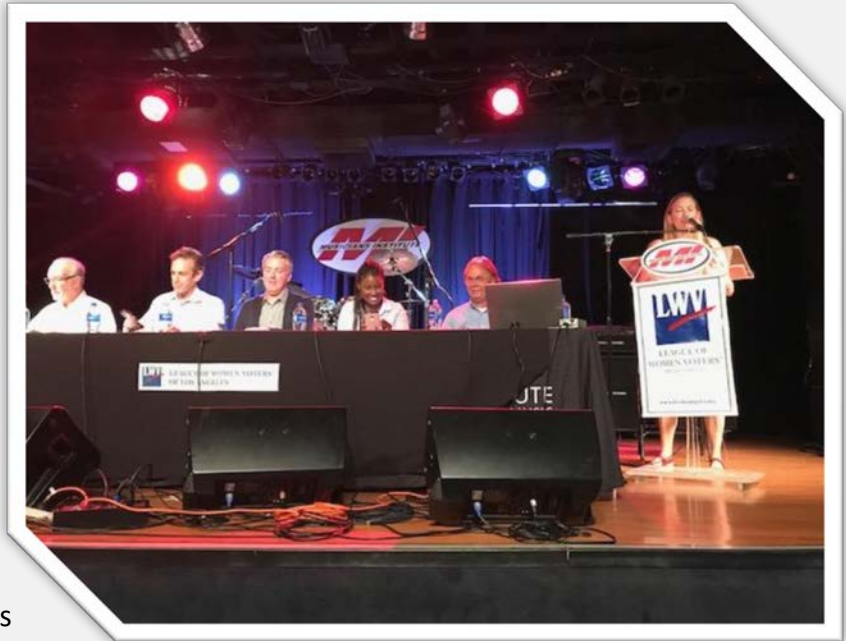
We will miss her.



- Renee Chanon, League Member

## **PUBLIC FORUM ON TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT** **SUMMARY FROM LA ON BOARD? TRANSIT & HOUSING** **INTERSECTIONS**

On Saturday, July 14, the League of Women Voters Transportation Committee hosted a public forum on transit oriented development. Moderated by Alissa Walker, from Curbed LA, panelists included: Christopher Hawthorne, Chief Design Officer, City of Los Angeles; Dick Platkin, Board of Directors, Beverly Wilshire Homeowners Association (and City Watch columnist); Mott Smith, Co-Founder, Civic Enterprise Development; Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director, LA Local Initiatives Support Corporation; and Denny Zane, Executive Director, Move LA.



Denny Zane began the discussion with an overview of the transit situation in Los Angeles County. Currently, transit ridership, which is largely low income people and people of color, has declined and continues to decline. There are several possible causes for this decline, including fare increases and reduced hours of service. Zane believes the decrease in ridership owes more to an increase in high income households (mostly the result of a growing tech sector) and an accompanying decrease in low income households (the base of the transit system) as housing costs rise. Transit-oriented development has been one of the most discussed possible solutions to this problem.

Zane, proposed looking at the approach taken by Santa Monica to build more affordable housing, while also preserving existing affordable units. Rather than raze areas around transit hubs to make way for denser housing, Santa Monica shifted new affordable housing to commercial areas like the development along Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, which includes shopping, office space, apartments, restaurants, theaters, a hotel and a library. It is also near a future stop on Metro's Purple Line. In Santa Monica, according to Zane, about 1/3 of housing is affordable and the city has faced little opposition from the community.

The panel identified a number of issues that contribute to the complex problem of changing Los Angeles into a transit-friendly community; one that is attractive and financially available to families and individuals across all income levels.

**Torene Svital**, League Member  
Transportation Committee





# SUMMER VOTER REGISTRATION



PRO/CON at The Pier. The nonpartisan series features experts from both sides of hot issues, along with a neutral moderator, debating and reinvigorating the art of critical thinking as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean. Each week kicks off with a Civic Engagement Fair with interactive activities and music.



A summer favorite now in its 14th year, The Music Center's Dance DTLA is an evening of dance under the stars on most Friday nights in the summer months, from June – September 2018. Hosted entirely in Grand Park, the series featured the League of Women Voters to do voter registration.



League members Idelle Davidson, Joel and Susan Levine hosting voter registration at the Skirball summer concert series.

## THE EBELL WOMEN'S CLUB VISITS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Encouraged by the amazing Women's March of January 2017, I wanted involvement that mattered for me. I wondered, "What's next?" I was looking for an organization with the words, "women" and "voter" in it, and Googled the League of Women Voters. Then I went to the office address listed and became involved. Through the VOTER newsletter I found out about the Homeless Action Committee and went with the Committee for a tour of the Selma Community, an Abode Housing project in Hollywood, for homeless families.

The Abode Leadership said that it was helpful to invite groups to visit and learn about Supportive Housing. Well, I found this daunting as I knew no group of people to solicit, church or neighborhood, both being fairly at arm's-length, unfortunately.

Driving home down Wilshire Boulevard one day, I saw the Ebell Theater. I had recently attended a homeless panel put on by the Ebell Women's Club. I decided to join the Women's Club and organize a tour, and that is just what happened. I called Amy, who is in charge of field trips, booked a trip to Selma Community for April. We got 20 Ebell folks to sign up.

The Ebell is an educational and philanthropic organization founded by women in 1894. Its mission is to participate in and encourage the educational, cultural and social growth of the diverse Los Angeles community.

On a Thursday in April, we carpoled to Selma supportive housing development. Abode Communities is a non-profit affordable housing provider dedicated to helping low income families, seniors and people with special needs to remain stable in affordable housing as they work to achieve self-sufficiency through social services at their building.

We toured Selma Community and heard the stories of some of the residents. Fabiola was six years old when she and her family moved into the community. She went to the after-school program Selma provides, during the years she lived there. Fourteen years later, she was accepted at UC Davis, and today Fabiola is a senior.

-- Continued on page 6

--Continued from Page 5

Another young woman named Monica was homeless with her husband and became pregnant. She was recommended to Abode and was accepted. Monica was happy to be living in an apartment because this allowed her to keep her child.

At the end of the tour everyone had seen first-hand how attractive the supportive housing is, how dedicated the staff, and how hard working the occupants are, and how the whole structure enhances a community.

The women on the tour were grateful for this exposure. By this contact they were all made "Ambassadors of Abode." We are all awake, inspired and newly committed to building more supportive housing in Los Angeles. My personal dream... to continue getting people to go on supportive housing tours, even if it's only 20 at a time.

**Catherine Hicks, LWVLA Member**



## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS**

The Los Angeles League of Women Voters Homeless Committee's proposal to present a workshop at the September 22, 2018 Neighborhood Council Congress has been accepted. Thank you to Corinne Ho, who is on the board of the Woodland Hills N.C., for inviting us to apply.

Our Session #3 at 1:20 p.m. is titled, "A Dialogue about Supportive Housing: How Can Your Neighborhood Council Engage?"

We plan to have a speaker from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS) and one or two formerly homeless people to tell about their experiences living on the streets. We are inviting a developer to talk about finding suitable locations for building supportive housing.

Congratulation's to Lex Roman for submitting the proposal and for organizing the presentation.

**Sandra Trutt,**  
Chair of the Homelessness Action Committee



## USC'S HOMELESSNESS SUMMIT IN APRIL 2018

### PANELIST RESPONSE TO Q & A

**Has Los Angeles tried to partner with other cities/states so their homeless population does not migrate here for benefits? - Phil Ansell**

Rather than focusing on inter-city/state migration, focus should be on each jurisdiction coordinating efforts to increase housing and service capacity regionally. L.A. County has proactively partnered with the cities to achieve this, as it takes every jurisdiction to combat homelessness.

We know that the overwhelming majority of the homeless families and individuals prefer to stay in their local community rather than moving to another city/community. In the 2017 Homeless Count, three-fourths of homeless people reported they had been in the County for five years or more, while only 12% had been residents for less than a year.

To address homelessness in L.A. County, we recognize that jurisdictional boundaries are not particularly relevant; it is a regional crisis that can only be effectively addressed with a commitment to action by the County, cities and a wide array of other organizations/sectors across the County. We use the Service Planning Areas (SPAs), eight distinct geographic areas that allow the County to develop and provide relevant services targeted to homeless families and individuals. SPAs also strengthen multi-agency/jurisdictional coordination to provide effective and efficient services. These SPAs consist of numerous agencies including, but not limited to, the cities, County departments/agencies, various health and human service providers, community coalitions, etc. that influence the policy, program, and funding priorities to best serve homeless residents.

**Sandra Trutt,**  
Chair of the Homeless Action Committee

**If homelessness in L.A. is an issue that interests you, here are several ways you can be involved:**

- Join the Homelessness Action Committee by contacting Sandra Trutt at [s.trutt@verizon.net](mailto:s.trutt@verizon.net)
- Download the booklet <https://yesinmyla.org> to learn about PSH in L.A.
- Watch for events held by United Way <http://everyoneinla.org>; and track the progress on supportive housing in your council district <http://everyoneinla.org/supportive-housing-tracker/>
- Contact your Council Member to congratulate or encourage him or her to keep working on the issue

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Natali Gracia** is a Chicago, Illinois transplant with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Koreatown neighborhood has been her home and community since moving here to Los Angeles, California in August of 2015. In fact, she serves as a Wilshire Center- Koreatown Neighborhood Council Board member, Co-Chair of the Government Relations and Bylaws Committee and is the Homelessness Liaison. But her current vocation is at New Directions for Veterans a non-profit on the VA Campus in West Los Angeles, as the Program Analyst and Benefits Specialist of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families office. This program focuses on housing and is able to financially assist Veterans and their families who are currently experiencing homelessness. She hopes to eventually attend graduate school, but in the meantime has completed the LAPD Citizen Academy Level I & II, FBI Citizen Academy, will begin UCLA Extension's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling Certificate program this fall and is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She's excited to join the League of Women Voters and to get involved as it seems to be the next natural step in bringing together both her passions and experience.

**Victoria Kirschenbaum**, aka **Vicki Juditz** (maiden name as a performer) Is an activist, storyteller, and actor. With Swingleft, Indivisible, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and SoCal350, she advocates for local, state and federal policy, does outreach at farmers' markets and public events, and gives door-to-door encouraging voters to participate in the upcoming midterms. Doing voter registration at community colleges is her idea of a fun day! A resident of Burbank, she is on the Sustainable Burbank Commission and is Vice President of Political Action for the Burbank Democratic Club. She travels far and performs close to home as a storyteller; most recently performing at the Sierra Storytelling Festival near Nevada City, California. She is also doing a solo show called, "Sacred Resistance" at the Jewish Women's Theatre performance space The Braid in Santa Monica. If you stay up late, you may see her on a sitcom or two, and for many years, she sold everything from no-stick pans to a Good Kitty Pet Beverage on TV.





# UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

## ***Guest speakers enliven discussions during committee meetings:***

- September 25 – Alex Sherman: attorney, organizer, and journalist join's us in a discussion of criminal justice policies, such as cash bail and prosecutorial reform.

## ***Advocating for Immigrants:***

- In partnership with other immigrant advocates, LWV-LA County and LWVLA's Committee on Criminal Justice Reform procured a commitment from the Los Angeles County Supervisors to increase over two years 15 more district attorneys who specialize in immigration law; currently they only have two.
- The Committee signed on to a coalition letter to City Council opposing the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Federal grant that would have targeted Muslim communities. City Council relinquished the money.



## ***LASD Sheriffs Debate:***

Co-chair, Marjorie Green, represented LWVLA on the panel to interview the top two candidates for Sheriff. ***A few highlights from the Debate . . .***

- McDonnell wants to make public a list of names of officers who have been found to act out of policy; Villanueva says the list should not be made public, because some names should not be on the list and there are other names that should be listed.
- Both candidates agreed that Proposition 47 (to re-categorize some non-violent crimes as misdemeanors) was a good idea in theory, but presented challenges.
- McDonnell will investigate the allegation that some officers get tattoos to belong to a clique; Villanueva says the investigation is a waste of resources, because the tattoos are harmless.

## ***LWV California Criminal Justice Reform Monthly Calls:***

- Creating a database of criminal justice positions from states and local Leagues across the nation.
- Re-defining safety and justice by community members, rather than the government.

--Continued on Page 10

## **Since the last VOTER**

### **Contributions**

Rita R. Barschak  
Carryl Carter  
Donna Cole  
Dorothy C. DeCayette  
Coralie Goldsmith  
Carolina Goodman  
Charmion Janus  
Ann R. Lane  
Sidonia Lax  
Joy Picus  
Patti Post  
Fred Wimberley

### **Civic Society**

Thea Brodtkin  
Penny Sommers

### **New Members**

Kathryn Holmes  
Margot Bennett  
Nancy Blaustein  
Idelle Davidson  
Nancy Fisher  
Suzy Flores  
Natali Gracia  
Teresa Hall  
Johanna Harris  
Victoria J. Kirschenbaum  
Janna Knight  
Thanayi Lindsey  
Kathleen McHugh  
Alexandra Patzakis  
Diana Pray  
Beth Raanan  
Shanna Reed  
Anke Schennink  
Brett Shears  
Debra Silverman  
Morgan Stephens  
Claudia Teti  
Christine Thorpe

### **Monthly Sustaining Contributions**

Crissi Avila  
Jodi Doane  
Marilu Guevara

### **Tributes**

Carryl Carter, Renee Chanon  
-- In honor of Liza and Stuart White

*--Continued from Page 9*

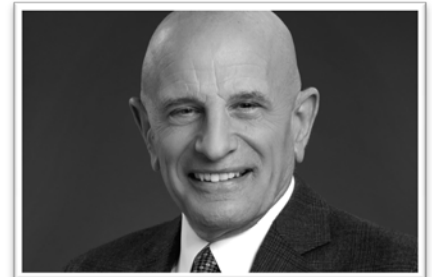
### **Thank you to our Summer Interns**

Morgan Stephens, Helen Chung, Sydney Chun, and Alexandria Patzakis – who have provided invaluable service, by researching legislation and prosecutorial reform, editing video, summarizing interviews, and writing reports after observing LAPD Commission meetings and LASD Civilian Oversight. We wish them the best of luck at USC, UCSD, Bryn Mawr, and the University of Chicago.

**Carolina Goodman,**  
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

## **CIVIC SOCIETY DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL NEWS REPORTER, DAVE BRYAN**

What are the challenges in being a political reporter in this age when the integrity of journalism is being threatened? CBS and KCAL veteran Dave Bryan gave a frank presentation to Civic Society members in early July.



Relaxing after dinner in the lovely home of long time League members Elinor and Rubin Turner, we heard Dave's analysis of the important upcoming November elections. As always, the Q and A session is the best part.

Membership in the Civic Society is \$1000 or more. This tax-deductible contribution provides the most important base of support for the League's crucial programs. Members attend three salons a year in intimate settings, hearing outstanding speakers from academia, the news media, and elected officials, amongst others.

We welcome your membership. Please "try us out" in the late fall, for a post election discussion with a prominent speaker. For more information, please call Executive Director Marilu Guevara at the League Office, 213-368-1616.

**Carryl Carter,** League Member



Saturday, September 29, 2018  
2:00 to 5:00pm - Private Residence - Sherman Oaks, Ca

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 HONOREES



*Voting Rights Champion*  
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti



*Community Advocate*  
Madeline Janis



*League Activist*  
Raquel Beltran

### MEET OUR 2018 SPONSORS

#### Engagement Pioneer

The John Randolph Haynes and Dora



#### Civic Leaders



REAL ESTATE



+



+



=



#### Trailblazers



CHARTER COLLEGE OF  
**EDUCATION**

Crissi Avila

Denis Cagna & Carlos Medina



#### Visionaries

Office of Councilwoman  
Monica Rodriguez

Liza & Stuart White

#### Catalysts

AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A

Anita Gabrielian - Carryl Carter

Harriet Borson - Helen & Helen Medrano

Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Martha Sklar - Marilu Guevara & Russell

Burrows - Mona Field - Sydelle Freeman

Tickets and event information

[leadershipawards2018.eventbrite.com](http://leadershipawards2018.eventbrite.com)





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LOS ANGELES**

*Trusted, Nonpartisan Grassroots Leadership Since 1920*

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles  
3303 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1732  
*Address Correction Requested*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Permit No. 13092

**MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!**

**It's easy to join the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES
___ Individual	\$ 85	___ Sustaining	\$ 250
___ Student (currently enrolled, under 25 years)	\$ 28	___ Patron	\$ 500
___ Household (2 members, 1 address, 1 mailing)	\$ 120		
___ Supporting	\$ 125		



Scan the code to join online!

I am paying my dues by check: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
To pay by credit card: please go to [www.LWVlosangeles.org](http://www.LWVlosangeles.org) and click "Join the League"

I'd like to do more: Here is an additional gift and separate check to support the League's activities for:

Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to LWV of Los Angeles

*Contributions, gifts and dues to the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles are tax-deductible.*