



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

April, 2017

League of Women Voters

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

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LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley will Cohost with



15480 Union Avenue, San Jose

The 19th Amendment and the ERA

Wednesday • April 19 • 2 P.M.

with Congresswoman



Anna Eshoo

More information inside this Voter on page 4.



President's Letter

Democracy dictates its values and gravitates humans to preserve it once they understand it and taste its enrichments. But recently, we have been noticing an increase in intolerance of individuals toward each other. Where is the commitment to civility? How can we preserve what we have and improve it? The recent election has made our country feel more divided than ever and left many wondering what should be done to protect the core institutions of our democracy. Are we taking steps backward? Or will there be a new shift to wake up the consciousness of many citizens? For those reasons, we find many grassroots movements are being initiated, increasing their efforts to become more active and effective.

Thanks to all those who were able to attend our Sunshine Week Luncheon on March 15 at Viva Restaurant. And special thanks to all the elected officials who participated in this Open Government meeting. We are fortunate, in our area, to have representatives who adhere to transparency while governing. They commit to strive at all times to maintain collegiality and the honor of their office. That is what I have witnessed during my recent attendance at a couple of local Council meetings. They show proper respect to one another modeling civility in all their actions. We ought to congratulate them for supporting each other and collaborating together in order to provide a better environment and quality of life to all their constituents.

On Tuesday, March 21, I proudly represented you in accepting a proclamation from the

Mayor of Campbell, Elizabeth Gibbons, who is a member of our League.

The wording of this proclamation is so meaningful and inclusive, I am sharing it here with you for those who have not had a chance to read it yet.

Proclamation of the Mayor of the City of Campbell

"WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military;



Hana Itani, President of LWVSWSCV and Campbell Mayor Liz Gibbons with the Proclamation for Women's History Month.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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President, Hana Itani

Vice President, Barbara Lea

Secretary, Nancy Rucker

Treasurer, Danice Picraux

Action, Eleanor Yick

Education, Eleanor Yick

Finance Drive, Tom Picraux

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Sharon Graham

Natural Resources, Meg Giberson

Observers, Raquel Durand

Programs, Sue Cooney

Public Relations, Eileen Barnes

Assistant, Nancy Rucker

Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson

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Kathy Murtfeldt, Wendy Hendry

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Gail Nishimura, Eileen Barnes

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Immigration, Patty Weber

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Campbell: Jackie Costanzo

Los Gatos: Lynda Jandron

Monte Sereno: TBD

Saratoga: Raquel Durand

Outreach, Wanda Alexander

Publications, Gail Pedersen

Voter's Edge, Tom Picraux

Voters Service

Pros & Cons, T. Zacccone, E. Yick

Voter Registration, Jackie Costanzo

Web Site Pages

Cherri Nelson, Barbara Lea

Continued on Next Page.

2016-2017 Elected Officials

United States

President Donald Trump
(202) 456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
(415) 393-0707

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Kamala Harris
(415) 403-0100

<http://harris.senate.gov>

Rep. Anna Eshoo

(408) 245-2339

(650) 323-2984

<http://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor Jerry Brown

(916) 445-2841

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Jim Beall, Jr.

(408) 558-1295

<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>

Assembly Member Evan Low

(408) 446-2810

<http://asmcd.org/members/a28/>

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian

(408) 299-5050

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Mike Wasserman

(408) 299-5010

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Ken Yeager

(408) 299-5040

supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org

SCC Registrar of Voters

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>



Board Bytes

Meeting of Mar 1, 2017

Announcements:

President Itani

obtained volunteers for **Campbell's Special Election** in March and reminded the Board of Rep. Anna Eshoo's town hall and the Leadership Academy events.

The AAUW is holding a **Tea and Silent Auction** on April 8 to raise money for scholarships given to students headed to a four-year college.

The **New-member Brochure** about our League, for handing out to the public, is near completion and ready to go to press. The Board approved the printing of 500 copies after a couple of minor suggestions and changes.

Nominating Committee: Pat White reported that they have filled most of the positions for the coming year, with only a couple positions left to fill.

Youth Outreach: Wanda Alexander developed a government questionnaire survey to be given to high school students for inclusion with their required hours of community service. The Board contributed ideas for questions at her request.

Programs: The results for **Program Planning** are done! Eleanor Yick presented her carefully organized and written report which included our goals for the coming



year. Everyone on the Board approved it. The report will now be sent to LWVC.

Local Election Finance Study: The Board voted approval of the final Study as presented by Tom Picraux. The next steps will be to present the Study at Council meetings for inclusion on the record in the four communities our League represents. The Study will also be presented to Mayors and community leaders, as well as California Senator Jim Beall and Assembly Member Evan Low.

Finance Drive: A committee will review and revise the letter mailed out to prospective donors. It was strongly suggested we include what we intend to accomplish going forward and what the money will be spent on, besides our past accomplishments.

Natural Resources: Meg had some very interesting information about our nearby Anderson Dam—the combination of a very full lake, the most rain in years and a location very close to the Calaveras Earthquake Fault could mean the rapid inundation of surrounding land.

Social Media: Upon President Itani's encouragement, research on using social media sites for more visibility to increase membership was discussed. Wendy Hendry will explore some sites and the costs for non-profits.

Nancy Rucker, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Gibbons, Mayor of the City of Campbell, do hereby

proclaim March 2017 as "Women's History Month" in the City of Campbell."

Signed and sealed on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

We have planned an exiting program for you in April. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, a long-time sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, will be our main speaker on Wednesday, April 19, at 2 p.m. at the San Jose Clubhouse. The topic is the 19th Amendment. This program is cosponsored with We and Our Neighbors, which was established in 1892. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV
408-lwv-1842, hana.lwv@gmail.com.

The ERA with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo



The 19th Amendment

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

with Cohost

The San Jose Clubhouse

15480 Union Avenue, San Jose

Wednesday • April 19 • 2 P.M.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (District 18) will speak about the 19th Amendment (women's suffrage) and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) at "We and Our Neighbors' San Jose Clubhouse." Representative Eshoo has been a cosponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment in multiple Congresses and has worked tirelessly to see it become law.

Although the ERA passed the House and Senate in 1972, it needed to be ratified by 38 states, but only 36 have ratified it so far. The time limit originally set by Congress for such ratification has expired. The most recent state to ratify (Nevada) just did so on March 22, 2017—about 35 years after the previous state (Indiana) in 1977. Rep. Eshoo has worked for years to extend that ratification deadline. She will update us on the ERA and voting rights. Women's rights and civil rights have been linked throughout our history.

During her time in the House, Rep. Eshoo has worked as a consensus builder in support of consumer issues—such as creating a nationwide public safety communications network, to helping build consensus for a Homeowners Bill of Rights to support homeowners struggling to keep up with their mortgages.

In Rep. Eshoo's two decades in Congress, she has defended consumers, promoted American competitiveness and innovation, fought for access to health care for families and children, protected the environment,

and encouraged development of clean energy technology.

We and Our Neighbors Club was established in 1892, joining the California Federation Women's clubs in 1921. A clubhouse was built in 1910. It is the oldest women's clubhouse in the state of California. The building was entered in the National Registry of Historic Places in 1979 and became a City of San Jose' Historic landmark in 1992. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, part of its mission is dedicated to promoting educational activities among its members, and supporting worthwhile causes in the greater community. This event is part of the popular Jane Talks.

"In a time when women's rights were limited, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1890, held grassroots efforts to make sure the woman's voice was heard. ... The women were empowered to take on causes such as child labor, food safety regulations, women's right to vote, and helping to establish 75% of libraries in the US. The GFWC took a leadership role in opposing assimilation policies, supporting the return of Native-American lands, and promoting more religious and economic independence."

www.sanjoseclubhouse.com

Parking: ADA parking is available onsite. All others should park at the Union School District parking lot across the street on Union Avenue or in the Safeway lot located diagonally across the Union-Los Gatos Almaden intersection.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Education



Santa Clara County Education Committee

This Committee meets every other month with representatives from each of the five county Leagues, some school district Board members, and other invited parties. Ellen Wheeler from the Los Altos/Mt. View League chairs the Committee.

This month's meeting featured reports from each League, updates on education issues at the Federal, State and Local levels, a report focused on conferences attended re: Early Childhood Education in Santa Clara County, suggested distribution and use of the Public Higher Education in California study, and upcoming events. Much discussion focused on the potential drop in Federal funding for education and how severely that will impact some school districts.

Strong Start is a collaborative effort of 40 different organizations focused on early childhood learning that has been identified by County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry as his first priority. The Santa Clara County Office of Education leads it and the meetings are open to the public.

Federal Head Start Budget: During 2009-2016, Head Start administered \$8B-\$9B in federal funding. In Fiscal Year 2015 California received \$1.04B, which funded 102,728 slots. It is not yet known what the federal funding will be for 2017-2018.

State Budget: Partly due to lower revenue forecast, the Governor proposed \$3.2B in cuts to the overall budget. The proposed budget delays a multi-year plan adopted in 2016 to reinvest in the state's childcare and development system. Three thousand slots that were added this year are pushed out to 2018 and 2019. The budget also proposes no reimbursement rate increase in 2017-2018 for child care providers.

Eleanor Yick, Education

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: No report this month.

Los Gatos: Town Council approved the plans for Phase II of the Almond Grove street project. Staff will seek bids for concrete replacement of eight streets in this historic neighborhood.

The work includes utility upgrades and tree replacements. It is expected to take three years to complete.

Budget requests were authorized for annual maintenance of other town streets and sidewalks. This year's focus is on areas of Blossom Hill Road and Los Gatos Blvd.

The council adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan after much preliminary work by an advisory committee. It will guide decisions about bike lanes, sidewalks, etc. and aid in increasing safety.

Town staff proposed creating a neighborhood parking plan for streets within walking distance of LGHS. Currently, individual streets' residents have been seeking

permits for limiting parking to reduce congestion. A more comprehensive neighborhood plan would provide uniformity of time limits as well as ease for police enforcement. Town Council will hear this item again in May-June after staff conducts outreach to the LGHS neighborhood.

The town's Finance Committee was opened to resident volunteers. Three members of the public were chosen from an applicant pool to work with the town council members on finance measures.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: March 1 – Conceived by Mayor Emily Lo, the Council finalized The Public Safety Task Force to enhance safety in the Community. The objectives will include evaluating the City's public safety efforts and making recommendations for programs and improvements.



Other actions included:

Adopted the Resolution of the DMV restricting parking on Saint Charles Street.

Recommended action to provide direction on 2017 Spring Communication efforts and online subject topics. Suggestions were either an annual Saratogan with a monthly email newsletter or a quarterly Saratogan.

Recommended action to consider authorizing a local artist to paint a utility box at the entrance of the Village and allocate funds and authorize placement of Willys and Betty Peck bronzes in Blaney Plaza.

March 15 – the City Council recommended a proclamation declaring March 20-24, as Science Fair Week and to present commendations of the 2016 Science Fair winners who reside in Saratoga.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

SWSCV Annual Finance Drive – Your Help is Needed

We have launched the 2017 finance drive for our local League. You should have received a mailing requesting your contribution in the last few weeks. Donations can be designated to our Education Fund (tax deductible) or to our General Fund (not tax deductible). You can contribute by check to SWSCV League or online at our website. Please know that your generous donations to our annual fundraiser are critical to enabling us to continue providing League programs for our local community.

Last year, your League held 8 Candidate Forums and 11 'Pros & Cons' Community Presentations. We hosted local election information on the LWV Voter's Edge website (sample ballots, candidate and measure voter information), held monthly programs on such important topics as water, clean energy, and homeless services, and conducted monthly voter registration for new citizens. On the state level, our League member, Eleanor Yick, chaired the LWVC study, "Public Higher Education in California."

This year, we will present the results of our just-completed new study, Local Election Finance, to our local city and town councils and school boards. We suggest several best practices that encourage increased local election transparency and participation. We are working on a program about how to navigate information in a world of fake news also, we are working housing, transportation, and health issues and providing observers for local elections.

These programs require support. Our membership dues go almost entirely to support all other levels of the League, including the LWVUS (National) and LWVC (California) Leagues. Your support of our finance drive is key to continuing our local activities and innovative programming. In these turbulent times, the League's work to promote citizen participation in our democracy is more important than ever.

Please stand with your local League and support our efforts!

Thank you! Tom Picraux, Finance Chair

Welcome!

New Members

Mary-Lynne Bernald
Saratoga Vice-Mayor

Virginia Carpio

Nancy Hada

Markene K. Smith

Darlene Talukder

April Tilles

We're so glad you have joined the League!

Two easy things new members can do for further participation:

1. Sign up for LWVC newsletters and action alerts, lwvc.org/stay-informed.
2. Like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/LWVofCA.

Legislative Interview 2017: California Assemblymember Evan Low

Question 1: Funding of Elections

What legislative measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?

Assemblymember Evan Low is very active in supporting measures to increase voter access. As Chair of the California Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, he introduced a package of bills recently to improve voter participation, eliminate barriers to voting, and fight back against those who seek to deny Californians their voting rights. One of his bills supports the idea of making election day a holiday. Another supports prepaid postage on all mail-in ballots. Another bill he is introducing lowers the voter age to 17. He stated, "California has the strongest voter accessibility in the books." He also shared that he was shocked and dismayed to hear President Donald Trump continue to make irresponsible and unfounded allegations about widespread voter fraud in California when there is no evidence for such a claim....a claim which undermines our democracy.

Regarding inconsistencies in voting procedures and funding between counties in our state, Assemblymember Low explained that it was differences of opinion regarding local control and state control that were at the heart of this issue. "Each county has its own system in place," he said, adding that state versus local control is a complex and challenging issue.

Passionate about the importance of voting, Assemblymember Low stated he would be a champion for any measure to support adequate and stable funding for our state election process. He shared with us the sad fact that in 2014 only 25% of California eligible voters cast a ballot. His goal is to take down barriers to voting and to streamline and improve the process.

Question 2: Public Higher Education

How can California meet the challenge of enrolling more students, including students with greater needs at the UC and CSU? Is more state funding needed? Where does this issue run in your legislative priorities?

Assemblymember Low emphasized that he, as a former community college instructor, has a passion for higher education. He has been a member of the State Assembly Committee on Higher Education since his initial year in the office. In terms of increasing access, he shared how "time to completion" strongly impacts access. The fact that only nine percent of San Jose State students graduate in four years not only increases cost, but also limits space available for other students. Time to completion at the Community College and University levels has also increased. One of the reasons for this problem is that courses aren't offered when or where needed and this delays students from graduating. Tuition and housing costs also continue to increase. Obviously, more funding is needed, but how to acquire the funding is, in his opinion, the critical issue. He discussed the need for more certainty and less fluctuation in state revenue. One possible solution being discussed in Sacramento would be to restructure the current sales tax by lowering it and instituting a tax across the board on all goods and services purchased. "To keep kicking the can down the road is not a solution," he concluded.

Assemblymember Low was made aware of and given a copy of the recently completed LWVC Study of Public Higher Education in California. When asked if he would support an increase in the number of Community Colleges being able to offer four-year degrees, he answered in the affirmative. This would certainly increase access for many students because the student would be able to live at home and

wouldn't incur increased transportation costs.

Question 3: Water Resources

What kind of legislative proposals would you support to ensure that enough water of adequate quality is available for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, and environment in the face of over-stretched surface water and groundwater resources and climate conditions different than those California experienced in the last century?

Assemblymember Low began his answer to this question by referring to the recent Oroville Dam disaster which made us all aware of the importance of the infrastructure. Again, funding is needed to improve our state's infrastructure. The question he and fellow legislators face is how to determine the fairest ways to increase the revenue stream for the state. This increase in revenues is needed to ensure that the repair of this infrastructure takes priority. He is aware of other state committees such as Natural Resources and Parks and Wildlife discussing infrastructure issues, but he is not a member of these committees.

Question 4: What Other Issues Do You Think the Legislature Must Deal with in 2017? What are Your Personal Priorities?

Assemblymember Low stated that he is most concerned with the initiative process which he sees as an "abuse of the system." This initiative process leads to special elections which are quite costly. He cited the recent initiative in Campbell to allow several medical marijuana dispensaries even right next to residences, and to allow growing of a large amount of marijuana in private homes for "personal use." Because proponents forced this into a special election, this initiative alone costs the taxpayers \$700,000. It also is likely to have far lower and less representative turnout than a general election. He is introducing a bill which will consolidate special elections into the regular election cycle unless the local governing body decided the matter was sufficiently urgent to merit a special election.

Eleanor Yick



From L – R: Tracey Edwards (LWVC-S), Barbara Freitas & Judy Chamberline (LWVSJ/SC), Assemblyman Evan Low,

ACTION ALERTS

THANK YOU to our 24 members who responded to the last Action Alert from Chris Carson, President of LWVUS re: *The American Care Act*. This is a great increase in our number of responders and demonstrates our support for the **ADVOCACY WORK** the League does on our behalf!!

Eleanor Yick, Action Chair

AB 1089

With your help, AB 1089 legislation to end unlimited money in our local elections, was passed by the Assembly Elections Committee today with only one dissenting vote.

The bill will now move on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Our strong support of the bill will continue—and we'll let you know when it's time for you to contact your legislators again.

Helen Hutchison, LWVC President

Volunteer Assistants

Below are a few ways to participate and/or contribute to our League:

- * **Voters Service**, Register voters at the New Citizen's ceremonies. Contact Jackie Costanzo at jjc717@aol.com.
- * **Observers**, Volunteer for the Monte Sereno Council Meetings. Recording are also available. Contact Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com
- * **LWVC Convention**, mcox@lwvc.org
- * **Observers** needed for Campbell special elections April 25. Contact Jackie Costanza at jjc717@aol.com.
- * **Measure A (Housing) and/or Measure B (Transportation) Committee** members needed, Contact Hana Itani ASAP at (408) 598-1842.

Meet Our New Members

submitted by Barbara Lea, V.P.

Who are our new members? To help you get acquainted with them, we decided to revive an old League custom and print a few biographies a month, and here are the first two I would like to introduce to you. Robyn and Gail attended our Program Planning Day and Lori attended Bay Area League Day, which makes me think they will be active members.

Robyn McCreight

I am a librarian and as such I love to learn! In my free time I love to read, travel, and practice yoga. I joined LWV in order to get more involved with my community

and to advocate for education, health care, and human rights. I'm looking forward to meeting and learning from other LWV members.



Gail Nishimura

I was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in the Bay Area when my family moved out to Saratoga when I was two. After graduation from UC Berkeley with a BS degree in media-communications, I went on to do marketing communications work at Tencor Instruments (now called KLA Tencor). I later got my MBA at Dartmouth and became a product manager in the graphics chip industry. Eventually my product management career encompassed

consumer electronics where I worked over the years at Apple, Amazon Kindle, and Nokia. I am currently retired and reside in Los Gatos with my husband, Chris, and our dog, Pigpen. Interests include travel, cooking, eating, reading, and trying to stay in shape. In addition to my activities with LWV, I am a volunteer at the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop and Furry Friends.

What about you? When you joined the League, did you have a biography printed in the Voter? If we missed you and you would like one now, please send me your information. Nothing fancy—just anything you might say when you are meeting new friends—where you went to school, what kind of jobs you've had, why you joined, what you really love to do—anything you feel like saying. Of course, if you want to remain secretive and aloof, that's okay too—but we really would like to get to know you better.



The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year. The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond.

The *Monitor* is provided to readers for free, both in print and online (www.bayareamonitor.org).

Subscribe to the Monitor; bayareamonitor.org/subscribe.

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/bayareamonitor.

Contact us for more information: (510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org

Water – Groundwater Matters

“Life as we know it would be impossible without groundwater. It is the world’s most extracted natural resource, and it supports our ecosystems,” reports the National Groundwater Association.

Different organizations explain groundwater’s importance as:

- “our most critical local asset for ensuring adequate water supplies now and in the future. About half of the water used in Santa Clara County each year is pumped from local groundwater basins, and the groundwater basins are our best protection against droughts.” These groundwater basins have “vast storage capacity, estimated to be two times the capacity of all the district’s 10 surface reservoirs combined.” (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
- “among the Nation’s most important natural resources; ...essential to the vitality of agriculture and industry, as well as to the health of rivers, wetlands, and estuaries throughout the country” (USGS)
- “the only thing that even approximate[s] in size of storage [what] we’re going to lose when we lose our snowpack

in the decades to come” (State Water Resources Control Board Chair)

- cheaper than dams/reservoirs to build and maintain, with less evaporative loss than from surface storage. (multiple agencies)

Despite our critical need for stable supplies of groundwater, overpumping has not only reduced our state’s supply, but has caused 16 to 22 inches of land subsidence in areas of the Central Valley between March 2015 and September 2016, according to a report warning of ongoing dramatic groundwater depletion (February 2017 JPL/NASA/CalTech report, “JPL report”). In some cases, both storage capacity loss and land subsidence may be permanent.

Water conveyance structures are also victims of subsidence, the JPL report notes. The California Aqueduct has sunk in places as much as 25” (over two feet), resulting in a carrying capacity that may be reduced by 20%, says the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Hundreds of millions of dollars may be needed to restore the Aqueduct to its original design capacity, according to DWR.

A DWR news release quoted Director William Croyle: the “rates of San Joaquin Valley subsidence documented since 2014 by NASA are troubling and unsustainable. Subsidence has long plagued certain regions of California. But the current rates jeopardize infrastructure serving millions of people. Groundwater pumping now puts at risk the very system that brings water to the San Joaquin Valley. The situation is untenable.” Groundwater sustainability will not be required until 2040-2042 under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Concern also includes the quality of our diminishing groundwater. Since 1982, over 2,100 wastewater disposal and enhanced oil recovery wells have been identified as injecting into aquifers that should be protected in California. Under the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act*, such injection should not be allowed. Since about 2012, oil companies have been forced to stop injecting into over 400 of those wells. Questions remain about the remaining wells that pump into what have been identified as aquifers potentially supplying drinking water.

With water scarcity and climate change, groundwater has become an ever more critical source of water. People are looking to clean up even marginal groundwater to drinking water standards. Any added pollution complicates an already-serious problem.

So, groundwater matters to all Californians, north and south. Its proper management is essential to our state’s future.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Peggy Corr Is Gone



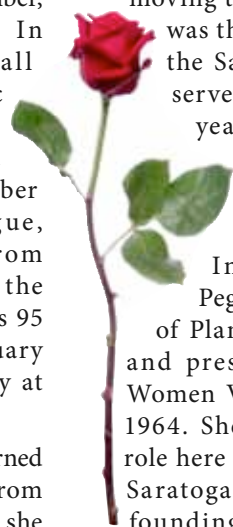
We have just lost a wonderful long-time member, Peggy Corr. In addition to all her other civic activities, Peggy was a 50-Year Member of our League, President from

1969 to 1971, and the winner of the Helga Ruby Award in 2010. She was 95 years old and passed away on February 11, 2017, surrounded by her family at the Terraces in Los Gatos.

Peggy hailed from Pennsylvania and earned a BS Degree in Home Economics from Drexel Institute of Technology where she

met her future husband. They lived in both Massachusetts and New York before moving to California, where Peggy was the first woman to serve on the Saratoga City Council and served as Vice Mayor for two years. When she arrived in our area, she also joined AAUW and the League of Women Voters.

In Schenectady County, Peggy was founding president of Planned Parenthood in 1956 and president of the League of Women Voters there from 1958 to 1964. She was very proud of her role here in the development of the Saratoga Public Library and the founding of the Saratoga Senior



Center and Adult Care Center. Over the years, she volunteered hundreds of hours at the Book-Go-Round, the Echo Shop, Hakone Garden Visitor Center and always supported many community events and activities.

Peggy will be missed by our League. She was a very special person!

Barbara Lea, Vice President

Climate Change Update: Seeds of the Future

Many of the articles about climate change include dire predictions of environmental disasters...gloom and doom scenarios. So this month I thought I'd change things up a bit and present an interesting article about what some scientists are doing to cope with the effects of climate change.

The following article is from the March/April 2017 Sierra Magazine by Editor in Chief Jason Mark:

Crop Scientists Are Racing to ID the Wild Relatives of Common Food Crops to Create a Climate Change-Resilient Agriculture

"Kim Hummer, a researcher for the USDA, looks for wild strawberries on the Oregon coast...Across the globe, botanists are working to identify what scientists call "crop wild relatives"—the weedy cousins of our staple foods.

Researchers have understood for more than a century that preserving the wild progenitors of domesticated crops is essential for sustaining the genetic resilience of global agriculture. But the current effort is fueled by a particular urgency, and much of the work to identify and preserve crop wild relatives has been undertaken since roughly 2010.

The threat from climate change to food production is at the center of this new urgency. As droughts, extreme rainstorms, and other erratic weather patterns intensify, farmers will need crops that can cope with such stresses. And plants that are wild or weedy—proven survivors—have the traits to meet those challenges. "With global climate change, people are coming to

realize that having a broad germplasm collection is a matter of food security," Hummer says, referring to the genetic material in seeds and plant tissues. "And all of that comes from the wild. Our mission is to preserve this material for all people for all time."

The seeds of our future agriculture, it turns out, reside in the deep evolutionary past.


All food crops—wheat, rice, pumpkins, tomatoes, apples—were once wild, plants that sprang unheralded from the earth. As humans harnessed those plants for our needs, we naturally prioritized the traits that served us best: sugars for tastiness, grains that resist shattering and spilling their kernels on the ground, uniformity for ease of harvest. Domestication, however, is something of a devil's bargain. When we selected for some traits, we lost others: hardiness against pests and diseases, drought resistance, salt tolerance.

Collection teams like Hummer's head into undeveloped areas to gather plant materials, either seeds or tissues...The specimens are brought back to field stations and regional seed banks. Here in the United States, the samples are eventually sent to the national seed bank at Fort Collins, Colorado—a secure facility that, with more than half a million specimens in its collection, is like the **Fort Knox of American Botany**.

Even though crop wild relatives are proven survivors that are extremely adaptable, they are also often highly localized and therefore susceptible to habitat destruction or to the dislocations wrought by climate change. By 2050, up to a quarter of plants could be extinct—meaning that collectors...are in a race against time.

Scientists working with crop wild relatives are **building a lifeboat of sorts, a genetic ark** that will be the foundation of a climate-change-adaptable, 21st-century agriculture."

Dave Yick, Environment


COMMONWEALTH CLUB

Behind Dark Money

with

Jane Mayer

Staff Writer, The New Yorker; Author, *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*

Tuesday • April 4, 2017 • 7:00 P.M.

Mayer Theatre – Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

General: \$15 Members; \$22 Non-Members;
Premium: \$40 Members & \$50 Non-Members
(Includes a copy of book and priority seating)
Students: \$8 (with valid ID)

Who are the people bankrolling our political system? Mayer takes us behind the scenes and exposes the powerful group of individuals who are shaping our country. She traces the billions of dollars spent by the Kochs, the Scaifes, the Olins, and the Bradleys and uncovers their influences. Mayer also discusses the results of the 2016 election and what the future might entail.

Tickets: www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2017-04-04/jane-mayer-behind-dark-money. Enter the code SWSCV (Case sensitive) at check out to receive our member price on general tickets – a \$7 savings.

www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2017-04-04/jane-mayer-behind-dark-money

New Single-Payer Health Bill Introduced – SB 562

The campaign to achieve a single-payer health care system returned to the California legislature on February 17 (and referred to Committee on March 2) when Senators Ricardo Lara and Toni Atkins introduced SB 562, titled *Californians for a Healthy California*. Currently, it is a spot bill stating “the intent of the Legislature to enact a comprehensive universal single payer health care coverage program and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state,” (from the text of the bill). It is expected that the full text will be released in about a month. The goal is to move the bill through the state Senate during this first year of the legislative session. It will be heard in the Senate Health and Appropriations Committees before going to the Senate floor.

The text of the bill further states that all residents of the state have a right

to health care, and notes that under current law many Californians (almost 3 million) are left without coverage or with inadequate coverage.

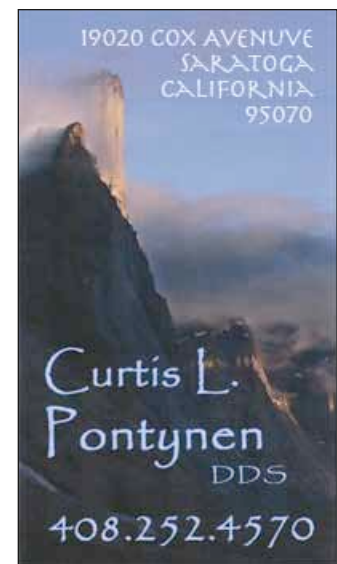
The bill is modeled on one recently passed by the New York State Assembly. It is based on the same principles which underpinned the other earlier single payer bills in California. SB 562 will establish a comprehensive public insurance plan that covers everyone and guarantees quality basic care—sometimes called a Medicare for All plan. The plan will ensure that no one lacks access to care because of an inability to pay for it.

A fiscal study will be conducted to determine the impact of the bill. However, numerous studies in many parts of the country, including the 2006 *Lewin Report* in California, have shown that such a single payer plan will save money over the status quo system based on private

insurance. Thus, such a system is critically needed now as costs of care and coverage are rising and benefits are being reduced.

Advocates view this moment as presenting an excellent opportunity to achieve their goal, as our current system is under attack and a new way of ensuring access to care is needed. Advocacy for the bill is led by the Healthy California Campaign. The AllCare Alliance and the Campaign for a Healthy California (CHC) are collaborating in mounting an energetic effort to educate the public and move the bill in the Legislature. **The League of Women Voters of California, a member of the AllCare Alliance, has consistently supported prior single payer legislation.** When the full text of the bill is available, an analysis will be submitted for possible endorsement by LWVC.

By Pat Snyder, LWV Diablo Valley



Millions of Lives Saved!

Washington, DC – Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, issued the following statement after the House Speaker pulled the “American Health Care Act” (AHCA) from the House floor, canceling the House vote:

“Today we saw further proof that the American Health Care Act is the wrong solution to healthcare in this country. This unpopular legislation is bad for women, bad for families and bad for seniors. The House took the right step by not voting on this un-American bill

that would take away health coverage for millions of Americans.”

View the LWV position on health care, <https://lwvc.org/issues/health-care>.

Legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) had been introduced by the leadership in the House of Representatives. It was introduced in secret and being rushed to passage. It would have ripped apart healthcare and revoked coverage for millions.

In fact, the only real winners under this new legislation are the big interests and the wealthiest Americans. Hundreds of

billions in tax breaks are included for the wealthy and the pharmaceutical and insurance industries.

The League remains committed to ensuring that Americans have the coverage and access to care that they need to take care of themselves and their families. We will not stand by while members of Congress dismantle protections for the health and well-being of the American public.

Sunshine Luncheon Was an Enjoyable Success!

Mayors and leaders from our League's four represented cities, plus Cupertino, attended the Luncheon. Each talked about what was happening in their communities or on the School Board regarding transparency in government. All mentioned the issues around immigration and being in support of diversity in regard to

adding strength to communities. You can read the article Reporter Judy Peterson, who joined our luncheon, wrote for the Mercury News on March 24 at www.mercurynews.com/2017/03/24/three-west-valley-mayors-stand-defiantly-against-trump-policy. Pictures are of the many members and guests who attended.



L-R, Cynthia Chang, LGSUHS Trustee, Mary-Lynne Bernald, Saratoga Vice Mayor, Marico Sayoc, Los Gatos Mayor, Rob Rennie, Los Gatos Vice Mayor, Emily Lo, Saratoga Mayor, Hana Itani, LWVSWSCV President, Liz Gibbons, Campbell Mayor, and Armina Husic, Sr. Program Manager, Center for Survivors of



LWV California Convention

The 66th State Convention of LWVC

A Capitol Connection

10 A.M., Friday, June 2, – 3 P.M., Sunday, June 4, 2017

The Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento

LWVUS and LWVC Conventions alternate every other year, and this year is the State League Convention. They are exciting events where the positions, studies and financial business of the League are decided on.

Workshops on political issues and proposals for studies occur throughout the day and evening. Many are “how tos” on things like creating Facebook and website pages. There is also a market place where League related items are for sale. And, most interesting, are the phenomenal speaker presentations.

Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

The purpose of the Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. A range of activities is available to suit any schedule or budget, from investing in a full three-day registration to treating yourself to a special pre-Convention event. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are Making Democracy Work®! Check out your options and register today, lwvc.wordpress.com/2017-registration.



Speakers This Year Include:

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla; Mayor of Sacramento Darrell Steinberg; Lake Research Partners Celinda Lake – a leading political strategist for the Democratic Party; California Budget and Policy Center Chris Hoene; U.C. Berkeley Researcher Lisa Garcia Beolla; and USC Survey Director Jill Darling. Read more about these speakers at <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/2017-speakers>.

Coming Attractions for the Newcomer and Seasoned Pros!

The LWVC board, committees, and staff are planning on holding a series of webinars as we get closer to the Convention. Topics include:

- Parliamentary procedures – how to make the rules work for you
- The recommended program – what’s in it, and how the recommendations were made
- Bylaws changes – what’s being proposed and why?
- The proposed budget – What do the numbers mean about what we can – and can’t – do in the coming two years?

The webinars could be useful if you are planning on attending. If there are more topics you’d like to have us explain, **Let us know**; and we’ll try to get the information to you.

Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our blog: lwvc.wordpress.com.

Helen H. Hutchison LWVC President

Join the League of Women Voters or Give a Gift of Membership

Name: _____ Date: _____

Membership Renewal: ☐ New Member: ☐ Check# _____

An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at

the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to Sharon Graham at sharona.graham@gmail.com or call 408-204-2585.

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley
PO Box 2865
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

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Ahmed A. Moneim, D.D.S
Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology
Assistant Professor University of California San Francisco

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Apr 4 Tue **Dark Money - Jane Mayer**, 7:00P.M. Mayer Theater SCU
500 El Camino, Santa Clara
- Apr 5 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00A.M. Saratoga Fire Station, Saratoga
- Apr 6 Thu **Great Decisions (5) Geopolitics of Energy**, 1:00–3:00P.M.
Guests please call Terry Zaccone (408) 357-6565
- Apr 8 Sat **Immigration – Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren**, 1:30–2:30P.M.
Arab American Cultural Center Houge Park, 3968 Twilight Dr. #2,
San Jose, **R.S.V.P President Itani (408) 838-6416**
- Apr 13 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Home of Gail Nishimura, 81 College Ave., Los Gatos
Call (408) 425-3590 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
(Phone number in the Directory for Gail is incorrect.)
- Apr 19 Wed **The ERA – Congresswoman Anna Eshoo**, 2:00P.M.
San Jose Clubhouse, 15480 Union Ave., San Jose
- Apr 20 Thu **Great Decisions (6) Latin America**, 1:00–3:00P.M.
Guests please call Terry Zaccone (408) 357-6565

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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Phone:

408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/lwvswscv

Twitter: [lwv_swscv](https://twitter.com/lwv_swscv)

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Mar 1 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Mar 9 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Dale Hill, 150 Robin Way., Los Gatos
Call (408) 356-7679 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Mar 11 Sat **Leadership Academy**, 9:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. **See flyer (page 12)!**
- Mar 12 Sun **Trust & Justice – Silicon Valley Reads**, 2:00 P.M.
Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino
- Mar 15 Wed **Sunshine Week Luncheon**, 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Viva Restaurant, 15970 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos
- Mar 15 Wed **Navigating Information in a World of Fake News**, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Cubberly Theatre, 4120 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Apr 19 Wed **19th Amendment - The Equal Rights Amendment**, 2:00 P.M.,
Representative Anna Eshoo, Historic San Jose Clubhouse
- Apr 25 Tues **Campbell Special Elections**, Observers Needed

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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