



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

September, 2017

League of Women Voters

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 2865

Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

Telephone: 408-lwv-1842

www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org

lwv.swscv@gmail.com

Bay Area League of Women Voters

Telephone: 510 839-1608

Fax: 510 839-1610

<http://lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org>

League of Women Voters California

Phone: 916 442-7215

Fax: 916 442-7362

<http://ca.lwv.org>

League of Women Voters

Phone: 202-429-1965

Fax: 202-429-0854

<http://www.lwv.org>

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Tracking & Influencing Federal Legislation

with Guest Speakers

**Zoe
Lofgren**

U.S.
Representative



**Jennifer
Waggoner**

former LWV
California
President

Saturday • September 23 • 3 P.M.

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

and Co-sponsor

Free and Open to the Public

Futher Details on Page 4



President's Letter

Our Annual Meeting was on May 30. We had more than fifty members attending the meeting and more guests from the public joined us after lunch to listen to our speaker Ann Ravel. She gave us an insightful speech about her experience in Washington D. C.

Members elected a dynamic Board! Thanks to the **Nominating Committee** for all their efforts to find members to serve on Board and Off-Board positions. I am looking forward to working with everyone to have a progressive and productive year. I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your Board President for another year.

On July 24, I received the *Approval Statement of the Annual Meeting Minutes* from the Reading Committee. Thanks to Markene Smith, Saratoga Vice Mayor Mary-Lynn Bernald and Courtney Monk for their collaborative efforts.

Last June, six members from our League including me, were able to attend the State League Convention in Sacramento. We attended numerous informative workshops and caucuses, heard inspiring speakers, debated and voted on by-laws changes, budget, new leadership, and the LWVC program for the next two years.

These are challenging and exciting times in our country. Our League and the League of Women Voters US continue to stand for individual rights and the continuance of a vibrant democracy for all Americans regardless of religion or national origin. We also act to ensure a high quality of life for all. We are now committed more than ever to registering voters. Thanks

to all the volunteers whose commitment to the League is always needed.

Special thanks to our super volunteer Gail Nishimura for all that she is bringing to the League from interesting events to more visibility in the media. With Gail's efforts, our Leaguers were able to enjoy a wonderful day on July 15, at Wildwood Park in Saratoga and participate two times at Jazz on the Plazz, July 19 and August 16. Thanks to Los Gatos Music & Arts, Inc., for giving the League more opportunities to be more visible and have the community learn more about our programs.

A few of our members and I attended the Campbell City Council meeting on August 15 where Tom Picraux spoke about the results of our League's study on our Local Community Election Finance. We asked them to give the study time for future discussion.

Then at the Board Meeting of Campbell Union High School District on August 17, Tom made a Public Comment about the Study—followed by Eleanor Yick giving a presentation on the results of the State League Study on California Public Higher Education. Eleanor handed members of the Board a package of that study. While we were there, we listened to an emotional public comment by a teacher on the cost of housing in the area. As you already know, this is a big problem in the Bay Area together with Transportation.

On Friday, August 18, Leaguers and other community members were able to listen to a great presentation by the Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition (SPHCC) at the Arab American Cultural Center of Silicon Valley in San Jose. When enacted, the Healthy California Act will guarantee that every resident of California will receive comprehensive healthcare services. It's like Medicare for All. Of course, the big issue at the assembly is to figure out the revenue sources, but the presentation gave us clear alternative solutions!

Coming up on September 16, our Board will be welcoming our new members at Ginger Good's home. Thanks Ginger!

Continued on Next Page.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Officers & Directors

President, Hana Itani

Vice President, Barbara Lea

Secretary, Nancy Rucker

Treasurer, Danice Picraux

Action, Eleanor Yick

Education, Eleanor Yick

Finance Drive, Tom Picraux

Membership, Johnathan Yee

Natural Resources, Meg Giberson

Observers, Raquel Durand

Programs, **TBD**

Public Relations, Gail Nishimura

Assistants:

Pat White & Nancy Rucker

Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson

Voters Service

Wendy Hendry, Sue Cooney

Nominating Committee

Chair, Pat White

Members

Sharon Graham, Gail Nishimura,

Lois Smallwood

Off-Board Chairs

Bay Area Representative, Patty Weber

Circulation, Natalie Heling

Clip 'n Come, Dale Hill

Database Manager, Zina Lou Dyer

Environment, Dave Yick

Great Decisions, Terry Zacccone

Health Care, Barbara Lea

Hospitality, Judy Zacccone

Immigration, **TBD**

Observers

Campbell: Jackie Costanzo

Los Gatos: Lynda Jandron

Monte Sereno: **TBD**

Saratoga: Raquel Durand

Youth 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

Cherri Nelson, Gail Nishimura

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>



President's Letter (Cont.)

If you are interested in participating, please let me know?

We continue to increase our League activities as the involvement of newer and long-time members is growing. I am delighted to feel the energy from our new members. Thanks to Cindy Clark (Water Director for Sustainable Silicon Valley), Courtney Monk and Rosalind Cardia who volunteered to be involved in the different committees on Natural Resources for the Bay Area League.

This is the time to think about joining the Great Decisions Program coming in February. This year we are thinking of how to give our new members the chance to participate. So we decided to create a new group that will meet in the evening. Thanks to Eileen Barnes who secured a great room for us to meet in Campbell. Check the list of 2018 Great Decisions' topics in this *Voter* and watch for more details in future *Voters*.

I am excited to let you know that Dan Hendry is initiating a Political Bookclub. The first book to be discussed will be *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer. We have prepared great programs coming soon related to current events. Please let Dan or me know if you are interested in participating in this group?

On September 23 at 3P.M. we will have a Federal Legislation program at Saratoga

Library prepared by Gail Nishimura. Please see more information on page 4.

Then an Impartial Judiciary Forum will be held on October 24 at 6:30P.M. at Cupertino Quinlan Community Center. We will be having three judges and a law professor participating in the Forum.

Wendy Hendry and Sue Cooney are planning a powerful educational event about the Electoral College on November 7 at 7:00P.M. in the evening at Saratoga Library.

Thanks to Eleanor Yick and Dan Hendry for joining the Juvenile Justice County League Committee. They are involved in planning a Forum that will be coming up in the spring.

You can see that our Leaguers have been busy during this summer bringing quality programs to you and our community. Please let me know if you want to participate in planning a program on a topic that you see as important to bring to the community?

Your contributions and support to keep democracy strong in our community are well appreciated. **I am looking forward to seeing you soon at our programs.**

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

Board Bytes

Meeting of June 15, 2017

Brochure: 500 more brochures are to be printed with the new Mission Statement change along with 1000 envelopes.

Activities: Eleanor Yick and Dan Hendry have volunteered at President Itani's request for members to join the SCC LWV Juvenile Justice Committee to plan a Forum in spring of 2018.

SCC Leagues are being asked to participate in various Committees such as Strong Start for Education with an Oversight Committee, Raising Bridge Crossing Fees,

and a presentation on Opportunities for Running for Office.

Gail Nishimura secured a table presence for our League at the Los Gatos Jazz on the Plazz.

Barbara Lea, Eleanor Yick and President Itani volunteered to be a committee to organize Joe Simitian's talk on his travels around the states.

Programs: Our League will present programs on an Impartial Judiciary Forum the evening of October 24, How to Impact the Legislative Process on Saturday September 23, and the Electoral College

Continued on Page 5.

Keeping Abreast of Federal Legislation Understanding How You Can Impact It



**Saturday
September 23
3 P.M.**

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Many US citizens feel overwhelmed with the changes being proposed by today's administration and find it difficult to track what will be implemented into law. It is clear that many voters are showing more interest in taking a more active part in affecting upcoming legislation.

Our League is presenting this program in cosponsorship with the Saratoga Library and hope to inform and educate the public on how they can participate in and affect federal legislation! We

will present two guest speakers to talk about the legislative process and where citizens can have an impact. There will be time for questions.

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (District 19) and Jennifer Waggoner (former LWVC president) will address where citizens can find out about new bills that have been proposed and their current status. In addition, the speakers will discuss how a voter can be effective in changing an existing law or bill.

Biographies:

Representative Lofgren has been a member of the US House of Representatives since 1995. She currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, and the Committee on House Administration. She holds a BA in political science from

Stanford University and a JD from Santa Clara University.

Jennifer Waggoner currently serves on the LWVC's Advancement Committee and is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She first joined the LWVC board in 2007 and was the president from July 2011 through June 2014. She holds a degree in Government from Claremont McKenna College and a diploma in Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh.

Parking: ADA parking is available at the Saratoga Library. Should the library's parking lot be full, then additional parking can be found across Saratoga Avenue at Saint Andrews Church.

This event is free and open to the public. We hope many will come join us and participate in the discussion. We welcome your questions!

Gail Nishimura, Public Relations

New Citizens Ceremonies

Thanks to the following members who stepped up to register citizens on June 15: **Gail Nishimura, Pat White, Dan and Wendy Hendry, Anne Stewart, Laurel Smith, Sue Cooney and Sharon Snyder.** Also, on July 27, when I issued a last minute call for extra help, **Barbara Lea and Helen Athey** also answered the call. **Thanks so much!**

There has been a ceremony day added, with four sessions on September 26, for which I sent out a request. The sessions are at 8:30 A.M., 10:15 A.M., 12:45 P.M. and 2:45 P.M., with registration beginning about 45 minutes to one hour later. So far Patti van der Burg, Steve Ravel, Jane Voigts, Helen Athey, Al & Anne Stewart have volunteered. **Thank you!**

PLEASE NOTE: Our League is slated to provide the volunteers for two upcoming sessions on Thursday October 26 and Tuesday November 28. If your schedule allows, please pencil it in and I will be sending out an email asking for volunteers. Not sure how many sessions there will be those two dates, but lately we have had FOUR each day! I think the present climate around immigration may be pushing the numbers higher. Each of the four sessions had at least 400 New Citizens sworn in last month! **As always, it's easiest to reach me at jjc717@aol.com.** **Thanks for your support!**

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

Welcome!

New Members

**Neal Cabrinha
Courtney Monk
Ann Mill Ravel
Jan B. Schwartz**

**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.



!Thank You! to Some Additional Generous Donors



Vivian Ajlouny
Marilyn Carlson



Maud Gleason
Dick & Sharon Kelkenberg
Gloria Penrose



Jean Stables & Bill Rieken
Ann and Dan Roberts
Michelle Shimada

Board Bytes (Cont.)

November 7. Various venues were discussed for some of these programs.

Membership: Jonathan Yee has become the Chair. Gail Nishimura and Barbara Lea are planning a New Member Meeting for the fall.

Public Relations: Gail Nishimura has added our League to Meetups.com announcements for wider advertising.

Natural Resources: The Board voted and approved to have Meg Giberson represent our League at the Santa Clara Valley Water District meetings on water issues and the Water Fix project.

Health Care: After Barbara Lea talked about being present in Sacramento for the SB 562 health bill debate, Alan Giberson volunteered to assist her.

Cherri Nelson, Temporary Secretary

Meeting of Jun 15, 2017

Announcements: A Declaration of Support for Climate Change Goals of the Paris Agreement was signed by Marico Sayoc, Mayor of Los Gatos; and we will send one to our other three city mayors suggesting they also sign.

Great Decisions: This coming spring, we will offer two sections—one in the daytime and one in the evening.

Political Book Club: Dan Hendry is organizing a Political Book Club, which will start meeting in October.

Local Finance Study: Tom Picraux reported that dates have been set to send out this Study and that we plan to attend those meetings to speak during Public Comments.

Jazz in the Plazz: Gail Nishimura reported on the evenings some of our Board members staffed a League table at this event. She felt that the main advantage was gaining exposure for the League.

Upcoming Programs: The following programs were discussed.

Federal Legislation, September 23, at Saratoga Library

National Voter Registration Day, September 26, will not be set up at West Valley College this year because of the low results last year, but we will continue Voter Registration at Farmers' Markets, and at the New Citizens' Events in Campbell.

Impartial Judiciary, October 24, with location to be determined.

Electoral College, November 7, at Saratoga Library.

Juvenile Justice Forum, in the spring.

Civil Discourse Program, Many Board members volunteered to work on this.

Public Relations: Gail Nishimura asked that those sending in information for advertising should include date, location, time, and three outcomes for attendees.

Membership: After a report on membership totals, a discussion on getting new members involved resulted in beginning a Buddy System.

New Member luncheon in September.

Natural Resources: Meg Giberson provided an extensive report on the current status and LWVC concerns about the proposed California Water Fix (former Twin Tunnels) project.

Health Care: Barbara Lea reported on the status of Single-Payer Health Care in California. SB562 was approved in the Senate but removed from discussion in the Assembly to put in more specific information about funding.

Commonwealth Program: Van Jones, political commentator and activist, will be speaking at Villa Regusa in Campbell on October 20.

Eleanor Yick, Temporary Secretary

**BAY AREA
MONITOR**



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area Education Fund

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

City & Town Council Observers

One of the hallmarks of League activities is assigning League members to observe elected agencies, councils, commissions, and school boards. The observers are tasked with listening carefully, taking notes, and reporting back to their local or regional League on what transpires in these meetings. They look for adherence to open government laws, how agendas are described and followed, how actions taken might reflect on League positions and goals. Our League observers are an extension of the League into our community. Often League reports lead to action taken by their League in the form of testimony or written communication. (LWVFNUC Summer eVoter)

Campbell: LWV member Tom Picraux presented the findings from the Local Election Finance Study to the Campbell City Council on August 15, highlighting those areas specific to Campbell. Campbell was lauded for their practice of helping to defray the cost of ballot statements for those running for council. They also encouraged the city to make access to both candidate statements and contribution details of who contributed and how much, easily accessible on the city website.

A citizen group, Citizens for Sensible Growth, has been formed to discourage the city from allowing a proposed In-N-Out Burger from coming into the site of the prior Elephant Bar Restaurant on Hamilton Avenue near the Highway 17 offramp. Several speakers spoke about the impact on traffic and congestion that would result from this approval. They are asking people to visit their website at www.citizensforsensiblegrowth.com.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: June 6 - Up to \$451,000 was approved to fund a sidewalk improvement project where Kennedy and Stonybrook Roads meet. Residents have expressed safety concerns regarding the older wooden structure there, used by many pedestrians and bicyclists. The new construction will be in concrete.

June 20 - Town Council approved moving forward with plans to construct a trailhead connection to the Los Gatos Creek trail from Highway 9. The majority of funding will be sought from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's program, One Bay Area Grant cycle II. If funding is granted, it is estimated to take two years to design and complete the project. This connection has been long thought of favorably by town residents and many expressed enthusiasm during the public hearing.

Residents of East Los Gatos raised concerns about beach-going traffic clogging Los Gatos Blvd., University Ave., and surrounding neighborhoods. While weekend closure at the Santa Cruz Ave., entrance to Hwy 17 has helped downtown, east Los Gatos has suffered increased traffic congestion and gridlock on weekends as motorists seek to use the alternative Hwy 9 and Lark Ave. entrances.



Residents asked questions about the town's next moves, following the judge's recent decision in the North 40 court case. Mayor Sayoc announced that the Council would be meeting the following week (last week of June) in closed session to review the ruling. As of this meeting, there were no other actions. Council member Jensen and town staff confirmed the public can review legal briefs filed in the case on the Santa Clara County court website.

July 24 - Council takes a vacation during July, except for this "Special Meeting." Public commentary was heard solely addressing the North 40 Phase 1 Development Project, in light of the county judge's recent decision. Staff and Council members educated residents on the decision's meaning and limitations. State housing law played a major factor in the ruling in favor of the developers' rights.

August 1 - The North 40 Phase 1 Development Project will proceed after approval by a majority of three council

City & Town Councils

Members are encouraged to attend the Council meetings of the cities that our League serves.

Campbell City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:30P.M.

Los Gatos Town Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:00P.M.

Monte Sereno City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:00P.M.

Saratoga City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:00P.M.

members. Council Member Jensen cited the legal specifics in the case. Rennie described positive aspects, such as property tax revenue, housing for seniors, traffic infrastructure improvements. Mayor Sayoc encouraged the town to move forward, focus on planning now for Phase 2, the north half of the property. Spector voted against approval, emphasizing it did not meet the goal of building affordable housing. Leonardis expressed his frustration, asking he be counted as not voting and recorded as an abstention.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: July 19, August 2 - Cancelled

July 5 - The Council adopted a resolution which set the Property Tax Levy Rate.

Accepted a Budget resolution to establish a fund for the landscape and lighting of the newly created Brookview District.

Accepted amendments to contracts for landscape services, the proposed amount for materials testing services, and the design contract for Prospect Road Improvement Project.

The Council recommended public hearings and testimony on the Nuisance Weed Abatement Order. Mandated a resolution for removal of weeds on properties which remain non-compliant.

Addressed and recommended action to designate the City of Saratoga voting delegate and alternative voting delegate for the 2017 League of California Cities Annual Conference.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

Water Fix/Tunnels–Decision Time! **URGENT!**

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) will soon decide whether to join in paying the \$17 billion price tag to bore twin tunnels proposed to export water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other regions.

The design is less than ten percent complete and eventual costs—including interest, overruns, and construction delays—will likely extend to \$60 billion or more. Much about the project is unknown.

The League of Women Voters of California does not support this WaterFix/Twin Tunnels project. League principles have long urged alternate choices to large infrastructure such as this. Regional reliance and conservation, water recycling and reuse can replace reliance on water infrastructure that, like Oroville Dam, can be vulnerable to design and construction failures and other natural disasters.

Fisheries and the ecosystem of the Bay-Delta have been severely damaged by decades of export levels higher than the system could sustain. WaterFix tunnels would divert water before it even reaches the Delta.

Instead of tunnels, wastewater reclamation could save a bigger portion of the approximately 200,000 acre-feet per year (afy) our waste treatment plants discharge to the Bay, where the nutrient-rich effluent causes harm and has caused the threat of billions of dollars in fines to Bay Area plants. Yet, Santa Clara Valley Water District documents only propose recycling 30,000 afy by 2035. In contrast, Orange County is already recycling over 100,000 afy.

With twice as many voters very willing to pay for water recycling as for facilities to

import water from the Delta (according to a 2017 SCVWD survey), the path forward seems clear.

Stormwater capture, another example, could help recharge the county's vast underground storage capacity, which can hold more than twice local reservoirs' capacity—important, since nearly one-half of the water used in the county comes from groundwater. Los Angeles has a plan for stormwater capture ranging from 164,000 to over 250,000 afy water by the end of the century. SCVWD imports only about 170,000 acre-feet per year. Clearly, stormwater could provide a large percentage of our water.

October 10 has been set as SCVWD's deadline for a WaterFix decision. **Watch for action alerts from the League!**

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Climate Action: *An Inconvenient Truth Sequel*

In June, my wife, Eleanor, and I first saw this film at a prescreening at Stanford... and then saw it again at a public theater showing in August. It inspired me so much that I attempted to register for Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Training held in Seattle but it was filled. To become a Climate Reality Leader attend the next training Oct. 17-19 in Pittsburg, PA – there is no cost - but register by Sept. 12, 2017.

Following is an excerpt from a Sundance Film Review in Variety Magazine, Jan., 2017

“Ten years after *An Inconvenient Truth*, Al Gore brings the news on climate change again in a documentary that's anything but hot air.

A decade ago...there was every reason to suspect that, like too many socially conscious Sundance documentaries, it could wind up preaching to the choir. But “*An Inconvenient Truth*” was the rare documentary that actually achieved what these movies always set out to do: it didn't just change hearts and minds—it shifted a paradigm.

For those who got it—that is, for those who grasped that the issue of climate

change truly is about the survival of the planet, and maybe even the human race—the last 10 years have been a time of galvanizing hope and punishing despair. Both those spirits course through the film, which once again features Gore in lecture mode as he leads his Climate Reality Leadership Training seminars around the world. But the movie, also takes the form of a wide-ranging, visually graphic exploration of where, exactly, the planet is now...

The film opens with images of the Greenland ice sheets melting; tumultuous mountains of white caving in on themselves, and long stretches of scrubby brownish-green terrain where, as recently as the 1980s, there was only ice. Gore tours these areas and updates other catastrophic patterns around the globe, which are like something out of a disaster movie or a rite of biblical reckoning: rainstorms that... enter an atmosphere so much more saturated that the violent downpours are nicknamed “rain bombs”; people in India with their shoes stuck to melting streets; and the ongoing surges of flooding in

cities like Miami that are the byproduct of all that Arctic meltdown—the water, after all, has to go somewhere.

Gore, when he attends the global conference on climate change in Paris in 2015, helps broker a deal that has hit a telling log jam—namely, the conflict over climate change between developed countries and the developing world. Simply put, India doesn't want to commit to using solar energy—it wants to keep relying on fossil fuel—because the West, in its view, had 150 years to build their civilizations on the foundation of coal. And India needs its energy now. Gore gets on the phone with the world's leading manufacturer of solar panels (Solar City), and he convinces them to make an offer charitable enough to be game-changing. And India signs the accord.

Talk about a revolution! The most hopeful note sounded by *An Inconvenient Sequel* relates to the newly competitive costs of wind and solar energy, which are rapidly nudging them center stage...”

Dave Yick, Environment



A 50-year Member Leaves Us

Goodbye to our League member Barclay Slade who passed away peacefully at home on May 26, 2017, with her daughters at her side. She loved living in the Santa Cruz Mountains in Las Cumbres outside of Los Gatos, and she also loved the volunteer work she did at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Barclay hailed from Pennsylvania, and she and her family moved to Saratoga in 1969. She was an honored 50-year Member of the League, always ready to pitch in when needed. We spent many an afternoon at Marilyn Buelteman's home getting the Voter ready for the Post Office before the electronic mailing we have today. A Memorial Gathering was held for Barclay on July 15. She was a very special person, and we wish she could have been with us longer.



Listening to Trump's America: Bridging the Divide

a presentation by:

JOE SIMITIAN



Joe Simitian was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and represents the Fifth District. Joe's public service over the years includes stints as a member of the California State Senate, California State Assembly, Mayor of Palo Alto, and President of the Palo Alto School Board.

Saturday • September 9 • 2 - 4 P.M.
Mountain View Senior Center
 Multipurpose Room A • 266 Escuela, Mt. View

Free to all. Seating is limited.

Register at: <https://lwv-simitian.eventbrite.coms>

League of Women Voters
 Los Altos • Mt. View • Cupertino • Sunnyvale

Volunteer League Opportunities

The Nominating Committee worked all last year to successfully recruit members to volunteer for our League's Board positions. There are still a few positions in need of energetic, supportive members. If you are willing to continue to support the LWV mission, we encourage the lending of your skills, energy and time to our efforts with any of the positions below still open.

Besides furthering the work of political education and advocacy, working with the League provides growth and camaraderie, learning and developing new skills, and working alongside amazingly wonderful proactive women and men.

There has been an ongoing need for a City Council Observer in Monte Sereno. The League attends and reports on all City Council meetings. Observing School Board Meetings is also part of being an Observer. Some meetings can be watched

on TV. A written report is published in the *Voter* to keep members informed of local political issues. There have been some controversial local issues lately, the North 40 and a protest over a gun store in Los Gatos or Campbell's special election on regulating marijuana dispensaries.

If you are on NextDoor.com in a town other than Los Gatos, Gail Nishimura, PR Chair, would really appreciate it if she could add you to her list of people who can help post an event. Once a month, Gail will request you post program information in the Events section of your town's NextDoor. We want to add more followers to our Facebook page as well as keep the postings fresh.

Watch for the opportunities to be listed in future *Voters*. **This is your League and it works at its best with members willing to contribute their support.**

Cherri Nelson, *Voter* Editor

League Volunteer Opportunities

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

* Board positions open: Program Chair, Immigration Director

* **Membership Team**, Correspondence & Record Keeping. Contact Barbara Lea

* **NextDoor.com**, Post to publicize our programs to your town. Contact Gail Nishimura.

* **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. They can also be listened to on tape. Contact Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com

2017 Annual Meeting



LWVUS Award to Dale Hill for her 50 years of membership in our League!



Eleanor Yick received the Helga Ruby Award for her years of dedicated participation and service to our League.



Tom & Danice Picraux were given a Certificate of Appreciation as outstanding volunteers.



50 Year Member Dale Hill.



The New Board for 2017-18 L-R: Raquel Durand, Wanda Alexander, Cherri Nelson, Sue Cooney, Wendy Hendry, Tom & Danice Picraux, Hana Itani,



Guest Speaker: Former Federal Elections Commission Chair, Ann Ravel.



Visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lwvswscv, to see slide shows of more events.

Medicare for All SB 562 is Dead In California

Sacramento Bee, June 23, 2017

Summary of Article by Taryn Luna and Christopher Cadelago

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Paramount) stopped a sweeping plan to overhaul the health care market in California, calling the bill “woefully incomplete.” Rendon announced plans to table the bill to create a government-run universal health care system in the Assembly Rules Committee “until further notice” and gave senators time to complete areas that the bill does not currently address.

“Even senators who voted for Senate Bill 562 noted there are potentially fatal flaws in the bill, including the fact it does not address many serious issues, such as explicit financing, delivery of care, cost controls, or the realities of needed action by the Trump administration and voters to make SB 562 a genuine piece of legislation,” Rendon said.

Democratic Sens. Ricardo Lara and Toni Atkins, who introduced the proposal, acknowledged the bill was dead for the year. Lara and Atkins had described the bill as a work in progress when it passed the Senate earlier this month without a funding plan. A legislative analysis pegged the cost at \$400 billion.

The abrupt announcement shields members of the Assembly from having to take a difficult vote that could be used against them by critics or supporters of the policy.

The decision serves a major blow to the California Nurses Association, a vocal supporter of the legislation. Their calls have gone national. At a speech in Los Angeles earlier this year, Sen. Bernie Sanders, who plans to introduce similar legislation at the federal level, issued a message of his own to the Democratic-controlled Legislature: “Please lead the country and pass the single-payer bill.”

The goal of Senate Bill 562 is to provide care to every Californian, regardless

of residency status or income. The bill wipes out the current health insurance market and authorizes the government to negotiate prices for services with doctors, hospitals and other providers.

Before the Senate vote, Lara and Atkins acknowledged that the bill lacked critical language describing how the state would come up with the money. At the time, they said the bill would be amended to include a funding plan before an Assembly floor vote in July and return to the Senate before it reached the governor’s desk.

“We are disappointed that the robust debate about health care for all, that started in the California Senate will not continue in the Assembly this year,” Lara and Atkins said in a statement. “This issue is not going away, and millions of Californians are counting on their elected leaders to protect the health of their families and communities.”

Barbara Lea, Health Care

News & Updates

Sign our Make-It-Fair Petition, Reform Prop 13

Tell California legislators to make corporations pay their fair share: <http://bit.ly/MakeItFairPetition>. In California, the same corporations avoid paying nearly \$9 billion in property taxes. There’s a bold plan—the Make It Fair amendment—to close Proposition 13’s property tax loophole for the biggest corporations and recover those funds. Help us do more work like this - donate!

Partnership Opportunity

Earlier this summer, LWVEF entered into a partnership with the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD), a nonprofit, nonpartisan institute based at the University of Arizona. Its programs are designed to create opportunities for elected officials, the media and the public to engage different voices respectfully and take responsibility for the quality of our public discourse and effectiveness of our democratic institutions. NICD is launching a new website with resource



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modules and other materials in September. This new website will provide do-it-yourself modules with scalable activities, civility training, a civility pledge, and other resources. Watch future League Updates for more information.

Coming Soon!



Can We Get Rid of the Electoral College?

Speaker



Professor Jack N. Rakove
Pulitzer Prize Winner

Tues. November 7. 7P.M.

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Let's Read • Let's Meet • Let's Talk A Book Club

Those League Members interested in our newly formed book club will meet on Monday October 9, at 7P.M. The first book for discussion will be the national best seller, *Dark Money*, by Jane Mayer. This date should give members ample time to read this very timely book.

The location for our first meeting is the Wesley Manor library, located at 1655 Winchester Blvd. Campbell, just south of Hamilton Ave. There is ample free parking behind

the Methodist Church next door. Numbered spots near Wesley Manor are reserved for Wesley Manor residents.

At the first meeting we will discuss other book selections and the frequency of the meetings. Members are encouraged to bring friends, whether League members or not, to join the discussion. Hope to see you there. For further information contact Dan Hendry.

Eileen Barnes, Member

Great Decisions 2018

We have the titles for the 2018 Great Decisions series. They are:

- 1) The end of Pax Americana?
- 2) Russia
- 3) China
- 4) The Media and Foreign Policy
- 5) Turkey
- 6) U.S. Defense Budget
- 7) South Africa
- 8) Global Health

I am assuming we will have about the same schedule this year, and we will have the day sessions at the same place, SASSC Oak Room. I still need to confirm that location.

In addition, we plan to schedule a second series in the evening for those who can't make it during the day.

Look for more details next month.

Terry Zaccone, Great Decisions Liaison



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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.

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Assistant Professor, University of California San Francisco
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❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Sep 6 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Sep 9 Sat **Bridging the Divide, Joe Simitian** 2 – 4 P.M.
Mt. View Senior Center, 266 Escuela, Mt. View
- Sep 14 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.**
- Sep 23 Sun **Tracking & Influencing Federal Legislation**, 3:00 P.M.
Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Oct 9 Mon **Political Book Club, Dark Money** 7:00 P.M.
Wesley Manor Library, Campbell
- Oct 24 Tue **Judicial Impartiality**, Judges Panel Discussion 6 P.M.
Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino.
- Nov 7 Tue **The Electoral College**, Jack Rakove, Saratoga Library 7 P.M.

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

Email:

lww.swscv@gmail.com

Web:

www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org

Phone:

408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842

Facebook:

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Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a diversified, nonpartisan political group of women and men, influencing public policy through education and advocacy and encouraging informed and active participation in government.