

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

December, 2018

Holiday Party

Saturday • December 8 • 5-8 P.M.

at the home of

Terry & Judy Zaccone

See Membership Directory For Address

Please Bring A Savory or Sweet Appetizer, Soft Drink or Wine
!Also Invite a Friend Interested in the Work of the League!

Be Prepared to Have a Good Time



~Save the Date~

Annual Program Planning

Saturday • January 26

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

St. Luke's Church

20 University Ave., Los Gatos

Further details will follow in the January Voter.

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.



President's Letter

As we enter the month of December and the coming winter solstice, I think of this season as both an ending and a beginning. Sadly, we had to announce the passing of two-long time League members, Marge Bunyard and Jane Ellis. Both women contributed so much to our League for many, many years. Their contributions of time, effort, friendship, and leadership made a tremendous difference in our League's growth and effectiveness. We are so grateful for their service and know the legacy of their efforts will live on for many years.

For us as a League, this time marks the ending of a very successful election season locally and on the state and national levels. As noted in the Mercury News, "California voter turnout sets recent record for a midterm. Santa Clara County officials estimate that about 12.8 million ballots were cast by the record 19.7 million Californians who registered to vote. That puts turnout at nearly 65%, which is the highest for any gubernatorial election in CA since at least 2006. It's also much higher than the last midterm election in 2014, when voter turnout was a record low of 42%!"

We are proud of our Voter Services team who organized and conducted 8 Candidate Forums for local and one congressional district and the 16 Pros & Cons presented, one of which was bilingual in English and Chinese. I am confident that our efforts certainly helped to increase

Great Decisions 2019!

The LWV **Afternoon Group** will meet at the Saratoga Senior Center, across from the Post Office in Saratoga. The Afternoon Great Decisions sessions will be held in the Magnolia and Oak rooms from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. on the following Thursdays: February 7 and 21, March 7 and 21, April 4 and 18, and May 2 and 16. Books will be distributed on Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. in the Magnolia Room.

The LWV **Evening Group** will meet at the Los Gatos Methodist Church located at 111 Church Street in Los Gatos on Wednesday evenings from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. The session dates are February 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17, and May 1 and 15. Books will be distributed on Sunday, February 2, 2019 from 12:00-1:00 P.M. outside the Chapel.

When picking up your books, there will be a sign-up sheet for program leaders which are needed for each session. As

you know, this program is not a lecture series but a discussion program led by volunteer participants.

If you have forgotten to sign up and really want to join us, that is still possible. You will need to order and pay for your book directly from, and pay to, the Foreign Policy Association at www.fpa.org. Click on Great Decisions link at the top and you will get to the page for ordering the book. After ordering, send a check for \$10 per person made out to Terry Zaccane at 13046 Anza Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070. Be sure to include your phone number, address, and email, and indicate whether you want to attend the LWV afternoon or evening sessions.

There is a great array of challenging topics this year and we are looking forward to great discussions!

Terry Zaccane & Eleanor Yick,
Great Decisions Coordinators

Welcome!

New Members

Lawrence Burgess
Liz Burgess
Katy Foulkes

We're so glad you have
joined the League!

both voter turnout and voter education in our local area as over 1,000 people attended our events.

As we head into the coming New Year, we can look forward to two very important events that I would like to encourage all our League members to attend: the Santa Clara County-wide League sponsored **Transformation Journey** with LWVC President Helen Hutchison on January 24 and our League's **Annual Program Planning**

on **January 26**. President Hutchison will discuss the actions the League is taking, statewide and nationally, to ensure the continued relevance and visibility of the LWV as we strive to meet the challenges of the future. Our work in Program Planning should strive to coordinate with LWV California's efforts. Please see additional information about both of these important events on pages 4 and 5 and try to attend both events. You do need to sign up for the countywide event at: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eft6s5ix940c209c&llr=tsugws9ab%>.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone "Happy Holidays." And, to utilize a Facebook quote, "I wish people '**Happy Holidays**' because from November 1 to January 15 there are approximately 29 holidays observed by seven of the world's major religions" and all should be acknowledged and respected.

Eleanor Yick, President

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Gail Nishimura

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Membership: **TBD**

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Voters Service:

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Claudia Aken, Jackie Costanzo

League of Women Voters

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LWV Bay Area

Telephone: 510-839-1608

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

LWV California

Phone: 916-442-7215

Fax: 916 442-7362

<http://ca.lwv.org>

LWV of the United States

Phone: 202-429-1965

Fax: 202-429-0854

<http://www.lwv.org>

Board Bytes - Meeting of November 6

Reports:

- SSC Education Committee by Lois Smallwood
- Natural resource by Meg Giberson.
- Gail Nishimura reported on the Candidate Forums going over eliminating bottlenecks, optimizing volunteer efforts, decreasing confusion, increasing attendance, cutting costs, and things to keep doing.
- The 16 Pros & Cons sessions and their attendance, including 4 new sessions and one Bi-lingual translation session this election year, were also examined.

Discussed:

- Ideas for several potential programs from December through June such as the Holiday Party, meeting newly elected officials, and various round tables on housing, transportation and immigration policies.
- Suggestions were made on the process of supporting local measures:
 - Limit each guest's public comments on agenda to 2-3 minutes.
 - Make a motion to the Board to consider add a guest presentation
 - Present Pros & Cons on item before a Board vote is taken.
 - Add above suggestions to the official meeting minutes.
- Strategies and ideas for steps to recruit new members and develop leadership for next year's Board and our local League.

Actions:

- Clarified the membership of some committees:
 - Nomination Committee: Pat White and Sharon Graham.
 - Barbara Lea has accepted being a Health Care Committee Chair.
 - A Policy & Procedure/By-law Review: Pat White, Eleanor Yick, and Gail Nishimura.

Sophia Kao, Secretary

Many LWV of Southwest Santa Clara County members passed away this year. These women actively contributed much to our League.

Dana Chahidi, Grace Johnston, Joan Sarlo, Jane Ellis, and Marge Bunyard

**Diversity
Equity &
Inclusion
in the
Bay Area**



2019 LEAGUE DAY

Save the Date

February 9, 2019

Join the Bay Area
League of Women Voters



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.

Email subscriptions to the Monitor are monthly or weekly, both in print and online and provided to readers for free at www.bayareamonitor.org

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bayareamonitor](https://www.facebook.com/bayareamonitor) Contact us for more information: (510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org.



Holiday Party

Saturday • December 8 • 5–8 P.M.

Mark your calendars now for our Annual League Holiday Party. Don't miss the League's kick-off for the whole Holiday Season. Judy and Terry Zaccone will be hosting us at their Saratoga home.

Unlike many other splashy events, there will be NO charge. Following our usual

tradition, please bring beverages of your choice and your favorite finger food—either sweet or savory. Most of all, put on your best smile and be prepared to enjoy yourself!

This is an especially good time for our many new members to get acquainted

with everybody and for all of us to get together with old friends we may not have seen for awhile. It's also a wonderful time to bring prospective members—the more the merrier!

For questions contact Terry & Judy Zaccone by email at tzaccone@pacbell.net.

Votes for Democracy

In the Mid-term Elections, a handful of states **approved pro-democracy measures**, often by wide margins. These measures are expected to make voter registration easier, reduce gerrymandering, and give back the franchise to people with past felony convictions.

These ideas are popular with liberals, centrists and many conservatives too. And progressive activists have come to understand that this issue needs to be one of their top priorities.

David Leonhardt, New York Times, 11-12-18

Voting is the only way to make change in a Democracy!

Christine Todd Whitman

Annual Program Planning-Jan 26

The Program Planning Process is where we focus our League's work to align with the mission and priorities set forth by LWV National and State. In addition, we identify and set goals on how best to support our local communities. All League members are encouraged to attend, voice their opinions, and vote on the future programs and actions.

Marjory Bunyard April 11, 1930 – October 22, 2018

On October 22, our beloved member, Marge Bunyard, passed away peacefully in her home at the age of 88. A resident of Saratoga for 47 years, Marge was born and raised in Texas. She was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), receiving her BA in English and a minor in Drama. She and George married the day they graduated from OBU, and Marge went on to earn a Master's in English from Boston University.

They moved from Livermore to Saratoga in 1971, where they continued their active community involvement. To broaden their children's view of the world, they became part of Saratoga's Summer Exchange Program and brought in college students to live with them from many countries over many years. As their children got



older, Marge went back to work. She taught public speaking skills to employees at major companies and worked over 10 years in the Legal Department at Tandem Computers until retirement.

Marge was always busy with projects and activities; early on she was a stay-

at-home mom, Sunday School teacher, substitute teacher, Saratoga School Board Member, Hakone Gardens Foundation Trustee, Saratoga Citizen of the Year, VITA Board Member, Saratoga Lions Club member teaching children to read, Saratoga Foothill Club member, long-time member and president of American Association of University Women (AAUW), and a big advocate for encouraging people to vote. She belonged to the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, received the Helga Ruby Award, served as President, and remained actively involved for 50 years.

A celebration of her life will take place on December 1 at the Saratoga Foothill Club at 1:30 P.M.

Sharon Bunyard, Daughter

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: Voters passed Measure O, \$50 million in general obligation bonds for a new police station and emergency operations center as well as updating and modernizing the library. The initiative received 67.99% yes votes and will increase property taxes by \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Congratulations to Liz Gibbons of the SWSCV League for being re-elected to the Campbell City Council, while receiving the highest number of votes!

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: Volunteer candidates wishing to serve on town boards and commissions for the upcoming year were interviewed. Councilmembers voted to appoint their selections at the November 6 meeting.

Incumbent Councilmembers, R. Rennie, and M. Sayoc (both League members), and S. Leonardis were reelected to another 4-year term by Los Gatos residents in the November election.

Councilmembers voted unanimously for S. Leonardis to serve as mayor and M. Jensen to serve as Vice Mayor for the next year at the November 20 meeting.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: A public meeting/hearing was recommended to consider an ordinance on the storage of firearms. A proposed ordinance is being considered that would require firearms to be in a locked container or disabled with safety device when not in immediate control of the owner at home. Read the ordinance [here](#).

Reaquel Durand, Observer Chair

Monte Sereno – Observer needed. You can access the meetings at: <http://cityofmontesereno.org/2148/citycouncil>.



The Observer Corps was established to promote accountability, transparency and genuine access to government. The goal is to increase public participation and awareness in local government. **Thank You to Our Observer Members!**

~ Save the Date ~

LWV Santa Clara County Council
Invites You to Participate in

League Transformation

with

Helen Hutchison

Thursday • January 24 • 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Cupertino Quinlan Center

10185 N Stelling Road, Cupertino

In preparation for Program Planning, you will want to attend the League Transformation event, presented by LWVC President, Helen Hutchison, at the Quinlan Center in Cupertino. This event will cover the actions the League is taking nationally and statewide, to insure we continue to be a relevant and visible organization. For more information and to register for this event: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eft6s5ix940c209c&llr=tsugws9ab>



New Citizen Voter Registration

Thanks to the volunteers who registered new citizens after the naturalization ceremonies on November 15: **Sophia Kao, Pauline Ferrito, and Lori Burns.**

The next ceremonies will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Anyone who would like to help out that day can contact me.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

Thank
you
all

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

Our LWV Book Club had a "lively" discussion on the topic of politics in November. We all shared our thoughts concerning what has impacted both ourselves and the country the most since we last met. Also discussed were choices for the next three reads from a list of suggestions sent to me prior to last night's class. We decided on the following three books:

December: *Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal* by Ben Sasse

January: *War on Peace* by Ronan Farrow
Feb: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Our meetings are held the second Monday of the month at Wesley Manor in Campbell at 7:00 P.M., with the next meeting on December 10. We look forward to seeing those of you who were unable to attend the last meeting. Thanks to all of you who participated in November's discussion.

Dan Hendry, Coordinator
wenhendry@comcast.net



Jane C. Ellis

May 24, 1939~November 8, 2018

Our long-time member, Jane Ellis, was born May 24, 1939, in Fremont, Ohio, and died October 8, 2018, at her home in San Jose, California. She graduated from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio in 1961. She taught history and English at West Jefferson High School in Ohio and then became an administrative associate at Ohio State University in the Biology Department and in the Mathematics Department. She moved to the Bay Area in 1973 where she was an administrative associate at General Electric, Apple, Adobe, and Alien Technology. She served on the



Administrative Studies Advisory Board at West Valley College and also volunteered as an adult reading teacher and taught English as a Second Language to visiting Japanese students.

She loved to travel with her husband Wade in Europe, Africa, Japan, and the United States, especially Hawaii. In retirement, she was for several years the

Membership Chair and Hospitality Chair for the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley. Jane had many close friends who enjoyed her humor and her no-nonsense approach to life. There will be a Celebration of Jane's Life in January.

2018 Elections & Health Care

Medicare for All was a big issue in the 2018 elections—and for good reason.

The United States has the world's most expensive health system. Where the United Kingdom spends almost 10% of GDP on healthcare, the US spends almost 18%, or more than \$10,000 per person per year. And 28 million people in the United States are still uninsured under the Affordable Care Act reforms.

A recent survey by the union National Nurses United found 225 Democratic candidates in the House running explicitly on single-payer healthcare as well as 41 Green Party candidates also running for Congress on a platform that included Medicare for All. Candidates have taken notice that Americans are beginning to see the value for themselves in single-payer health care!

Source: healthoverprofit.org

LWV County Council of Santa Clara County

Every other month the presidents from the five Leagues in Santa Clara Valley meet to discuss common interests, hear reports from various county committees, and make plans for future events.

At our December meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- November Election debrief by each League, including bilingual events and access to Silicon Valley Innovation Digital TV station. Important to note: 80% of those who voted in Santa Clara County voted by mail.
- January League Transformation Event on January 24.

- Policy/Protocol for respecting each League's coverage area.
 - Coyote Valley Land Use – new position developed by the San Jose/Santa Clara Valley League
 - Report presented by the Bay Area League.
- Eleanor Yick, LWVSWSCV 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

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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 the LWVSWSCV at, lww.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published *Membership Directory*.

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

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

\$ _____ Individual \$80.00

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Natural Resources: Dry, Hot and On Fire!

"Dry, hot and on fire"—that's how state water officials described California in the water year that ended September 30, 2018. We face conditions unprecedented in modern times with diminishing snowpack, unpredictable rainfall, wildfires increasing in number and intensity, increasing statewide average temperatures, and climate change that exacerbates it all.

With luck, by the time this goes to press, there will have been some rain. Meanwhile, all thoughts focus on wildfires and their devastation. California's two largest and most destructive wildfires have occurred in the past two years, according to Cal Fire reports. And, it's not just people in the WUI (pronounced "woo-ee"), the

wildland-urban interface, at risk. You don't have to live in a forested area to be affected, when wind-blown embers can travel a mile or more. In our small communities, most of us are within an ember's reach of danger.

What can we do?

Locally, we can encourage neighbors and communities to tackle known fire risks from dead vegetation or flammable sources such as large eucalyptus and associated debris.

Statewide, lawmakers could be encouraged to increase incentives for fire-safety home protection such as sprinklers. Also, closing commercial property loopholes from

1978's Prop. 13 could make the billions of dollars in property taxes currently unable to be collected more available for fire protection and other essential public services. (League supports the "Make It Fair" ballot measure that would close such loopholes.)

World-wide, humans should do everything possible to blunt the warming effects of increased greenhouse gases and climate change. The October 2018 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report and California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment (August 2018) paint a frightening future if these issues remain unaddressed.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Support LWV SWSCV Supporters!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals!

Please remember to mention seeing these ads when you utilize these businesses's services.

THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



Los Gatos Birdwatcher

Lisa Myers Owner

Kings's Court Shopping Center

792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032

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info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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408.252.4570

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>

Assemblyman Evan Low
(408) 446-2810

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

Santa Clara County

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Supervisor Mike Wasserman
(408) 299-5010

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Ken Yeager
(408) 299-5040

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SCC Registrar of Voters

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

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

We the People

❧ Event Calendar ❧

Dec	5	Wed	Board Meeting , 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
Dec	8	Sat	Holiday Party , 5:00 P.M., Terry & Judy Zacccone's Home
Dec	10	Mon	Political Book Club , 7:00 P.M., Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell
Dec	13	Thu	Clip 'n Come , Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Gail Nishimura, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com Please let hostess know you will be coming.

❧ Save the Date ❧

Jan	14	Mon	Political Book Club , 7:00 P.M.
Jan	24	Thu	League Transformation , 7-9:00 P.M., Helen Hutchison
Jan	26	Sat	LWV Program Planning , 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Feb	9	Sat	Bay Area League Day, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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