

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / February 2022, Volume 94, Number 5

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 "What's Ahead for Salinas Valley Groundwater Supplies?"

Groundwater is the source of most water supplies in the Salinas Valley with agriculture using over 90%. The Salinas Valley Basin includes six sub-basins. Critical overdrafting of the 180/400 foot sub-basin has resulted in **seawater intrusion extending from the coast to the outskirts of the City of Salinas.**



Donna Meyers, General Manager of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) will describe the plans required by the State to address sustainable water use throughout the basin. **Steve McIntyre, a Member of the Board of Directors SVBGSA,** and representative of agriculture in the Forebay sub-basin, will comment on the plans. **Janet Brennan, also an SVBGSA Board Member,** and representative of the environmental community, will provide her perspective as well.

Donna Meyers has been with the SVBGSA for three and a half years. Ms. Meyers has worked in natural resource and watershed conservation and management for over 20 years. She has an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of California Santa Cruz and a Masters in Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. She worked as the Executive Director

(continued on page 2)

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **February LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Questions & Answers. **11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.**

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via LWVMryCo@gmail.com on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, February 7th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

If you can't get into the meeting using link/instructions, call Tama Olver (831) 869-2748

of the Salinas River Management Unit Association from 2014-2018. In the past two decades Ms. Meyers served as Director of Conservation for the Big Sur Land Trust, as the Regional Water Quality Coordinator for the West Coast National Marine Sanctuary Program and as a Principal Analyst for the City Manager of Santa Cruz. Ms. Meyers has expertise in water and natural resource management issues with multiple stakeholders and partners including NGOs, land trusts, state and local agencies, and private landowners.

of Wine Grape Growers. Steve has an MA in Enology from California State University, Fresno.



Janet Brennan is an **environmental planner** with 50 years of experience working for local and regional governments and non-profits. Her experience includes air and water quality, land use, infrastructure, and hazardous waste planning and environmental review. She has been active in public interest and community groups since the 1960s.



Steve McIntyre is a **Cofounder of Monterey Pacific, Inc.** (a viticulture management and development company), the **Monterey Wine Company**, and **McIntyre Vineyards**. Steve is a **Member and past Chairman of the CDFA Pierce's Disease Board**, **Chairman of its Product Development and**

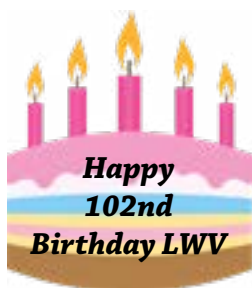
Research Screening Committee(s); and a member of the **California Association of Wine Grape Growers Member**. He a graduate of Class '21 of the California Ag Leadership Program, and previously a Board Member of the Big Sur Land Trust. He received the 2013 Wine Grape Grower of the Year award from the California Association

Janet is **past President and currently on the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Monterey County**, a **Founding and current Board Member of LandWatch Monterey County**, **Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee Chair**, **Chamber Music Monterey Bay Secretary**, and **Monterey Bay Air Resources District Advisory Committee Chair**. Janet has a BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley.

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"SGMA, SVBGSA, GSPs, SMCs ... What?"
Acronyms demystified plus a brief background on local water issues on page 7.

★ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2022** ★

Over the turbulent past century, a period that has included wars and anti-war movements, depression, recession and the post-World War II boom, the civil rights movement, growth of the women's movement, the emergence of the environmental movement and of the internet, the League of Women Voters has ceaselessly advocated for voting rights and voter access and for sound, thoughtfully-crafted public policy. It has also shown a capacity for self-reflection and renewal as an increasingly diverse and inclusive organization.



as it celebrates its **102nd Birthday** this month. This is also the perfect time for us to send a heartfelt valentine thank you to LWVMC's nine "life members," who have been with the League for over fifty years: **Janet Brennan, Ann Clifton, Fran Gaver, Jennifer Greyson, Nancy Green, Philomene Smith, and Janet Zimmer**, who are joined this year by **Kalah Bumba and Phyllis Meurer**.



LWVMC Fifty-Year Members

The League well deserves our proud accolades

Collectively our life members embody not merely "person-years" but "person-centuries" of critically-important activism! Let us strive to honor our Life

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WE REMEMBER

Former Monterey League President **JANICE O'BRIEN**

who passed away January 9, 2022 at the age of 100

Janice had just celebrated her birthday on December 31, 2021. She served as League President 1975-1976 and then two decades later 1994-1996. Janice was an ardent environmentalist whose attentions were particularly focused on water resources and protecting the natural beauty of Del Monte Forest.

"For decades on the Peninsula and far beyond, Janice was our League standard bearer. A commanding presence with a brilliant mind, indomitable leadership style, and wry sense of humor, words never failed her. Whether in withering letters to the editor, incisive critiques of Draft EIRs and policies—or on the theater stage—her delivery had an impact. Whatever issue she tackled she insisted, in League style, on accountability. As members of a trusted organization respected for our goals, procedures and achievements, we owe her a great deal. For me personally, who knew her as a dear friend, Janice was an inspiration, a guiding light, and above all, a joy in my life." **Karin Strasser Kauffman**

"I'm sorry that I did not get to meet Janice. I feel gratitude and humility when I think of her longstanding dedication to protecting the natural environment including our precious water resources. Those of us who are active in our League today stand on the shoulders of giants! We owe them a debt we can pay forward through our own service work and advocacy."
Marianne Gawain

"Janice was an elegant woman, in addition to being an inspiring LWV leader, letter writer and speaker. It was my pleasure to have been a member of the Board under her leadership."
Betty Matterson

*"For many years Janice was a member of my poetry group. She had the most wonderful voice! Sometimes she participated in little theater events. I remember her as charming and gay and with a distinctive taste in dress. She was, as you say, 'passionate about the environment.' She once told me that she never read **The Pine Cone** - she considered it 'an occasion for sin'."* **Alison Schwyzer**

"I was a new League member. At the end of an Annual Meeting, Janice and others got up to sing Lorita Fisher's wonderfully humorous songs. Janice had a beautiful voice, and I thought, 'The standards for leading this organization are really high.' She did all this community work while raising a large family. Once one of her sons came with her to a League luncheon. During introductions he said he was happy none of his siblings were there so he could have his mother all to himself. We too were fortunate to have shared in her life!"
Dennis Mar



"I will remember Janice as a generous and supportive community leader. She followed and shared strategies to aid my political callings. Rest in Peace dear lady. You served us all very well."

Judi Lehman

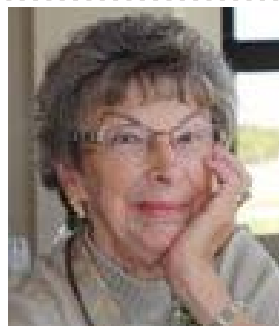
"One of Janice's passions was addressing water supplies. During the debates on finding new water for the Peninsula, a CalAm report reviewed by Janice found dredging the Los Posas Dam as a feasible alternative. CalAm later denied the report's existence. Janice didn't let this issue drop and continued to pursue dredging as a viable alternative, but to no avail!"

Janet Brennan

"I met Janice when running for public office for the first time. She had vastly superior political experience and never met me before, but graciously welcomed me into her home, was warm, down-to-earth, and took time to question me seriously. I was honored to receive her endorsement and support. I am grateful that Janice had a long life and is now at well-deserved peace."

Regina Doyle

ANN ADAMS MAYHEW HELMS 1935 - 2021



Longtime LWVMC Member Ann Helms died December 16, 2021 at age 86. Her full obituary is at [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com). Her husband **Ken**, also a League Member, died in December 2020. Anne and Ken moved to this area in the '90s and joined our League in 2002. They were involved in a multitude of social justice causes, most recently **Black Lives Matter**, and as the organizers of the **Humanist Association of the Monterey Bay Area**.

"I think of Anne as the powder to Ken being a firecracker. A serious thought-challenging couple. They were inspirational." **George Riley**

"Ann loved music and was a strong supporter for peace and justice. She and Ken attended several jazz concerts sponsored by MPJC. She was also enthusiastic on civil engagement. I remember fondly carpooling with her to staff the 6am shift at a polling precinct in Pacific Grove. A loving, upbeat friend. I miss you Ann." **Sylvia Shih**

"I worked with Ann and Ken in voter service activities. But I never felt secure enough to ever ask her if being the daughter of someone famous (Ansel Adams) helped or hindered her to emerge as her own person." **Dennis Mar**



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: MARY JEAN VINCENT



Mary Jeanne Vincent joined our League of Women Voters chapter in December of 2016, right after she learned the results of that year's Presidential election. Since she still works full time, she hasn't yet been able to serve on any League committees, but she is passionately committed to voting rights.



Mary Jeanne says she was born in **Dayton, Ohio**, *"in the car, in front of the Dayton gym."* Likely the only Dayton native to be able to claim that precise birth spot, she also recalls that her passion for voting began



very early in that same town. *"My mother was the Democratic Precinct Committeewoman in Dayton for 41 years,"* she recalls. *"When I was five years old, she brought me to a polling place and she taught me how to pull the*

lever on a big, black voting machine. I've been a champion of voting ever since. My mother always told me, 'You don't vote, you don't bitch!'"

Ohio remained Mary Jeanne's home throughout her youth and into adulthood. She earned a **Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art Photography** from the **University of Dayton** and married **Richard Gadd**. In 1979, she says, *"We decided we wanted to move somewhere with an art community, but no snow. So first we moved to San Francisco. Then, in 1986, we moved to Monterey when my husband accepted a position at the Monterey Museum of Art."*

After settling in this area, Mary Jeanne earned her **Master's Degree in Human Resource Management** from **Chapman University's Monterey Campus**. Now self-employed as a career coach, she also writes the career column in the **Monterey Herald**.

Despite her busy working schedule, Mary Jeanne has continued pushing for voting rights. *"In January of 2017,"* she reports, *"I started a small group of women who were concerned about the direction of our country. We've met monthly since then—first in person and then via Zoom because of the pandemic."* The group she started is called **Indivisible Monterey Bay Voices** and its members have been busy registering voters, speaking in high schools about the importance

of voting, and making hundreds of phone calls to get people to vote. *"For three months prior to the 2020 elections,"* Mary Jeanne says, *"members of our group and I sat outside the Grocery Outlet in Seaside every Saturday to register voters."*

In addition to their work in this area, she reports, Indivisible Monterey Bay Voices has been *"very active with phone calls, postcards and letters about the voting rights bill that was up for a vote in late January. We wrote to Congress members about their responsibility to vote for this act."*

Mary Jeanne's other volunteer activity is being a **literacy tutor** for **Monterey County Free Libraries**. *"It's been the most rewarding work of my life,"* she says. *"It's a free literacy program. I mentor one adult literacy learner."*



When asked what she'd like to see the League of Women Voters do in the future, Mary Jeanne replied, *"The biggest issue for me is voting rights, so anything the League can do about that nationally is my major issue."*

Mary Jeanne Vincent and the League definitely share the same values on that vital subject.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

SGMA, SVBGSA, GSPs, SMCs ... WHAAAT????!!

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed by the California legislature in 2014 largely as a response to overdrafted groundwater basin conditions during the 2012-2015 drought. SGMA is important because it requires the regulation of groundwater for the first time in California's history and provides new authority to local agencies to implement these requirements. SGMA sets forth a statewide framework to help protect groundwater resources over the long-term. SGMA requires local agencies to form **groundwater sustainability agencies** (GSAs) for critically-overdrafted, high, and medium priority groundwater basins. In Monterey County the GSA is the **Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency** (SVBGSA). GSAs develop and implement **groundwater sustainability plans** (GSPs) to avoid undesirable results, to mitigate overdraft, and to reach sustainability within 20 years (2040). SGMA requires that once a basin has reached sustainability, it must be maintained through 2070.

The **California Department of Water Resources** (DWR) serves two roles to support local SGMA implementation: regulatory oversight through evaluation and approval of GSPs and ongoing assistance to local agencies through development of guidance and planning, technical and financial assistance. The **State Water Resources Control Board** (SWRCB) has the role of "state intervention" if local groundwater plans are not created or managed for sustainability.

The SVBGSA was formed in 2017 based on recommendations of an advisory committee comprising a broad section of the community. The 11-member Board of Directors comprises four representatives from agriculture, County of Monterey, City of Salinas, one other Salinas Valley city, the environmental community, disadvantaged communities, a **California Public Utilities**



Commission (CPUC) regulated water company, and a public member.

The Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin has six sub-basins, each requiring preparation of plans to reach sustainability. Plans for critically-overdrafted sub-basins were due to DWR in January 2020. The seawater

intruded sub-basin (180/400-Foot aquifer) is critically-overdrafted, requiring preparation of a plan which was submitted in 2020 and approved by DWR. The 180/400-Foot aquifer extends from the coast inland to Davis Road. The remaining sub-basin plans were approved in January 2022 for submittal to DWR.

Requirements for sub-basin plans are somewhat obtuse and atypical of familiar planning processes such as those for land use plans. GSPs require identification of the following **Sustainability Management Criteria** (SMCs): sustainability goals; undesirable results; minimum thresholds and measurable objectives. Sustainability goals are defined for a basin operated within its sustainable yield. "Undesirable results" means groundwater conditions that would lead to results such as seawater intrusion. "Minimum thresholds" refer to a numeric value for each sustainability indicator used to define undesirable result. "Measurable objectives" refer to specific, quantifiable goals for maintaining or improving specific groundwater conditions.

Janet Brennan

LWVMC WEBSITE COORDINATOR WANTED

Update **website calendar**,
post official letters (*provided by the President*), post **videos** of
monthly General Meetings (*produced by our Videographer*), and **monthly newsletter**
(*published by our Newsletter Editor*). About **two hours work a month**. **On-the-job guidance**
provided. **Bob Evans**, LWVMryCo@gmail.com





Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMRYCO via website without paying membership fees.

New Members Wanted!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member of the League.

Use the form below or contact:

LWVMC Membership Director

Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995

Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC or online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

- ☐ \$250+ **Carrie Chapman Catt**
- ☐ \$200 **Sojourner Truth**
- ☐ \$150 **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- ☐ \$100 **Susan B. Anthony**
- ☐ \$ 95 **Household (2 persons, 1 address)**
- ☐ \$ 65 **Single membership**
- ☐ \$ 0 **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

Florence Curlee Scholarships

are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact:

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome New Members!

Tina Nieto

266 Reservation Rd F370, Marina 93933

(831) 383-9132 / c7nieto@gmail.com

Catherine Trifilo

56 West Garzas Rd, Carmel Valley 93924

(978) 798-0878 / trifilo@usc.edu

Thank You to Our Donors

LWVMryCo

Catherine Trifilo \$135

LWVC Education Fund

in Memory of Janice O'Brien

Janet Brennan \$100

Barbara Baldock & Phil Butler \$100

Send Updates to Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR NEEDED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!



Our League is fully committed to **diversity, equity, and inclusion** in principle and in practice. We need **stronger outreach to Salinas Valley voters** to engage individuals, communities and policy makers in fostering justice and a more perfect democracy.

A part-time but crucial job:

organize candidate and Pro & Con forums, encourage voters to register, participate in elections, and vote! Mentoring provided.

Contact: **Bob Evans** or **Marianne Gawain**,
LWVMryCo@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Jump from LWVMryCo.org to our Facebook page with one click on "Luncheon Videos," or on the Facebook logo.

★ **What's WORTH SEEING at**
LWVMRYCO.ORG ★

<https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/luncheon-videos>

If you missed any of our General Meetings, you can now catch up at your leisure online.

Here are some of the many great presentations available:



***"Affordable Housing:
Present & Future"*** (January 2022)



***"Changing Values for
Community Safety"*** (November 2021)



***"Pesticides in Monterey
County: What You Don't Know
CAN Hurt You"*** (September 2021)



***"What's Behind
Climate Change Denial?"***
(November 2020)

***"Humbled: How California's
Monterey Bay Escaped
Industrial Ruin"*** (May 2021)

***"Impacts of Climate
Change on Sea Levels
& Forest Fires"*** (September 2019)

🇺🇸 **League of Women Voters of Monterey County** 🇺🇸

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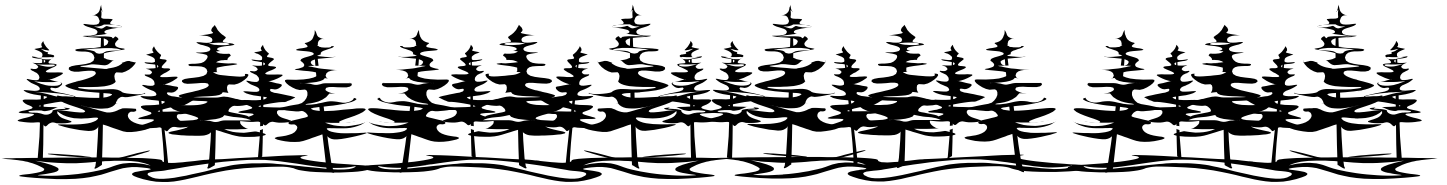


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LWVMryCo Calendar 2022



★ **FEBRUARY** ★

★ **MARCH** ★

NOTE: All meetings are held online via Zoom unless otherwise specified

Redistricting Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 2nd February, 4pm
contact: Bev Kreps or Sharon Miller

LWVMC Program Planning Meeting
Monday, 7th February, 10:30am
followed immediately by Board Meeting
Board & All Members to be sent link
contact: Marianne Gawain

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 9th February, 12 noon
"What's Ahead for Salinas Valley
Water Supplies?" (see front page)
contact: Janet Brennan

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10th February, 12 noon
contact: George Riley

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 7th March, 11:30am
Board Members will be
sent link/instructions
contact: Marianne Gawain

Voter Service Committee Meeting
Date and Time
TO BE ANNOUNCED
contact: Pamela Stewart, Carol Kaplan,
or Sharon Miller

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 9th March, 12 noon
Topic
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Natural Resources Committee
Thursday, 10th March, 12 noon
contact: George Riley