

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / April 2023, Volume 95, Number 7

## Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 "Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church: My First 100 Days"

**G**lenn Church led the June Primary and won the November General Election for **District 2 Supervisor** in 2022. He replaced **John Phillips**, who served two terms over eight years. **District 2 includes all of north Monterey County**, including **Aromas, Boronda, Castroville, Las Lomas, Moss Landing, North Salinas, Pajaro, Prunedale, and Royal Oaks**. Glenn knocked on over 10,000 doors to talk with residents during his campaign. He is committed to taking care of constituent needs via group meetings, public events, town halls and individual contacts. District 2 is the only district with a majority of unincorporated residents and includes over half the unincorporated population of Monterey County—these residents depend on their Supervisor to solve problems.

Daniel Drefliss / Monterey County Weekly



Glenn Church (right) with County Sheriff Tina Nieto in Pajaro

Church's priorities include County services, such as improving roads, small water systems, park maintenance, animal services, and Sheriff's Department patrol services as well as reducing litter and noise. High on his list of concerns are preventing homelessness and wildfire while fostering affordable housing, water, fair and open government, and the rural character of North County. Recently Church has been actively engaged in emergency services, responding to residents severely affected by flooding and other storm-related damage.

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### How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **April LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Q&A.

**11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.**

**All current LWVMryCo members** will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting from [lwwmryco@gmail.com](mailto:lwwmryco@gmail.com) on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, April 10th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

**Not a member?** Non-members can send a message to [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?**

Call Tama Olver (831) 869-2748.

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Church is a fourth-generation resident of North Monterey County and learned about public service from his father, **Warren Church**, who served as **North County Supervisor** from 1965 to 1977.

A long-time businessman and farmer, Glenn has worked for himself since age 18. He established a landscape supply company while still a college student at **UC Santa Cruz** and continued to run it for more than forty years.

Glenn lives on and manages the same property that his father and great-grandfather farmed since the 1920s. It is now a Christmas tree farm established in the 1950s.

Church has been involved in numerous organizations at the local, state, and



national level, including serving on the **Board of Directors of Amnesty International**, as **President of the Fire Safe Council of Monterey County**, the **Prunedale and Aromas Granges**, the **Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Interim Board**, and **Concerned Citizens of North Monterey County**.

In 2020 Church and his wife, journalist **Kathryn McKenzie**, co-authored the local history book **“Humbled: How California’s Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin”** (see page 9). Between them, they have four adult sons.

Both Kathryn and Glenn are members of our League of Women Voters.

**Beverly Bean**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 2023**



The great political observer **Alexis de Tocqueville** would have been pleased, though unsurprised, to see our League in action! Tocqueville famously wrote that *“Americans ... are forever forming associations”* and he

emphatically linked that propensity to the health of our country’s democracy. Tocqueville understood, however, that it is not the mere act of joining into groups around shared interests that promotes democracy and the common good. Like **James Madison**, he appreciated the dangers of faction. Rather, Tocqueville asserted, the associations that strengthen democracy are those that affirm non-violent civil engagement as a limit on conduct and seek to exercise moral suasion to bring a majority to their point of view.

In keeping with our motto, **“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy,”** the League’s core commitment is to making voting a right understood

and exercised by the greatest number of eligible citizens. We seek to educate voters and potential voters and to protect and expand ballot access. At our local level, LWVMC conducts numerous education efforts and collaborates with elections officials. At the state and national levels, the League works strenuously to protect and expand voting rights and to defeat restrictive legislation.

Communicative, inclusive, expansive, and working through voting not violence—the League is precisely the sort of association that strengthens our democratic society. Even when our advocacy does not carry the day on a particular issue, the very fact that we play (vigorously!) by the rules strengthens democratic norms.



Like Tocqueville, contemporary political scientist **Robert Putnam** sings the praises of associations, pointing out the benefits that rich networks of social interconnectedness provide for both individuals and society.

Our League members experienced the joy of connectedness during our March reunion in-person meeting. **After our April membership meeting, which will be conducted on Zoom, we'll come together again in person on May 10th.** It will be democracy in action as we vote on LWVMC's annual business. In the future we will offer an inclusive mix of online and in-person monthly meetings that meet the varying needs and preferences of members and guest speakers.

There are always additional opportunities for you to participate in LWVMC in ways large and small, including as **delegates to the State League Convention in San Francisco in May** (partial reimbursement available). Contact me to discuss how you can become more involved, even if your time is very limited.

**Marianne Gawain**

*Acknowledgements: I referred to **Jeffrey C. Alexander** and **Pawel Zaleski's** writings on Alexis de Tocqueville in preparation of this column.*



**J**oin us as an **additional delegate**, and strengthen **Monterey County's presence at the LWV California Convention, May 19-21, in San Francisco.** You'll have a great time meeting

engaged members from all over California, voting on League matters, getting unique training & education, and being entertained!

Contact **Marianne Gawain, Pam Stewart, Howard Fosler, Sharon Miller, Carolyn Swanson, Amanda Whitmire**, and others who have been to Convention and highly recommend the experience!

Updates at <https://lwvc.wordpress.com>.

## "HISTORY & STATUS OF MEASURE Z" NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

**A**t our **March 9th Natural Resources Committee meeting**, we hosted two distinguished guests who spoke on the history and status of **Measure Z: Dr. Laura Solorio, President of Protect Monterey County (PMC)**, which sponsored Measure Z, and **Mr. Hollin Kretzmann, Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)**, and a supporter of Measure Z.

**Measure Z passed in November 2016 with 56 percent of the Monterey County vote.** It banned fracking, prohibited new oil and gas wells, acidizing, and other risky well-stimulation treatments. The measure also banned new wastewater injection wells and wastewater ponds, and phased out existing wastewater injection wells and ponds. It did not affect existing oil and gas wells.



Major oil interests and others opposed Measure Z, spending about \$6 million versus Measure Z's supporters who raised about \$250,000. After the Measure passed, various oil companies sued Monterey County with six lawsuits. Most of the provisions of Measure Z were ruled inoperative due to state preemption, but the fracking ban was upheld.

The County refused to appeal so Protect Monterey County stepped up. A largely pro-bono legal team was assembled, including Center for Biological Diversity and Stanford's Environmental Law Clinic. The appeal was unsuccessful but the California Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. Hopefully it will affirm the right of communities to protect themselves from risky oil operations.

*(continued on page 4)*



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PMC believes that California law provides local governments with broad authority to protect our air, water, and health. Two statewide local government associations have filed amicus briefs in support of Measure Z defending the rights of local governments (see page 7 to review the original Pros & Cons). The case should be

heard sometime in 2023 and when it is, it will be precedent-setting.

All League members are welcome to join the Natural Resources Committee. Our next meeting on Zoom is **April 13th** (see back page for details).

**George Riley and Beverly Bean**

## ★ ★ LWVMC ANNUAL IN-PERSON MEMBERSHIP MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 ★ ★

**S**ave the date for our Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon! We'll meet in person at the Unitarian Universalist Church.



Guest speaker **Dr. Richard Kezerian's** will present "**Congress: The Road to Decline and Disgrace**," based on his insights studying history. From post Civil War to Roe vs Wade, Kezerian will discuss Congress' road to ideological polarization. He will touch on the impacts of interest groups, money and elections, powerful personalities, and Supreme Court rulings, among other negative influences on the institution.

Dr. Kezerian, Professor Emeritus, retired after a forty-year career teaching History at MPC and the Gentrain Program. He is now **Professor and Program Director, for the Panetta Institute for Public Policy** where he teaches and moderates many of the Institute's classes.

To ensure that we have a full hour to enjoy lunch, hear Professor Richard Kezerian, and have time for question and answers, **please help us keep to the time schedule!**

### Annual Meeting Order of Business

**Registration** - 11:15 to 11:45am

**League Business Meeting** - 11:45 sharp to 12:15 (or earlier)

**Brief introduction of Dr. Kezerian** - 12:15

**Start of buffet line** - 12:15 to 12:30

**Introduction / Beginning of talk** - 12:30 to 1:15

**Questions & Answers** - 1:15 to 1:30

**Meeting adjourned** - 1:30

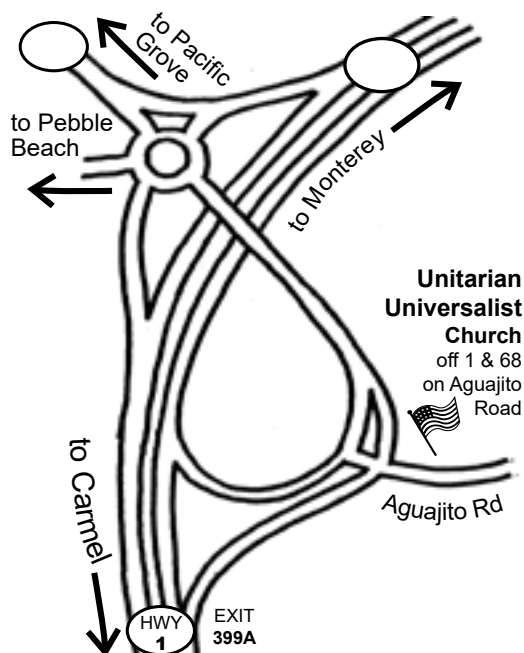
**Annual Meeting Lunch is \$25 per person**  
*Menu: grilled salmon, rice, Greek salad, hummus, pita bread, fruit salad & baklava*  
by **Chef Faris Nimry,**  
**International Cuisine of Pacific Grove**

Presentation **FREE** if not partaking lunch.

**Reservations for Lunch are required!**  
**Contact: Bev Bean by Monday, May 8th**  
(831) 236-1611 or [beverlygb@gmail.com](mailto:beverlygb@gmail.com)

Pay at door for lunch (cash/check).

**Members: Reservations are a commitment to the caterer with a minimum number of attendees, and can't be cancelled after May 8th.**



**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel CA 93923



## LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: LYNN HAMILTON



**L**ynn Hamilton originally joined our chapter of the League of Women Voters sometime in the 1990's, but let her membership lapse until she rejoined last year.

Although she hasn't yet been active in LWVMC, Lynn has performed voter service activities with other organizations. *"Back in the '90's,"* she says, *"I did voter registration work, in conjunction with a group called **Beyond War**. And recently, our local section of **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** often gathered at the **Peace & Justice Center** to write letters promoting voting, through **Vote Forward**."*

One of Lynn's passions, beginning in her childhood, has been traveling to see new places. *"My parents loved to travel, and I was able to travel with them in the '60's. My father worked for the California Teachers' Association, and our family was lucky enough to join him on sabbatical leave. One of the trips included almost a year's travel to Europe, the Soviet Union, and the eastern Mediterranean, where he studied several countries' educational systems."*



Lynn did some of her graduate studies at the **Universidad de las Americas** in **Mexico**, where she met her future husband, **Pat McNeill**. Both were earning their **MA**

**degrees in anthropology** there. After grad school, they did some archeology and anthropology work in New Mexico and eastern Oregon before deciding to pursue their **MA degrees in bilingual/bicultural education** at the **University of Texas** in **El Paso**, through the **Teacher Corps** program.

Once Lynn and Pat had finished their own formal educations, they changed their focus to public education. *"I was a teacher for almost 20 years,"*



she recalls, *"first in New Mexico and then in Salinas. I taught elementary and middle school, as well as some adult ed—English as a Second Language."* Pat ended up in public education as well, teaching at **Alisal High School** in **Salinas** for about 25 years.

While teaching, Lynn and Pat still managed to travel whenever possible. *"We took a year off from teaching in 1991 and traveled around the world for ten months,"* she reports. Now retired and living in Monterey, they still try to be active in the community.

Another passion of Lynn's is nature. *"I was one of the founders of **Return of the Natives**,"* she reports. *"The name has recently changed to the **Habitat Stewardship Project**, and it is based at the **Watershed Institute** at **CSUMB**. It's a program that gets kids out of the classroom and into nature, and teaches them about local native plants. Local students have planted native plants in Salinas, Fort Ord and Seaside."*

In retirement, Lynn has been part of **Sustainable Monterey** (under the umbrella group **Communities for a Sustainable Monterey County**) and she's been on the **Board of the Monterey Peace and Justice Center** for about the past eight years. *"I manage to stay pretty busy,"* she says.



When asked what goals she has for LWVMC in the future, Lynn Hamilton said, *"I think we should continue to do all we can to get more people involved in government and voting. A lot of us have similar values and ideals and I hope by networking with other public service groups in this area we can be even stronger."*

That sounds like a goal for which all LWVMC members can strive. **Nancy Baker Jacobs**



## LWVC COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA *by Sharon Miller*



I learned a lot by sitting in on a one-hour Zoom conversation with 54 other LWV members from around the state. **Ashley Raveche**, of **LWVC's Social Policy and Criminal Justice groups**, moderated this community conversation with **California's Attorney General Rob Bonta** on March 7, 2023. AG Bonta is the States' chief lawyer and law enforcement officer, dedicated to protecting our constitutional and civil rights.



Bonta emphasized three areas of criminal justice that he has been working on: **Harm Reduction**, **Centralized Data**, and **Oversight**. He also talked about peace officer training, deadly force, and the threats posed by bias and the notion of "Constitutional Sheriff."

**Harm Reduction:** Bonta has fostered a special department that provides support and care to victims, addressed the post-conviction appeals backlog, confronted human trafficking, and stressed rehabilitation services to heal and transform through mental health treatment, education, job training, and drug rehabilitation.

**Data:** Bonta has opened the centralized **Open Justice Portal** to implement the **Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA)**, requiring all law enforcement agencies in California to collect certain demographic and other data in a standardized way. Although some critics cite lack of trust in self-reporting, and others point to the cost and difficulty of collecting the data, Bonta insists that data are to **develop evidence-based policies**. For example, after reviewing the data, the RIPA Board recommended that legislators propose a bill to prohibit pre-textual motor vehicle stops as racially biased. A pre-textual stop is one in which a minor code violation is observed and is escalated into the investigation of a more serious crime unrelated to the initial violation.



**Oversight:** Bonta argues for **independent civilian oversight of all law enforcement agencies**, not just the sheriff's department. Such oversight improves training, accountability, and all-important community trust. The California Attorney General's office steps in when patterns and practices of denying civil rights are observed, there is an officer-involved shooting and death of an unarmed Californian, a local DA wrongfully refuses to bring charges, or local law enforcement agencies ask for help (as when Torrance asked the State to step in after receiving racist texts and communications).

**Constitutional Sheriff:** This fringe doctrine, not based on sound law or the Constitution, asserts that the sheriff is the highest law enforcement officer within a county's borders, superior to local police officers and agents of the state or federal government. Adherents often refuse to uphold laws they don't agree with, such as gun regulation, and some have expressed support for the January 6, 2021, US Capitol rioters. At least five of California's sheriffs, and a number of citizens, are adherents of this concept. One of them was a losing candidate for sheriff of Monterey County during the 2022 primary.

**Bias:** Both explicit and implicit bias led to passage of the **California Racial Justice Act (AB 2542)** that prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction or imposing a sentence based upon race, ethnicity or national origin. It excluded judgments rendered before January 1, 2021. Last September the **Racial Justice Act for All (AB 256)** extended these protections to those who have already been impacted by such unfair convictions and sentences. Bonta says the Department of Justice is applying the two laws, but that they need adequate funding to



succeed. He cited the spike in hate crimes, the original sin of slavery, a call for reparations, and a focus on victims and survivors as inter-related pieces stemming from this bias (*I noted **Isabel Wilkerson's** book "Caste" on the bookshelf behind Bonta during the Zoom meeting.*)

#### **Peace Officer Standards and Training:**

POST addresses the training and certification of peace officers. A California Department of Justice representative serves on the POST Commission. **Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto** is also a member. Bonta issues bulletins and strong reminders so that local practices can be updated to be in line with POST.

**Deadly Force:** There is some ambiguity about AB 392 regarding what is "reasonable and

**necessary" force.** It says police can use deadly force only when "necessary in defense of human life." The AG's office is providing legal opinion to local law enforcement agencies.

Bonta greatly appreciates the LWVC's interest and collaboration on his and the Department of Justice's goals: being transparent and open to make the world better; basing training and actions on science and facts; implementing the Racial Justice Act; and preventing gun violence through Red Flag laws and better screening.

**Attorney General Bonta has been invited to meet with us again in the future.** If you are interested in the topic, contact me—you may want to become a member of the **LWVC's Criminal Justice Reform Google Group.**★

## EXAMINING THE SUPREME COURT'S INTERPRETATION OF OUR CONSTITUTION

Our **March 8th General Meeting** featured **Constitutional Law specialist Michelle Welsh**, civil rights lawyer and **Professor, Monterey College of Law.**

Welsh argued that the **US Constitution should be seen as a living document open to evolution and changing interpretation as society changes.** In contrast, the "**originalist doctrine**"

asserts that the Constitution must be interpreted and applied based strictly on how its words would have been understood when they were ratified. (Its most prominent proponents include **Justices Thomas and Alito**). **Now, for the first time, the originalist doctrine is espoused by a majority of the Supreme Court.** Welsh thinks this is likely to bring serious impediments to progress in individual rights, women's rights, racial equality, environmental and consumer protections, and employment law.

Welsh spoke on: **restriction of federal oversight of elections**, including the **Independent State Legislature Theory**; reconsideration and **possible elimination of unenumerated rights**;



**limitation of administrative and executive powers in environmental and consumer protections and in social programs; and expansion of certain enumerated rights, including gun rights and religious-freedom exemptions from non-discrimination laws.**

While the Court espouses originalism, it has also introduced the new

**"major question doctrine,"** requiring that where major questions are involved, Congressional authorization to the executive must be explicit. The Court appears to have invoked the major question doctrine to produce outcomes aligned with conservative political preferences in environmental and consumer regulation.

Whereas the LWVUS has proposed various ideas to limit the power of the originalist court, Welsh raised reservations about these proposals.

This rousing, thought-provoking hour is now on our website (see *page 9*). Well worth watching, indeed!

**Marianne Gawain**



## LWVMC REGEN FIELD TRIP MAY 25TH

**E**ver wonder about where your household waste goes after you carefully sort your trash and recycling?



Join us for an insider's tour of the **Monterey Regional Waste Management's recycling center in Salinas** on **Thursday, May 25, at 10 am.**

The tour accommodates 20 members, so sign up soon by contacting **Whitney Gravel** at [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com). If you wish, include the name of a non-member: we will accommodate guests based on the number of registrations.



Details, including driving directions and opportunities to carpool, will be distributed at a later date.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**Welcome New Members!**

**Alexanne Mills**

**Julia Aranda** (Student)

Send Membership Updates to  
Janet Brennan, [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)



**Join the League of  
Women Voters of  
Monterey County**



### FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

### New Members Welcome!

*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**
- ☐ (free) **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

☐ Please do NOT publish my address, phone number or email in The Voter newsletter

**Florence Curlee Scholarships**

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

**Janet Brennan, [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com)**

*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.**



## Highlights from **LWVMRYCO.ORG** website

General Meeting videos and newsletter: <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos>

- **"Community Safety and Criminal Justice Reform"** (February 8, 2023)
- Comprehensive panel of **local experts on local, state and national issues** directly related to **State Attorney General Rob Bonta's** areas of focus (see page 6).



### **"Humbled: How California's Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin"**

(May 2021 The Voter Newsletter, also May 12, 2021 Video) Co-author Glenn Church (see page 2) explains one of the first major battles of the modern environment movement when **Humble Oil Company** tried to build a 50,000-barrel a day refinery at **Moss Landing**.



- **"Pros & Cons Forum of Measure Z"** (September 2016 The Voter)

The prequel to the Natural Resources Committee meeting update on Measure Z (page 3), which called for banning fracking and other measures to protect water supplies.

**Debby Majors-Degnan**



## **League of Women Voters of Monterey County**



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**Next Voter Newsletter deadline (for September 2023 issue): Friday, August 18**