

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / January 2024, Volume 96, Number 4

Wednesday, January 10th, 2024

## "The Equal Rights Amendment: The Heart of Alice Paul"

**T**his **one-time virtual program** about the ERA will tell us what it says, who wrote it, its purpose, the cause of the hold up on full ratification, and what we can do. It includes pictures, stories and an extensive Q&A session. It will not be recorded for later viewing.



Zoe Nicholson is an artist, author and activist who has devoted her life to the advancement of women and girls. Her obsessions are **Miss Alice Paul** and the **Equal Rights Amendment**. Nicholson has a **BA, Theology** (Quincy University, 1969) and an **MA, Ethics** (University Southern California, 1975). Her professional life began with teaching high school, and in 1976, she opened and operated "**The Magic Speller**" a women's bookstore in Newport Beach. In 1982, she joined six women at the **Illinois State Capitol public fast** in support of the ERA. Her memoir, "**The Hungry Heart: A Woman's Fast for Justice**" (Lune Soleil Press) recounts her 37 days fasting in the torrent of the fight for the ERA.

In January 2019 Nicholson was featured on **PBS' "We'll Meet Again: S2 Ep6, The Fight for Women's Rights"** with host **Ann Curry** (go to [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org) with Passport or other stations).

(continued on page 2)

### How to Attend Our Virtual Meeting

The free **January 10th, 2024 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 [lwvmryco@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmryco@gmail.com) on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, January 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](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 Oliver (831) 869-2748**.

(continued from page 1)

Nicholson also appeared in the 2022 **"Still Working 9 to 5,"** starring **Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton,** and **Lily Tomlin** exploring 40 years of inequality after the original 1980 movie **"9 to 5"**.

**Zoe Nicholson's** one woman show, **"Tea with Alice and Me,"** tells the story of **Alice Paul,** architect of the **19th Amendment** and the **Equal**

**Rights Amendment** as well as Zoe's life as an activist. We had scheduled this live performance in 2020 to celebrate the **Centennial of the League** but the Covid pandemic got in the way. This is our chance to hear from Zoe and learn more about the ERA.

Unfortunately, the fight isn't over! **Beverly Bean**

## ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2024 ★

**D**o you have any special travel plans for 2024? **Like it or not, we will all be on a dramatic journey during this presidential election year!** Buckle your seat belts and prepare for turbulent air. As our country faces risks from disinformation generated by unscrupulous actors and even foreign interests, fueled by AI and spread through social media, we must help keep the oxygen of truth flowing in the sphere of political discussion.



You are familiar with the many tools the League provides for arming ourselves with accurate information. Let's share these resources in conversations with friends, neighbors and those we encounter throughout our days. With the California League shifting from the former **Voter's Edge** to **Vote411**, a simple step might be placing



a **"Vote411/LWV"** yard sign on your property.

The dynamics of the **Electoral College system**—which the national League has long targeted for reform—mean that in the presidential election Californians may feel voiceless relative to residents of swing states. We can encourage voter registration and turnout by explaining that the popular vote is indeed important, if only to show that the Electoral College system is often out of step with national voter sentiment.

Moreover, state and local elections and the leaders they bring us are critically important in determining

the quality of life in our communities, with ripples that go far beyond our area. A case in point is local land use decisions that either tilt towards infill, affordable housing, traffic reduction and decarbonization or result in loss of agricultural land to expensive sprawl that doesn't address housing needs.

Voting is the fundamental means by which citizens of a democracy express their opinions and guide their government. Yet the process works in reverse, too: once we identify ourselves as voters, we start grappling with difficult choices about candidates and ballot propositions. Thus, voter registration leads to deeper citizen engagement. This is one reason the League at all levels emphasizes youth registration and advocates for restoration of voting rights to the formerly incarcerated. Voting can be a first step in full integration or reintegration into the civic community.

In this election year LWVMC will continue its voter service outreach, especially by encouraging students at the college and high school level to become involved with voter registration.



Democracy faces threats in the US and around the world. As we make our New Year's resolutions, let's all resolve to play our part with the League on Team Democracy.

**Marianne Gawain**

## February 5th Annual Zoom Program Planning Meeting

Mark your calendars:

**first Monday, 10:30am!**

We'll decide on priorities for 2024-25.

Details to follow in the

**February Voter. Marianne Gawain**



## POLLWORKERS WANTED FOR MARCH 5TH PRIMARIES!



Text or email **Pamela Stewart, Voter Service Chair** to Volunteer for this crucial job in encouraging people to VOTE!

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

The NR Committee meeting of December 14th continued discussion of **Housing Elements** and **Climate Action Plans** from October 12.

Both are local government responsibilities. And both are important in addressing future priorities.

The Committee wants to advocate for local governments to do both: a) **set its Housing Element priorities** consistent with State requirements; and b) **reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions** in the CAP process.



The State requires all land use jurisdictions (cities and counties) to update their Housing Elements by December 31st of 2023. The County has missed this deadline due to "staff shortage." The default position for a jurisdiction without an updated

Housing Element is for the State Department of Housing and Community Development to assume jurisdiction.

Furthermore ***such default allows development at the discretion of the developer, not the jurisdiction*** (called the "builder's remedy").

The NR Committee proposes a letter campaign to the Board of Supervisors to urge action by the County to draft an updated Housing Element, even if it misses the deadline.

***Defaulting to the 'builder's remedy' is unacceptable.***

**George Riley**

## "SHORT TERM RENTALS" L&L IN FEBRUARY

On **Valentine's Day** next month (February 14th) **Supervisor Mary Adams** and staff of **Monterey Housing and Community Development Department** will address **Short Term Rentals (STRs)** in unincorporated Monterey County.

Residents in areas such as Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands, Toro Park, and Pebble Beach are worried that STRs will change residential neighborhoods into commercial zones; increase levels of noise, traffic and security issues as visitors come and go; and will result in turning homes into hotels instead of much needed housing for members of the community.



Monterey County is updating the ***Vacation Rental Ordinance for Coastal and Unincorporated Inland Areas***, which will provide guidance on where and how many STRs can legally operate.

Supervisor Adams recently released the long-awaited draft ***"Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Vacation Rental Ordinance"*** which will allow the County to update STR regulations. Go to [tinyurl.com/MryVRO](http://tinyurl.com/MryVRO), and click on ***"Complete Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Document Combined."***

**George Riley**



# HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD TO CATHERINE CROCKETT, LWVMC MEMBER



**Catherine Crockett** (left)  
with **Susan Swallow** (right)

We all know a person admired for their concern for others, one who always steps forward to help. Every year the **United Nations Association of Monterey** formally recognizes someone who consistently supports the causes

of human rights. Such recognition was awarded to **Catherine Crockett**, who was celebrated at the **Baha'i Human Rights Luncheon** and the UNA in December.

Many groups, from the **Baha'i Faith Community** to the **Monterey Board of Supervisors**, lined up to present Catherine with proclamations and awards. She'll need to add a wall to her house to display them all!

We are delighted to say that Catherine is a member of our **League of Women Voters Monterey County** and has been especially active in **candidate forums** (read her Profile in the **April 2022 Voter** at [tinyurl.com/LWVMCVoter202204](http://tinyurl.com/LWVMCVoter202204)). Our League was proud to serve as one of a dozen community co-sponsors of this awards luncheon, with **Beverly Bean** and **Dennis Mar** staffing an information table.

Over the years, Catherine has also been a regular member, or served on the board, of the **Monterey Peace and Justice Center**, **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Monterey County**, **Veterans For Peace**, and **Communities for Sustainable Monterey County**.



Catherine's energy and commitment have served her and our community well. At the luncheon she was saluted twice—with two well-deserved standing ovations. Our League salutes her as well!

**Bev Kreps**

## Virtual "New Members Welcome" Tea



In November, some new League members met online with Board members for a "virtual tea," giving everyone a chance to get to know another better. In a "small world" moment, new League member **Sandy Hoag** recognized new Board member **Shelley Sweet** from their Spanish class!

We shared information about our history, current activities, and ways to engage more deeply in Voter Service and policy work.

We plan on another virtual tea in the spring. While the focus will be on orienting new members, everyone is welcome to join in the conversation! We hope to see you there!

**Marianne Gawain**

## LWVMC GRAPHIC DESIGN POSTER CONTEST FOR HS STUDENTS



In early 2024 LWVMC will sponsor a **graphic design poster contest for Monterey County high-school students**. The challenge will be to design a poster that **encourages broad participation in voter registration and voting**.



Competition details will be announced in early January by email to all League members.

If you would like to join the contest organizing and promotion committee, or have experience with such activities, please contact me!

**Marianne Gawain**



## LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: SHELLEY SWEET



**S**helley Sweet, who became another **At Large Member** of the Board last June, is a relatively new member of the League of Women Voters. *"I joined about three years ago, but wasn't really active,"* she recalls. She became interested in joining the League as a result of getting to know **Kalah Bumba** during the COVID pandemic, adding that *"we both attended some of the League's Zoom meetings."*



recruiting students with Master's and Ph.D. degrees to work at **Oracle**. Their Marina home is about half a mile from the ocean and both like to walk to the shore frequently.

In retirement, Shelley and Larry enjoy traveling to their three favorite spots—Nantucket in the east, Yosemite and the Hawaiian Island of Kauai in the west. Shelley also recently visited Costa Rica, to spend Thanksgiving with one of her sons from a previous marriage, who runs a school there. Her other son lives in Roseville, CA.

Still, Shelley was well aware of the League of Women Voters long before that, through family connections. *"My mother was a very active member of the League,"* she recalls. *"She was President of the Connecticut League and Vice President of the National League. She also got my father to become one of the first men to join the League."*



Shelley is using her year as an At Large Member of the Board to determine which of the League's activities most appeal to her. *"Right now, I'm most interested in voter services and the low-income housing and rental situation,"* she says.

Before retiring and moving to Marina, Shelley spent 30 years working as a business consultant in the Bay Area. *"I have a B.A. in Economics and a Master's degree in Management, plus I took courses in business process management,"* she explains. *"That's an international field centered around making work more efficient and effective. I helped business teams in nonprofit, educational and corporate situations look at their work processes and see what they could do better."*



The decision to move to Monterey County was promoted by Shelley's husband, **Larry Lynn**. *"He said he wanted to live near the ocean before he died,"* she says with a chuckle. Larry's career was

Shelley is very involved with the **Monterey County Free Library's adult literacy program**. *"I've been active with that for the last five years and I'm currently working with a woman who's a native Spanish speaker,"* she says. *"I'm helping her with her English. When I started, she was at about a third or fourth grade level on her English and now she's doing quite well."*

*"I'm also associated with **Second Bloom**, a nonprofit that takes flowers from corporate events after they're finished,"* Shelley reports. *"We repurpose the flowers in small vases and make arrangements. Then we deliver them to shut-ins—**Meals on Wheels, Visiting Nurses, Hospice**—on a weekly basis."*

When asked what goals she has for our League of Women Voters chapter, Shelley Sweet said, *"I'd like the League to have a more varied membership. I feel that the age range and ethnicity is limiting and we might be able to do more if we had greater breadth."*

Certainly, that's a goal many of our members share.

**Nancy Baker Jacobs**

## LEAGUE MEMBERS IN ACTION!

LWVMC Member Jane Meade-Roberts and husband Mike Roberts offered registration forms and voter information at the Marina Sunday Farmer's Market in November.



What an inspiring head start to what are sure to be active Primary elections leading up to the **November 2024 Elections.**

*photo and article: Dennis Mar*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### 🌸 Welcome New Members! 🌸

**Kimberlyn Forte**

514 Park Street, Pacific Grove 93950  
(831) 277-4632

[fortekimberlyn@gmail.com](mailto:fortekimberlyn@gmail.com)

**Laurie Singer**

18 Cheswick Circle, Salinas 93906  
(831) 578-3639

[singtorr@yahoo.com](mailto:singtorr@yahoo.com)

### 🌸 Change of Address / email 🌸

**Whitney Gravel**

185 Hacienda Carmel  
Carmel, CA 93923-7946

**Alison Kerr**

[shouldbeinthegarden@gmail.com](mailto:shouldbeinthegarden@gmail.com)



Send Membership  
Updates to  
Janet Brennan,

[brennan\\_janet@comcast.net](mailto:brennan_janet@comcast.net)



**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, [Brennan\\_Janet@comcast.net](mailto: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.**



## Highlights from **LWVMRYCO.ORG**

★ General Meeting videos and newsletter: ★  
[tinyurl.com/LWVMCVideos](https://tinyurl.com/LWVMCVideos)

• **"Planning for Affordable Housing in Monterey County and Cities: Timing, Priorities and Possibilities"** (September 13, 2023) presented by **Michael DeLapa**, Executive Director of LandWatch is now up on our website. The next time you have a conversation with someone about affordable housing, RHNA, etc., you might want to share this presentation, complete with helpful slides, and as always clear quality audio and video by Videographer, Joe Asling.

Debby Majors-Degnan

## VOLUNTEER for Legislative Interviews

\*\*\*\*\*  
Every January, representatives of local Leagues interview their representative **CA Senate** and **Assembly members**, collecting information of interest to LWVC. This year we'll meet via Zoom with **Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas**, **Assemblymember Dawn Addis**, and **Senator John Laird**. Results are used to set California-level priorities and assess support from elected officials. It's also interesting, educational, and a way to get to know legislators personally!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Interested in participating?  
Contact: **Tama Olver**



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



**Office** Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

### ★ **Officers**

**President**  
Marianne Gawain

**Vice President**  
Tama Olver

**Secretary**  
Dennis Mar

**Treasurer**  
Marilyn Maxner

### ★ **Policy Portfolios**

**Government**  
(Vacant)

**LWV Action**  
Janet Brennan

**Natural Resources**  
George Riley

**Social Policy**  
Bev Kreps

**Addresses and phone numbers redacted online:  
refer to by-mail paper copy or Handbook.**

### ★ **League Activities**

**Membership**  
Janet Brennan

**Publicity / Luncheons**  
Beverly Bean

**"The Voter" Editor**  
Regina Doyle

**Voter Service**  
Pamela Stewart

Jeanne Turner

### ★ **Members At-Large**

Olivia Mandilk

Sharon Miller

Shelly Sweet

### ★ **Off-Board**

**LWV California**  
Jackie Jacobberger

### **Nominating Committee** **Elected**

**Nancy Baker Jacobs (2022-24)**

**Arlene Guest (2022-24)**

**Linda Gin (2023-25)**

### **Appointed**

**Dennis Mar**

**Pamela Stewart**

### **Facebook**

**Olivia Mandilk**

**Voter's Edge**  
**Arlene Guest**

**Videographer**  
**Joe Asling**

**"The Voter" Biographer**  
**Nancy Baker Jacobs**

**Website Coordinator**  
**Debby Degnan-Majors**

### **LWVMryCo The VOTER**

*Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec Send articles & updates to [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com)*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF MONTEREY COUNTY  
**"THE VOTER"** NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942  
(831) 648-8683

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S.POSTAGE PAID  
Monterey, CA  
Permit No. 115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**LWVMryCo Calendar 2024**



**JANUARY**

Board Zoom Meeting  
*Monday, January 8th, 11:30am*  
contact: Marianne Gawain

Zoom General Meeting,  
*Wednesday, January 10th, 2024*  
*"The Equal Rights Amendment:  
The Heart of Alice Paul"*  
*Guest Presenter: Zoe Nicholson*  
contact: Beverly Bean

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
*Thursday, January 11th, 12 noon*  
contact: George Riley

**FEBRUARY**

Zoom Meeting  
*Monday, February 5th*  
*10:30am Program Planning Meeting*  
*11:30am Board Meeting*  
contact: Marianne Gawain

In-Person Lunch & Learn  
*Wednesday, February 14th, 11:30am*  
*"Short Term Rentals in Monterey County"*  
*Supervisor Mary Adams and Housing staff*  
contact: George Riley

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
*Thursday, February 15th, 12 noon*  
contact: George Riley

**MARCH**

Board Zoom Meeting  
*Monday, March 4th, 11:30am*  
contact: Marianne Gawain

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
*Thursday, March 14th, 12 noon*  
contact: George Riley