



## ***THE VOTER***

***Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities***

[www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org)

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**March 2019**

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties.

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### **Our Next Event**

#### **Housing Past and Present Impacts**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

**6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Redwood City Public Library**

1044 Middlefield Road  
Redwood City

#### **Our Jobs and Housing Imbalance**

We live in a very prosperous area - Silicon Valley - but prosperity has brought it's own challenge of an imbalance in housing. How do we move forward to improve and secure housing for everyone in our communities?

#### **Speaker:**

**Diana Reddy**

Redwood City Council Member  
Fair Rents 4 All Advocate

**Diana Reddy** is a community advocate who has been organizing for more than 20 years. Ms. Reddy has championed education, healthcare, and housing throughout that career of advocacy.

**Ms Reddy** has served on the **Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County as a Community Builder**, organizing in communities and advocating for policies to increase affordable housing.

**Ms. Reddy** has also served on the **San Mateo County Living Wage Task Force** and is currently a member of the **Working Families Alliance**.

*Please Register @ [www.lwvssmc.org](http://www.lwvssmc.org) or @ [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)*

**---D.E.&I. Thought for the Month---**

**["5 Tips for Being an Ally"](#)**

**Understand your privilege**

**Listen and do your homework**

**Speak up, but not over**

**You'll make mistakes—apologize when you do**

**Ally is a verb, not a noun—implement Tips 1-4!**

**---from the video by Franchesca Ramsey**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_dg86g-QIM0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dg86g-QIM0)**

**Also watch:**

**"Unconscious Bias at work - Making the Unconscious Conscious"**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW5s\\_-Nl3JE&t=46s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW5s_-Nl3JE&t=46s)**

## From the President

As always, there is a lot going on in your League. One big change was the need to adapt our Issues for Emphasis that were discussed at our January Planning Meeting. The North and Central League decided to recommend 2020 Census for our County League Emphasis. This was in conflict with our League's choice, so our boards compromised and recommended 2020 Census and Climate Change Adaptation as it Impacts San Mateo County with a Focus on Sea Level Rise, and Increased Fire Risk. This proposal was approved at County League Day to present to our two memberships at our Annual Meetings.

That means that our local Issues needed altering, so our board decided to recommend: Housing/Transportation and Voter Services. You will all have a chance to express your opinion and vote on our Issues for Emphasis at our Annual Meeting on May 29.

This is League Legislative Interview time, and members are meeting with State Senator Jerry Hill and Assembly Members Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman. The goal is to learn what they think about issues that may be coming up during the next two years. Legislators' responses are sent to the State League who will use them to help with plans for working with the California Legislature and lobby campaigns. Reports will also be shared with our membership. Watch for them in future Voters.

Would you like to help our League keep track of what your town/city council is discussing? We are looking for members to keep track of your council and report to the board any items that might be of interest to our League. You can do this by attending meetings in person or online or simply reviewing agendas and minutes of the board. This could be a shared job, so you wouldn't be responsible for every meeting. It's helpful for our League to be informed of local government activities that fit within our League positions and Issues for Emphasis. If you are interested, contact our Local Action Chair, Joyce Shefren, [jshefren@gmail.com](mailto:jshefren@gmail.com)

Shirley Des Marais

## LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Civil Discourse Workshops

Join us on Mar 24th, 1:30-3:30 pm in the regular meeting and for more conversations, tools and future activities at 10277 Vista Knoll Blvd, Cupertino.

The Santa Clara County Council Civil Discourse Committee is scheduling Civil Discourse events for 2019. Join us to participate in these and other events:

April 6: **Homelessness and Vehicle Residents**, Mountain View Sr. Center 1-5.

August 10: **A House Divided - How Do We Get the Political System We Want?** Sunnyvale

October 12: **Mental Illness in America - How to Address**, Cupertino

For more information and scheduling, contact [Civil Discourse Workshops](mailto:m.shovlin@comcast.net)  
m.shovlin@comcast.net

## Movie Night at Century 20 in Downtown Redwood City March 25, 7 – 9 pm

*bias* is a film that challenges us to confront our hidden biases and understand what we risk when we follow our gut. Through exposing her own biases, award-winning documentary filmmaker Robin Hauser highlights the nature of implicit bias, the grip it holds on our social and professional lives, and what it will take to induce change.

[Purchase tickets here on EVENTBRITE.](#)

Join us along with Oakland filmmaker Robin Hauser Monday night March 25th for another BraveMaker screening and discussion in downtown Redwood City at Century 20 (Cinemark Theaters).

For this event we will engage with special guests--professor and social justice advocate **Ana Avendaño (formerly of New Voices for Youth)** and race educator and social commentator Andre Henry for an in-depth discussion after the film. <http://www.andrerhenry.com/>

<https://www.biasfilm.com/>

## **The Burg: App brings new civic engagement opportunities to the Bay Area (*excerpts*)**

*Silicon Valley Community Foundation blog, Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

In March, a new app called [The Burg](#) -- a Silicon Valley Community Foundation grantee -- will launch in Silicon Valley, with the goal of increasing civic engagement and improving voter education.

“We want to replace the clunky, outdated voter information pamphlet,” said Matt Pell, one of two founders of The Burg. The app explains every ballot measure in a detailed, nonpartisan way, and lets users mark how they plan to vote ahead of time, for easy reference at their polling place on election day.

“There were so many truly amazing stories from midterms,” said Pell. “People downloaded and shared our Ballot Tool throughout the [Long Beach area], and we heard from so many people who voted for the first time with The Burg. My favorite story is from a girl who was too young to vote, but used our app to get her parents to vote and even drove them to the polls!”

Pell and his team published a short [blog post](#) highlighting the dozens of stories they heard following last fall’s midterm elections.

Following the Bay Area launch on March 8, the app will be available to residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The Burg team plans to focus on certain communities in East Palo Alto and San Jose where they think there is the most opportunity for positive impact through civic engagement. “Politics should trickle up from the communities, not trickle down,” said Pell.

“We want it to be frictionless for voters and their representatives to communicate,” said Pell. “Not only do we want to increase voter turnout, we want to increase confident voter turnout.”

In Los Angeles, the initial launch of the app resonated with an audience of young, first-time voters. “Word spread quickly via Instagram stories,” said Pell, explaining that downloads picked up quickly once local micro influencers began sharing about The Burg and how it helped them vote. He hopes The Burg will have the same impact with young voters in the Bay Area.

*(from the Supervisor's newsletter)*

### **League of Women Voters, New Voices for Youth Program**

Media, cameras, video, sound are powerful ways to relay a message. The equipment necessary to send a message through media is expensive. Too often, youth without financial resources don't have the opportunity to explore this realm of communications and art. That's where League of Women Voters New Voices for Youth project comes in. New Voices for Youth is an afterschool program that trains youth to be leader through use of media and storytelling. The program trains youth from North Fair Oaks, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto to discuss, analyze and research social issues that touch them in their communities. Then, they make a video about it – in their voice. I am proud to have funded, approved by my colleagues, this District-Discretionary grant of \$20,000 to be used for classes for youth from February - December 2019. The funds will also be used to host a film festival of the videos, all written and produced by the youth.



## Fire Safety

San Mateo County Leagues are taking an active role in collaborating to address fire safety with San Mateo County's Office of Sustainability leading the effort. Each League is encouraged to contact their county to learn what efforts are being taken to improve our safety.

*(Submitted by Ann Draper, Environmental Director)*

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Susannah Hill from Menlo Park

## Transit Housing Development – Is It Working?

**Tuesday March 19**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**San Mateo Public Library**

**55 West Third Street San Mateo CA 94402**

The housing development plan is to build housing near a transit hub or along a transit corridor. The benefits include saving time and money, relieving traffic congestion, providing a cleaner environment, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The following speakers will address how well this plan is working in addition to solutions and strategies for the future:

**Evelyn “Evvv” Stivers** — Executive Director, Housing Leadership Council

**Michael Weinbauer**— San Mateans for Responsive Government

**Chris Lepe** —Regional Policy Director, TransformCA

**The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo** and the **San Mateo Public Library** sponsor this program. For more information, contact us at [lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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<b>MARCH</b>		
19 Tues	1 – 3 pm	<b>TRANSIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT—IS IT WORKING?</b> San Mateo Public Library, 55 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, San Mateo. Contact: North & Central SMC LWV 650-342-5853 or <a href="mailto:lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net">lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net</a>
21 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Bernadette Burns, <a href="mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com">bernadetteburns362@gmail.com</a>
25 Mon	7 pm	<b>FILM SCREENING--<i>bias</i>. Discussion follows.</b> Century 20 Theaters, 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. Tickets at Eventbrite.
28 Thurs	12 noon	<b>Book Group Meeting</b> to discuss <i>Leadership: In Turbulent Times</i> by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Guests always welcome; please bring your own lunch. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> or 650-342-5853.