



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

650-325-5780

info@LWVSSMC.org

December 2017 - January 2018

Editor: Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com, 408-757-1250

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.

2017 Holiday Potluck Dinner & Planning Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 5:30 – 9 pm

Kathleen & David Weisenberg's home
167 Heather Drive, Atherton

5:30 – 6:45

Potluck Dinner & Socializing

Bring something to share if you can, but if you can't,
come anyway!

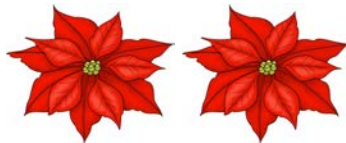
6:45 – 9:00

Planning Meeting

We will be discussing our recommendations for national legislative priorities, updates of positions, and/or possible studies for consideration at the National League convention in June, 2018.

PLEASE RSVP, and **choose** a discussion group:
Voter Protection/Mobilization, Health Care,
Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, or Climate Change.

Reply with your choice to Suzanne Fouché at 650-868-0320
or safouche@comcast.net



CONGRATULATIONS!!! NEW VOICES GETS GRANT

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing a one-time grant of district-specific **Measure K** funds, not to exceed \$16,290, to the League of Women Voters (LWV) for New Voices for Youth (NV4Y), an after-school program that trains youth to be leaders through use of media and storytelling, and authorizing the County Manager, or his designee, to prepare and execute the grant agreement.

New Voices for Youth – December screenings coming up!

Our two new NV4Y co-Directors, Nimsi Garcia and Rebecca (Becca) Gourevitch, are finishing up Fall programs at both the Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks and at the Boys and Girls Club in East Palo Alto. In classes since early October, students have learned about making videos that demonstrate civic engagement (documentaries vs. PSA, close-ups vs. mid-shots, A-roll vs. B-roll). Students are gaining technical proficiency AND understanding what makes a story engaging. They get hands-on experience using cameras to capture images, then using computers to edit those images. Almost all of the students are new to video, so the classes move slowly, while building skills that can be applied to future projects.

Their first videos are profiles of themselves, focusing on what makes their home special. At Siena Youth Center, New Voices has coordinated with Siena’s student-led Advocacy group, culminating in filming their march against displacement. Their final videos will combine their profiles and video from the march.

Students will screen their videos during the third week of December. More details will be available soon!



Sister Christina marching and chanting NV4Y students film speakers at event

KEPLER’S “COMMUNITY PARTNERS” INCLUDES OUR LEAGUE

Don’t forget when you are buying books, or anything, at Kepler’s any time of year, to mention the League when you check out. They will donate back to us 6% of the sale. If you make your purchase online through Keplers.com, begin your shopping by clicking Community Partners, then Shop For Your Nonprofit, and then League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County.



Please Join the Leagues of Women Voters of Palo Alto and South San Mateo County for a Luncheon Event Featuring
Stanford Professor Deborah Stipek



**Early Childhood
Education: Why is it
Essential to Our
Collective Future?**

Monday, December
11th, **11:30-1:00 pm**

Mitchell Park Community Center
El Palo Alto Room
3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

[RSVP on Eventbrite](#) by 12/8
or send a check by 12/8 payable to: LWVPA,
3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Winter Luncheon Menu: Seasonal green salad with pears and walnuts, roasted root vegetable pie served with a cranberry/applesauce relish. Vegetarian (gluten-free upon request), \$35

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**Coffee with Assembly Member Kevin Mullin**

Wednesday, December 6, 9 – 10:30 am

Atria at Foster Square

707 Thayer Lane

Foster City

## Save the Date for our Program Planning Meeting

We will be discussing Local and County League positions and Issues for Emphasis for 2018-19. Join us for wine and appetizers, and help us determine where we'll concentrate our efforts in the coming year.

**January 10, 6:00-8:00**

Lucile Spurlock's home, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park

LWVUS has suggested Leagues continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (adopted at the LWVUS 2016-2018 Convention) as their primary area of education and advocacy from 2018-2020. The LWVUS feels the Campaign still has much to do. Those areas include:

- Expanding voter access which includes expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration
- Redistricting where apportionment should be based primarily on population and opposing partisan and racial gerrymandering
- Money in politics to put the focus back on individual voters and not big money by limiting SuperPACs and promoting more transparency on who is making donations
- Fighting voter suppression by challenging efforts and tactics that limit an individual's right to vote

If you would like to read a summary of National's positions, follow this link:

[http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/impact\\_on\\_issues\\_2016-2018\\_positions\\_in\\_brief.pdf](http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_issues_2016-2018_positions_in_brief.pdf)

**Check out the newly designed LWVUS website at <https://www.lwv.org/>**

## **From the President**

We have had a very busy month, but much of it has been done “behind the scenes.”

A special committee, led by Kathleen Weisenberg, has been organizing our December 7 Program Planning Meeting and Holiday Dinner. They’ve arranged for small group discussions led by a League “expert,” who will help us learn about National League positions, and actions being taken at the national level. Then we’ll meet together to share our group discussions and come to a consensus on our recommendation for 2018-2020 National League Priorities.

This meeting also includes our traditional Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. We know that some of you will not be able to get there by 5:30 and/or bring something to share. Please come when you can with or without a dish. We hope all of you can join us for our annual social and program planning meeting.

Our Handbook/Roster has been published and will be available at the December 7 meeting. Those not picked up that night will be mailed. Thank you to Ann DeCarli for taking on this big job, and to Lucile Spurlock for editing and mailing support.

You may soon receive a letter asking for your help with our winter fundraising effort. All of these donations will go to our Education Fund, which is used for our local voter education and outreach efforts. If you have not yet had a chance to send a special donation this year, please consider doing so now. Less than 24% of your annual dues are kept by our local League. The rest goes to the great work being done at our National, State and Bay Area levels. Thank you to Linda Liebes who has been heading up this effort.

Our Housing Committee, led by Lisa Conrad, organized two discussions on local housing in conjunction with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s On the Table series. The committee is also looking into our current local League housing position, with the possibility of recommending an update. Any suggestions they decide to make would be brought to membership at our Annual Meeting.

And, finally, congratulations to Kathleen Weisenberg and the New Voices team for receiving a grant from San Mateo County for their work with local underserved youth.

I wish you all a pleasant Holiday Season.

**Shirley Des Marais**, President

## *Items of Interest*

### **KING TIDES!**

Royal tides? No.

King Tides are the highest tides of the year, and with the prospect of sea level rise, what we experience with king tides will be the everyday norm in the near future. Places that flood during a king tide will be flooded daily. If you want to see what's coming, you can join one of these events.

The County of San Mateo is hosting **King Tides & Coffee**. The event will inform the public about King Tides, show future flooding risks and share information about projects the County and others are working on to reduce impacts from flooding and sea level rise. There will be two Coffees on December 4th, 2017.

- **Coastside:** 9 am - 10:30 am

Miramar Beach Restaurant Parking Lot, Mirada Road, Half Moon Bay

- **Bayside:** 11 am - 12:30 pm

Oyster Point Marina Parking Lot, South San Francisco

### **Snap the Tides, See the Future Photo Contest**

Ready, Set, Snap! The County is also sponsoring a King Tide photo contest. For more detailed information on the contest guidelines and where to submit your photos, visit their web site at <http://seachangesmc.com>

The king tides in San Mateo County will be on Dec. 3 at 11:05 am, Dec. 4 at 11:50 am, Dec. 5 at 12:37 pm, Jan. 1 at 10:44 am and Jan. 2 at 11:30 am. The website also has a list of the locations that are currently most impacted by King Tides. You can pick any location and see it during a low tide and then come back during the King Tide to see the difference and the future.

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Bay Area League Day 2018
Focus on Regional Government—Winds of Change
3 Panels and Roundtable Discussion

Saturday, **February 3**, 9:30 am -3 pm
Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland
FREE PARKING!
Continental Breakfast at 9:30

Buy your ticket directly on Eventbrite, or click through from the LWV Bay Area site:
<http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-regional-governance>

\$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. Includes lunch and continental breakfast at 9:30

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**Get Us Moving**

Provide your input on plans for new local transportation and funding projects to be proposed in 2018 at [GetUsMovingSMC.com](http://GetUsMovingSMC.com).

“San Mateo County is a great place to live, but traffic is worse than it has ever been. Solutions are available, but we need your help to prioritize and develop a plan that gets San Mateo County moving. Completing this simple and fun survey below will provide us with critical feedback about your priorities for transportation improvements.”



<http://getusmovingsmc.com/#/>



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

We could use a volunteer to help with **name tags** at our Potluck Dinner on **December 7**. Contact Suzanne Fouché, 650-306-9096, or [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net).

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Does anyone have experience with **videography, video editing**, and sensible ways to **upload** the end product? I could use some pointers... Contact Bernadette Burns, 408-757-1250 or bernadetteburns362@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS from the November 9th BOARD Meeting:

Your Board

- Heard updates from our Alumni Consulting Team and membership committee; we now have 160 members!
- Was informed that New Voices for Youth has received a grant of some \$16,000 from our County Board of Supervisors to continue their work with local teenagers.

Discussed

- Costs of new software and other projects like implementing Survey Monkey which will necessitate a financial committee review before January Board meeting.
- A request from a Menlo Park citizen to address community groups regarding possible changes in city election formats, particularly regarding district-wide elections. It was determined that any such forum would have to conform to LWV protocols.
- Changing the format for our holiday party/program planning meeting in December.

Learned

- Debbie Maio is helping to transfer our website over to the new format available from our state league.
- Lisa Conrad is spearheading our involvement with Silicon Valley Foundations On The Table discussions next week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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DECEMBER		
6 Weds	7 – 9 pm	World Affairs Council Talk: Dr. Anna Vassilieva will address <i>Understanding Contemporary Russian Politics and Society</i> . Registration: www.worldaffairs.org/events 415-293-4600. Contact: Ralph Kuiper, rkuiper@earthlink.net
7 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>This Fight Is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class</i> , by Elizabeth Warren. At Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net
7 Thurs	5:30 pm – 9	HOLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING , 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net
11 Mon	11:30 am to 1 pm	LWVPA WINTER LUNCHEON featuring Professor Deborah Stipek speaking on the urgent need for improving Early Childhood Education. Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.
14 Thurs	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile Spurlock, caspurlock@aol.com MAY BE CANCELLED—check with Board if planning to attend.
JANUARY		
10 Weds	6 – 8 pm	PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile Spurlock, caspurlock@aol.com
11 Thurs	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile Spurlock,
25 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net

Mailing List for *THE VOTER*

If you received a paper copy of this issue of *The VOTER* and do not want it mailed to you, please tell the editor, Bernadette Burns (BernadetteBurns362@gmail.com). Or, if you want to be mailed a paper copy and did not receive one, please contact Bernadette to be added to the mailing list for *The VOTER*.