



THE VOTER

League Of Women Voters
Of Sonoma County

Volume 24, Issue 7
Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

A new year is here!



One of our goals for 2021 is to resurrect our monthly newsletter. This is our first issue and a good opportunity to find out what we're up to for the coming year.

Kicking off the new year was our **Annual Planning Meeting on January 30th**. We held this annual event virtually, not nearly as much fun without food and social connections. Still, we accomplished what we set out to do, and that was to decide our areas of emphasis for this year.

Local Areas of Emphasis- These are the issues that our league will work on in the coming year. They will remain essentially unchanged from last year with some slight additions:

- **Making democracy work** including learning about and promoting ranked choice voting and engaging young voters.
- **Criminal Justice-** Have a presence on the sheriff oversight IOLERO committee.
- **Climate Change-** Specific focus to be determined.
- **Homelessness & Housing-** Sue Jackson is keeping an eye on this issue.
- **Transportation-** Continue to have a presence on the So. Co. Transportation Citizens Advisory Committee, a role long filled by Willard Richards who is stepping down. Rick Luttmann & Chele Gummer will take over that role.

There are many ways to work with the LWV, both big and small. The issues listed here are big and there is plenty of room to expand any of them. If you have a particular passion or interest, consider joining one of our committees and seeing what they are up to. It's all virtual, so parking is not a hassle. Check the calendar below.

New Board Members-

There are some new faces & familiar ones. The annual changing of the guard took place despite a couple of bumps along the way:

- President- This position will remain vacant for now. Responsibilities will be shared by members of the executive committee and the monthly meetings will be chaired on a rotating basis by the board members.
- Secretary - Debbie McKay
- VP administration - Linda Rosen
- Treasurer - Juanita Roland
- Membership - Judie Coleman
- Program -Mary Virdeh
- VP of Advocacy - Gene Zingarelli and Leona Judson
- Outreach - Sue Jackson
- Voter Service - Karen Weeks
- At Large - Jim Masters, Susan Novak
- Communications - Iris Levitis

LWVSC Calendar

Standing Meetings

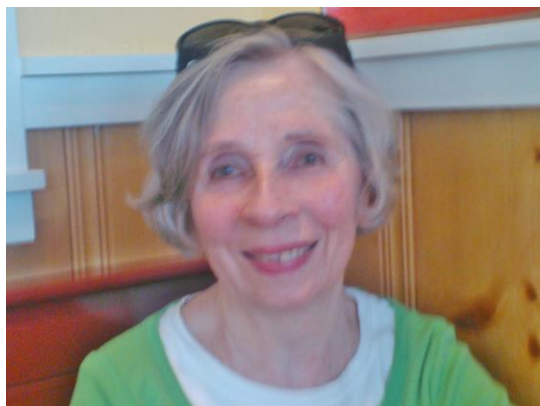
These are all held virtually. Go to our Google calendar for the latest updates and Zoom Link. <https://my.lwv.org/california/sonoma-county/calendar-google>

- **Board Meeting-** Normally the first Saturday of the month. But in February it will be Feb. 13th at 10 AM, and in March, March 13
- **Advocacy Committee-** the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM to Noon
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84177899465?pwd=ckg2UU1NcGVZDZV5d0I0ejBFVWZEdz09>
- **Outreach Committee-** 2nd Monday of the month at 2 PM to 4PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86935105960?pwd=MTR2V3JFdVNjVmZkZkZOUkRCYkhXUT09>
- **Voter Service Committee-** 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00 to Noon
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81232530668?pwd=R0tRTm4wRmhGTFVjSkIqdWI4V1VKQT09>
- **Book Club:** the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30 to noon.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82877765695>

Visit our website for updated calendar information.

Nancy Burrington – 1937- 2021

Most of you may already have learned about the sudden passing of Nancy Burrington. She filled many roles in our LWV over the years, including that of President. Most recently she was our secretary and also served on our voter service committee during one of the busiest election seasons in recent memory. There will be a virtual memorial service on February 13th from 4 to 6. All are welcome to share a story, a photo, a poem or song in honor of Nancy. Here is the Zoom link: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/95546952305>



she attended our committee meetings regularly and offered assistance wherever it was needed, and that was certainly true with Voter Service. We took on nine city council forums, all virtually. Debbie hosted most of them & was very involved with all aspects of our recent election. She initiated our Civics Education video series with our young SSU volunteer Christine Von Rasesfeld. With the pandemic, our outreach to the high schools came to an abrupt halt. This video series goes way beyond simply registering to vote. Debbie is understandably very proud of that accomplishment. Do check out our YouTube channel for this civics education resource. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvppI3yS3Hcus_mTECDsbFA She has also raised our profile in the community with her outreach to various non-profits and government. She has built connections that will help us all as we continue to do our work. Don't worry, Debbie will plan to remain active in our league in the role of secretary. But knowing her, she may pop up in other places as well. Thank you, Debbie for all your hard work and leadership.

A Tribute to Our Outgoing President

Debbie McKay, our very active president, whose term ended with our recent Planning Meeting, deserves a warm round of applause. She truly kept our league on course for the past nineteen months. Not only did she preside over the Board,



Board Briefs

This will be **brief** as our committees and new board members are just getting started.

- **Admin.** Linda Rosen is new to this position and is just learning the ropes. She will be vital link of communication during this period when we have no president.
- **Advocacy.** Gene Zingarelli is joined by Leona Judson as co-chair. They are looking for new ways to engage locally with climate change activists and monitoring criminal justice reform. Stay tuned.
- **Membership.** Now headed up by Judie Coleman. She has lots of ideas to recruit and engage new members. Think “small nibbles,” easy projects or one-time activities to learn about volunteering.
- **Outreach .** Sue Jackson is focusing on affordable housing and homelessness. She is looking at Generation Housing as a local organization doing some interesting things. Check out their petition if you are interested in signing. <https://generationhousing.org/take-action/state-housing-leg-petition/>
- **Voter Service-** Believe it or not, they are at it again organizing a forum regarding the Special Election in West County. If you want to see the forum, it will be on our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvppI3yS3Hcus_mTECDsbFA.

Welcome New Members!

Joyce MacLaury	Santa Rosa
Margaret FitzGerald	Santa Rosa
Margaret Purser	Santa Rosa
Shelley and Jed Weissberg	Healdsburg
Sondra Thorpe	Sonoma
Regina Reilly	Santa Rosa
Margaret Parr	Forestville
Jennifer Laporte	Petaluma
Ann Strack	Petaluma
Jean Anne Nattkemper	Santa Rosa
Ruth Witchey	Santa Rosa
Jeanne Sternbergh	Healdsburg
Linda Rosen	Rohnert Park
Pat Collins	Sebastopol
Mary Agneberg	Guerneville
Lorene Romero	Windsor
Lynn Dooley	Petaluma
Pam Howell	Santa Rosa
Christine von Raesfeld	Santa Rosa
Marie McKinney	Santa Rosa
Maureen Brennan	Windsor
Amy Cooper	Santa Rosa
Jeannene Langford	Santa Rosa
Linda Frank	Santa Rosa
Andrea Coen	Santa Rosa
Olivia Hughes	Guerneville

Book Club Reads

February 18—Moderated by Mary Fricker

Ten Global Trends Every Smart Person Should Know, Ronald Bailey and Marion Tupy, 208 pages, 2020.

Think the world is getting worse? If so, you're wrong. The world is, for the most part, actually getting better. But 58 percent of people in 17 countries who were surveyed in 2016 thought that the world is either getting worse or staying the same. Americans were even more glum: 65 percent thought the world is getting worse and only 6 percent thought it was getting better. The uncontroversial data on major global trends in this book will persuade you that this dark view of the state of humanity and the natural world is, in large part, badly mistaken.

March 18--Moderated by Sukey Robb-Wilder

Educated, a Memoir, Tara Westover, 334 pages, 2018.

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag." In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter, she salvaged in her father's junkyard. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. The extremity of her upbringing emerges gradually through her telling, which only makes the telling more alluring and harrowing. As a way out, Tara began to educate herself, learning enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she graduated magna cum laude and won a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Her quest for knowledge would transform her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Cambridge and to Harvard. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Tara Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change.

The 2021 Reading list is online at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZtbZjf6rDN02zzZ01J-0gRcg4uLXcb-T/view?ths=true>

LWVSC

Board of Directors

None, **President**

Linda Rosen, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarell and Leona

Judson, **VP Advocacy**

Debbie McKay, **Secretary**

Juanita Roland, **Treasurer**

Judie Coleman, **Membership**

Sue Jackson, **Outreach**

Karen Weeks, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Programs**

Iris Levitis , **Communications**

Susan Novak and Jim Masters,
Members at Large

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. www.lwvsonoma.org

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www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California www.ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States www.lwv.org
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

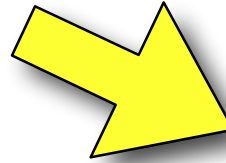
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.



Become a Member of the LWV of Sonoma County



or

Make a DONATION

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name
Address
City Zip
Phone Email

Memberships Levels

Table with 2 columns: Membership Level and Price. Includes Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership (\$75), Centennial Membership (\$100), Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$100), Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$200 or more), and Household Membership (\$110).

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- Voter Registration, Candidate Forums, Transportation, Housing/Homelessness, Climate Change, Immigration, Newsletter, Website Management, Local Governance

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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