



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

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October 2016

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2016 BALLOT MEASURE

Pros & Cons

October General Meeting



Thursday, October 6, 7:00 pm

**Community Room, Redwood City Main Library,
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City**

We will provide unbiased information about the 17 ballot measures to help you evaluate them. There will be time for questions.

Bring a friend and join us for light refreshments and the facts you need.

Upcoming Candidate Forums—All Are Welcome to Attend!

Menlo Park City Council, Mon. October 10, 7-9 pm, MP Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

City of East Palo Alto Council, Tues. Oct 11, 7-9 pm, EPA Council Chambers, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto

FROM THE BOARD

For October, all our efforts will be aimed at voter registration and voter education, the latter by means of Pros & Cons presentations on the seventeen (17!) propositions on the state ballot, and also by local candidate forums, which include school board and city council races.

We have already held five Pros & Cons presentations, three in Redwood City, one each in La Honda and Menlo Park, for a joint attendance of over 100 people, and two candidate forums, for the Menlo Park and Ravenswood elementary school districts, for an audience of over 75. The candidate forums have been recorded and will be available through links on our website and on MidPen TV (midpenmedia.org).

Two more forums are scheduled: Menlo Park City Council, 7:00 pm Monday Oct. 10 at the Menlo Park City Council Chamber; and the East Palo Alto City Council, 7:00 pm Tuesday Oct. 11 at the East Palo Alto City Council Chamber. They will also be recorded and televised. The public is invited to attend

There are also at least thirteen more Pros & Cons presentations planned, including our **general program for the month**, 7:00 pm at the Redwood City Main Library Community Room, Thursday Oct 6. We'll see you at the Library! Invite your family and friends to this public event. (Coffee and cookies provided!)

Ellen Hope, President

In Memoriam

Maria Catt Starr, 1920-2016

On September 24, the LWVSSMC lost one of its most colorful members, Maria Starr, who passed away at the age of 96. Born in Vienna, Austria, Maria came to New York in 1938, and, despite arriving with minimal English, she was admitted almost immediately to Wellesley College. She later married into a San Francisco family and adjusted to life on a California ranch where she learned to drive in order to be able to get her beloved New York Times from a grocer many miles away. After her husband's death, Maria moved to Woodside, and later to an Assisted Living facility in San Mateo.

Maria joined the LWVSSMC in the late 90's and immediately became a member of the Board, taking responsibility for programs relating to International Relations. She held that seat until her recent death. She was also an avid member of our League Book Group, contributing to the discussions and hosting the meetings on numerous occasions. Maria also was the driving force behind the ongoing close relationship between our League and the World Affairs Council, where she was also a board member.

Maria had a number of passionate interests: animals (especially cats), international affairs, politics, and education. She was strong-willed, with strong opinions, and she took action to promote her beliefs. Her generosity was legendary.

Any encounter with Maria was a memorable event. Her strong personality, her sharp mind, and her deep interest in people and issues was always on display.

We in the League who knew her as a colleague and friend will sorely miss her.

(Thanks to **Lida Urbanek** for preparing this tribute to Maria!)

SEE THE FUTURE



In the State of California, San Mateo County is the most vulnerable county with respect to sea level rise and it is anticipated the County will experience the greatest economic losses as a result of this exposure. Yet, it is hard to visualize what sea level rise will look like.

To help, the County, working with others, installed a device called an Owl which provides a visualization of what sea level rise here will look like. The Owl is located in Coyote Point Park next to Board Sports California at 1603 Coyote Point Drive in San Mateo. You are invited to go and use the Owl any time you want. In addition, there will be hosted events where people will be at the Owl to help people use it and answer questions. **League members are especially encouraged to attend on days when docents are present** so that public interest is clearly visible and noted. Those dates are several Saturdays from 10am-2pm: **October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19 and December 3**. These dates (and further information) can also be found on the Sea Change SMC website “Events” page:

<http://seachangesmc.com/events/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Voter Registration: Current election season, before October 24; specific dates/times not yet known. Events planned at Brookdale Senior Living, Redwood City, and San Carlos Senior Center. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com

League Communications: Keep our cell phone. Take and record messages, respond when possible, or send the request to the appropriate League leader for follow-up. Estimated time commitment 30-60 minutes per week during election season, much less at other times. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net

Corresponding Secretary: Primarily handling thank-you letters to our generous donors. Intermittent time commitment; perhaps 2 hours per month in conjunction with twice-yearly fundraising efforts. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com

World Affairs Council, Peninsula Chapter, Presentation October 5:

“Cybersecurity While Keeping the Lights On.”

Stanford Computer Science Professor **Dan Boneh** will present a technical description in lay terms. **Dr. Aaron Clark-Ginsberg**, a Post-Doctoral Fellow from Homeland Security, will discuss the regulatory efforts that are implemented to protect the nation’s power grid.

Without a fully operational electrical grid, everyday functions in the home and workplace would come to a halt, to say nothing about the activities in hospitals and other critically important activities. The grid is a highly interconnected “machine” dependent on the internet and other communication systems.

This event (like most Peninsula WAC events) will be held at the Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Refreshments at 7 pm; program 7:30-9:00 pm, including Q&A.

See www.worldaffairs.org/events and our Facebook page.

New Voices for Youth (NV4Y) Update, from Sheila Botein

This summer, Erendira Parra, a New Voices alum from Menlo-Atherton high school (M-A), led New Voices summer programs at Siena Youth Center in Redwood City and also at Puente, a community program for youth in Pescadero. Erendira writes:

At the beginning of the class I showed documentaries dealing with social justice issues along with showing short documentaries so they could get the basic idea of the story structure. After showing them profile pieces done by other students at NV4Y I asked them to each come up with five different topics relevant to them that touch on social justice in their community.

Then I grouped them based on what most interested them in their community and from there they decided as a group what they wanted their film to be about. Overall, students at Siena and at Puente were both eager to get their hands on a video camera and just shoot, along with greatly anticipating showing their final projects to their peers.

New Voices is pleased to have hired a new director, Jose Saavedra (better known as Lalo) who brings experience working with youth and media in San Jose and at the Boys and Girls Club in Redwood City. Ana Angel Avendano will continue to consult with the Steering Committee and with Lalo. Shakeam Campbell (who led our program at M-A last year) is becoming a web designer and we have hired him to design a new website for NV4Y.

This year we continue to work at Siena, while taking a break from M-A. Building on our success at Siena, we look forward to working with middle-schoolers in after-school programs in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. Lalo will be finding new partners and figuring out how to use the video that students made at M-A last spring. It promises to be an exciting year for New Voices!

In addition, we are eager to bring in new members to our Steering Committee. Please call Kathleen Weisenberg (650-323-7146) if you are interested in joining the New Voices for Youth Steering Committee.

Local Ballot Measures

Measure K is a countywide sales tax measure which would extend the one-half cent retail sales and use tax passed in November 2012 for an additional twenty years, until March 31, 2043. The money would be used to continue supporting many programs and services in the County, including affordable housing, given the recent loss of access to redevelopment funds.

Redwood City's **Measure U** would renew and slightly increase (to \$85 per parcel per year) the existing parcel tax which provides funding for the schools. The extension would be for fourteen years and existing fiscal accountability provisions would be continued.

BOARD NOTES from the September 12th meeting:

- Alumni Consulting Group at Stanford has accepted our request to help provide us counsel and a plan of action to increase our membership and overall League visibility.
- Lisa Conrad and Maury Mulligan are coordinating a welcome reception for new members at the home of Lucile Spurlock in Menlo Park on September 25.
- Treasurer Jack Morris reported that there is no official printout from Quickbooks; still, our overall our League's fiscal year ended mainly "in the black; not red!"
- We have moved into the new office and it is fairly well organized. The owner will charge us \$25 to put our nameplate on the door. Board agreed this should be done.
- The new P.O. Box took a while to transfer over; **members should be sure their check has cleared the bank and let us know if it has not.**
- After the meeting, it was learned that LWV of North/Central San Mateo County had taken a position on County Measure K. Via email vote, **our Board concurred in supporting Measure K.**
- The committee supporting the Measure U parcel tax for the Redwood City schools requested our league's support. No position taken yet.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jennifer Bestor
Tracy Clark
Terri Ducay
Marty Fleischmann (from Marin LWV)
Georgia Jack

Allison Katsev
Ginger Levick
Maury Mulligan
Corrie Potter
Ashley Wagstaff

**OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE
(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2016-17)**

President: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
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UPCOMING EVENTS		
OCTOBER 2016		
5 Weds	7-9 pm	World Affairs Council Presentation, "Cybersecurity While Keeping the Lights On." Technical aspects of cybersecurity; regulatory efforts to protect the US power grid. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Contact: Ralph Kuiper, rkuiper@earthlink.net
6 Thurs	1:30 pm	Pros & Cons Presentation , Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park. Contact: Kamila Najieb-Wachab (knwachab@peninsulavolunteers.org)
6 Thurs	7 pm	Pros & Cons Presentation , Redwood City Main Library, Community Room, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. Contact: Sue Alvarez sbrock1944@aol.com LWVSSMC Oct. General Meeting
8 Sat	10:30	Pros & Cons Presentation , AAUW, Belmont Public Library. Contact: June Hennig (pjhennig1@gmail.com)
9 Sun	12 noon	Pros & Cons Presentation , St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Contact: Carol Louchheim, clouchheim@yahoo.com

10 Mon	7-9 pm	Menlo Park City Council Candidate Forum , Menlo Park Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Contact: Diana Post, dsuepost@comcast.net or Ellen Hope at ellenjhope@aol.com
11 Tues	7-9 pm	East Palo Alto City Council Candidate Forum , East Palo Alto Council Chambers, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto. Contact: Diana Post, dsuepost@comcast.net or Ellen Hope at ellenjhope@aol.com
11 Tues	7:30 pm	Pros & Cons Presentation , Ladera Community Church, Ladera. Contact: Laurel Brock, laureldparis@yahoo.org
12 Weds	7 pm	Pros & Cons Presentation , The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Contact: Onnolee Trapp, onnoleet@sbcglobal.net
17 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Ellen Hope's. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com *** NOTE change from second Monday due to election season schedules.
19 Weds	7 pm	Pros & Cons Presentation , St. Matthias Church, 1685 Cordilleras Road, Redwood City. Contact: Claire Felong, claire@redwoodhouse.com
27 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss Black Flags: The Rise of Isis by Joby Warrick. At Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net

*** Please note that the **Pros & Cons Presentations** listed above include only those which are open to the public. We are doing several others, sponsored by private groups or in private homes, which are NOT listed.

Check Out These Voter Information Resources Online!

- * Voter's Edge: www.VotersEdge.org
- * San Mateo County: www.shapethefuture.org
- * California: www.sos.ca.gov/elections
- * LWVC: www.easyvoterguide.org
lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations
- * Ballotpedia: www.ballotpedia.org

