



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

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April 2017

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Protecting Our Neighbors: Safeguarding the Rights of Our Entire Community

April 19, 6:30 – 8:30pm
**Woodside Road United Methodist
Church,**

corner of Woodside Road and Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City



Jay Laefer will discuss the latest efforts by the American Civil Liberties Union to defend everyone's rights here in California and across the country. Nationally, the ACLU has opposed the Trump administration's Muslim Ban and sought to protect immigrant communities from federal overreach.

Here in California, the ACLU has launched an effort to reform our bail system so that no one sits in jail simply because they cannot afford to post bail.
(AB42 & SB10)

Other legislative priorities:

* **SB54:** California Values Act
(disentangles state & local law enforcement agencies from immigration enforcement)

* **SB31:** California Religious Freedom Act

Jay Laefer has been a volunteer activist with the American Civil Liberties Union since 2002. He has worked on a variety of civil liberties issues ranging from law enforcement accountability to preventing library censorship to criminal justice reform. Currently, he serves on the board of the ACLU–North Peninsula Chapter.

Jay earned his law degree at Georgetown University and his bachelor's degree in computer science at Carnegie Mellon. When not volunteering for the ACLU, Jay writes software for the Security & Privacy division at a Silicon Valley tech company.

FROM THE BOARD

Current California Legislation

As many of you know, a portion of our dues goes to the California League to maintain a small permanent group of volunteers and employees in Sacramento. They follow California legislation throughout the year, expressing the views of the League to the state legislators and letting us know what bills are in process. To find more information on their work, go to LWVC.org, click on Take Action, then under Legislation click Read More. There is a great deal of information available on pending legislation. The following is a brief precis of some of the current bills on which the League has taken a stand:

Campaign Financing:

AB 1089 (Mullin) Local elective offices; contribution limitations. The League supports this bill. (LETTER.)

AB 1678 (Berman) School districts and community college districts; political activities; dedicated fund. The League is a sponsor of this bill.

Coastal Issues:

SB 44 (Jackson) State lands; coastal hazard and legacy oil and gas well removal and remediation. The League supports this bill.

Housing:

SB 2 (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act. Support. (LETTER.)

SB 3 (Beall) Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018. Support. (LETTER.)

Immigration:

AB 3 (Bonta) Public defenders; legal counsel; immigration consequences; grants. Support.

SB 6 (Hueso) Immigrants; removal proceedings; legal services. Support.

SB 31 (Lara) California religious freedom act; state agencies; disclosure of religious affiliation information. Support.

SB 54 (De Leon) Law enforcement; sharing data. Repeals provisions requiring that persons arrested for specified controlled substance violations and possibly not US citizens be reported to the appropriate US agency. Support.

Voting Rights:

AB 216 (Gonzalez Fletcher) Vote by mail ballots; identification envelopes; prepaid postage. Support.

Additional information on all of these bills, and others, is available on the LWVC.org site. (Note that the first two have been introduced by our local Assembly members, Kevin Mullin and Mark Berman.) Where I have included “LETTER” the site links to a letter from the League giving our reasons for supporting the bill.

If you are looking for something to do to help our state in this current crisis, you might consider writing to your Assembly representative or to State Senator Jerry Hill about one or more of these bills. (Letters to Senator Hill about the two Housing issues, SBs 2 and 3, might be based on the League letters.) Also, it seems to me that our legislators should be thanked for the good things they do, as well as questioned when they seem remiss.

PS For those of you who are as green as I was (and I am still a delicate shade of pea), AB stands for Assembly Bill and SB is Senate Bill.

Happy spring!!

Ellen

Timely Topic Conversations Series

We are planning to begin a series of Timely Topic Conversations (in addition to our monthly public programs) which will be open to members and invited guests and will be more focused on discussion and action. The first of these will be at Kathleen Weisenberg’s home on April 13 (see below) and will be a follow-up to the meeting last month on Fake News. It will be both an opportunity for those who couldn’t attend the previous meeting to learn the gist of what was covered and for those who were there to explore the issues discussed in more depth.

Fake News Discussion With David Iverson

Thursday, April 13, 7-9 pm

Did you miss the recent Palo Alto panel “How to Navigate Information in a World of Fake News and Alternative Facts?” Or want to further examine this timely topic in a more conversational setting? Come hear award-winning journalist and independent filmmaker Dave Iverson lead an informal discussion about this important issue.

How does one counter “Fake News” when a friend claims it is the truth? When presenting the facts doesn’t appear convincing? Iverson will help us discover how we can act in today’s climate where proliferation of fake news is affecting our democratic process.

Iverson’s career has spanned broadcast journalism and independent filmmaking. His most recent film is “*Capturing Grace*”, a feature documentary about a group of dancers with Parkinson’s disease and their unique collaboration with the world-renowned Mark Morris Dance Group. The film was broadcast on PBS in 2015 and won numerous awards and was screened to sold out audiences around the country and internationally.

Iverson was also the writer, correspondent and co-producer/director of the 2009 PBS *Frontline* documentary about Parkinson’s “*My Father, My Brother and Me*”. He is a National Emmy Award winning documentarian, a special correspondent for the *PBS NewsHour* and a radio host at San Francisco’s NPR affiliate KQED.

Iverson now serves as Contributing Editor at the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research and is a founding member of the foundation’s Patient Council.

Please join us for an interesting discussion and light bites.

Home of Kathleen Weisenberg

RSVP to davkatweisenberg@att.net

Ken Broome (May 19, 1925 – March 11, 2017)

Ken and his wife, Heather, were longtime League members. Heather was our VOTER Editor for years until her death in 2008. Ken often attended our events until this past year, sometimes speaking up to suggest specific projects or causes the League could support in transportation and housing. He and Heather were both born in England and immigrated to the U.S. in 1952, with the first two of their eventual six children. As an engineer (MA from St. Johns College, Cambridge) Ken first worked in aerospace in Southern California and Florida. Ken and Heather's third period of residence in California was here in Woodside beginning in 1994.

I have had a number of engineering, infrastructure and public policy conversations with Ken at League meetings and occasionally for a breakfast or lunch to talk about some project. He and I have both done small research projects for the California Energy Commission, his being "micro-hydro" - small scale hydroelectric power - and mine being "bioenergy" from renewable woody wastes. I miss our exchanges and his "can and should be done" challenges in energy, transportation and housing.

Anne DeCarli, who is a resident at Brookdale in Redwood City where Ken lived tells us that Ken was a member of the board of the Residents Council at Brookdale. She adds that members appreciated his learned and thoughtful contributions to discussion, and she mentions that one of his causes there was his urging that they install solar panels on the roof.

Note: A service is planned for 11 am on May 27 at Our Lady of the Wayside chapel in Portola Valley, with a gathering for remembrances afterwards on the grounds.

- *Evan Hughes*

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 Shirley Des Marais (sdesmarais@pacbell.net). Or, if you want to be mailed a paper copy and did not receive one, please contact Shirley to be added to the mailing list for *The VOTER*.

BOARD NOTES from the March 13th meeting:

- Received report from Kathleen Weisenberg and Ellen Kitamura on the final report for our League from the Stanford Alumni Consulting team.
- Received Treasurer's report; LWVSSMC membership now at 134.
- Lisa Conrad gave a report on a new member coffee on March 12 and another new member coffee planned for March 26.
- Received report on fundraising letters being mailed this month and another mailing planned for May.
- Annual meeting is set for May 16th at The Old Spaghetti Factory in RWC. Planning committee is still in search of a speaker.
- Need to have the annual report ready for the printer by April 7th.
- Board approved keeping community policing as an issue for emphasis as well as adding Voter Outreach as an issue of emphasis.
- Bylaws reviewed; approved changes as recommended by committee.
- Discussion of delegates to send to Bay Area League meeting in April and State LWV convention in June.
- Heard report on some local political activists' groups.
- Planning still under way for April and May speakers for public meetings.

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.

Our Elevator Pitch:

Imagine what it would be like if everyone voted!

The League of Women Voters works to safeguard democracy by:

- Fighting voter suppression
- Engaging new voters
- Empowering voters with information

If you want to make a difference in our democracy, join the League.

We would love to have you join us!



**League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area**



The April/May edition of the Bay Area Monitor is now available online.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/apr17.pdf>

[The Art of Supporting Open Space](#)

[Care for Landscapes and Lungs: Addressing Equipment Emissions](#)

[Creosote Cleanup: The San Francisco Bay's Piling Problem](#)

[State Seeks Safer Streets](#)

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(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2016-17)**

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UPCOMING EVENTS		
APRIL		
10 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING in the new office conference room. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
13 Thurs	7-9 pm	TIMELY TOPICS Conversation: Fake News with David Iverson . At Kathleen Weisenberg’s home, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, davkatweisenberg@att.net
19 Wed	6:30-8:30 pm	Protecting Our Neighbors . Jay Laefer from the ACLU speaking at Woodside Road United Methodist Church, Woodside Road at Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
27 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>Give Me Liberty</i> by Naomi Wolfe . At Mary Kneip’s, the Vi, 620 Sand Hill Road, #109E, Palo Alto. Free valet parking, no tipping allowed. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net
MAY		
8 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING in the new office conference room. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
16 Tues	6-9 pm	LWVSSMC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING at the Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City. Speaker is Nick Hope, China and the US—Areas of Focus for the New Administration. Business meeting follows.