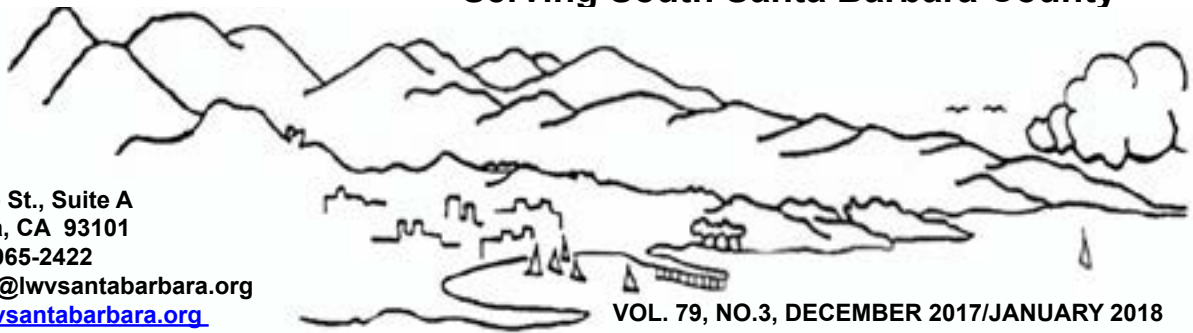




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



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VOL. 79, NO.3, DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Program & Advocacy
Lindsey Baker (2018)
Community Education,
Membership & Administration
Joanie Jones (2019)

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Program & Advocacy
Connie Hannah (2018)
Membership, Voter Service
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Susan Horne (2019)

Water

Penn Borden (2019)

Nominating Committee

Mary Rose (2018), chair

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK[®]

MEMBERS' HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday December 20 Noon to 2:00 PM

Come meet Santa Barbara's newly elected officials. Also invited are the Mayor & City Councils of Goleta & Carpinteria. Location will be the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina. *For more information, see Page 3.*

JANUARY COMMUNITY FORUM

Wednesday January 17 Noon to 2:00 PM

“What is the Future of Affordable Rental Housing on the South Coast?”

Community Forums take place at the Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library; Co-sponsors: LWVSB, The Santa Barbara Public Library, TVSB, and Gary Atkins Sound Systems (for more Forum Info see page 4)

There will be no December Units and no December Community Forum. January Units will be a discussion of National and Local Program Planning and Priorities for the National and Local Leagues.

For more Information
on January Forum &
Unit Meetings
Please see Pages 4 & 5

Visit our website at:

www.lwvsantabarbara.org

Check out our online Calendar

Like us on our Facebook Page:

League of Women Voters Santa Barbara

Follow us on Twitter:

LWV Santa Barbara@LWVSB

PHONE: (805) 965-2422

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

First, we want to give a big thank you to all the LWVSB Committees and Directors who have been working with intensity during the fall months. Please read this two month edition of the Channel Voter cover to cover to learn about some of the results and the plans in the works. This article can only mention a few of our League's plans and accomplishments over the past several months.

Our Voter Service under the direction of Susan Horne worked to give active support of our League's commitment to the education and registration of voters. Many volunteers joined with library volunteers organizing and implementing National Voter Registration Day. League volunteers Claire VanBlaricum, Shane Stark, and Irene Stone moderated several live and taped Santa Barbara Candidate Forums. We send a special thank you to **The First United Methodist Church** for all the support, especially in light of the loss of their community room floor prior to the Mayoral Forum. You can still watch some of the tapes of these programs on our YouTube channel. The Mayoral Forum had over 250 people in attendance!

Another mention goes out to our PR Team. Publicity & Community Outreach through our Facebook page are now reaching over 500 subscribers thanks to Jane Benefield PR Director, Vicki Allen Director of Outreach, and Barbara Kuhn editor of the Channel Voter and the twice monthly emails. These individuals are supported by a very active & involved Communications Committee.

Events in December & January:

Our Members' Holiday Party is December 20, noon, with delicious dishes & elected officials from Carpinteria City Council, Goleta City Council, and City of Santa Barbara City Council as guests. Come ready for an informal sociable time with them and questions for the City of Santa Barbara's newly elected officials. The location is our old meeting spot, Louise Lowry Davis Center. Sign up or call the office with your donation for luncheon items or donation in lieu of food. We always welcome volunteers to help with this festive event.



Immigration Panel November Community Forum

Call the office at 965-2422 or email Hospitality@lwvsantabarbara.org.

In early January join us in our units to discuss what our LWVUS priorities (national League's public policy positions) should be in the coming two years (2018-2020). These units contribute to the information we forward to the National League board as grassroots guidance for a vote at the June 2018 LWVUS Convention in Chicago. (See unit article page 5). These units will also be a time for input for local League Program Position changes or suggestions for new studies for our Annual Meeting to be held May 19. On January 17 we host our monthly Community Forum with the topic being Affordable Rental Housing.

2018 marks our local LWV Santa Barbara's 80th Birthday/Anniversary. We will have many times to join together for fun and fundraising during this year. Please support your local League through your participation. Ask a friend to help us register and encourage voting. Make a gift of your treasure to both parts of our League, LWV Santa Barbara, a 501(c)4 and LWV Santa Barbara Education Fund, a 501(c)3.

Finally, save the LWVUS Convention date, June 27 - July 2, 2018 IN CHICAGO: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Program & Advocacy

Our League of Women Voters Santa Barbara has been making great strides with our Community Forums this League year. Not only have we been recording and televising our Community Forums in both Spanish and English, we also televised our November 2017 Candidate Forums. TVSB will be showing our forums as follows:

English Version: Tuesdays 9:00 PM and Fridays 2:00 AM

Spanish version: Wednesdays 9:00 PM and Saturdays 3:00 AM

It is anticipated that TVSB will stream our forums in January, and they will remain posted on our LWVSB website lwvsantabarbara.org as well.

Thanks to our co-sponsorship with the Santa Barbara Public Library, we have expanded our attendance capacity for forums that are now being held in the Library's Faulkner Gallery. The Library has recently installed an accessible ramp for handicapped individuals, and this will also benefit our forum attendees.

Our November 15 Community Forum on "Immigration 2017: What's happening in Santa Barbara County?" was full of vital information for our community. The January 17 forum will be "What is the future of Affordable Rental Housing on the South Coast" which we anticipate will provide invaluable information regarding housing issues & concerns on the Central Coast. Co-program Coordinators Vijaya Jammalamadaka and Connie Hannah are leading the program planning committee for January. Be sure to read their Channel Voter article on page 4.

LWVSB has observers at local government Councils, Commissions, Board of Supervisors, etc. Some of these are: City of Santa Barbara Water Commission, City of Santa Barbara Planning Commission, Santa Barbara Housing Task Force, Goleta Water District. But we can always use more observers! Please contact Lindsey at lwvsantabarbara.org for more information. Because of our observers and our community involvement in affordable housing issues the City of Santa Barbara solicited the input of our League to the Housing Task Force to respond to their housing nexus and feasibility studies for affordable housing.

**Your Co-Presidents,
Lindsey Baker & Joanie Jones**

HOLIDAY PARTY

Members, Come Celebrate the Holiday Season!

DATE: Wednesday December 20

TIME: 12 Noon to 2PM

**PLACE: Louise Lowry Davis Center
1232 De La Vina St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101**



Come meet newly elected Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo, & new SB City Council Members; Also invited are the Mayors & City Councils of Goleta and Carpinteria. Donation from members welcome, \$5 for non-member guests.

JANUARY COMMUNITY FORUM

JANUARY FORUM, JANUARY 17 **“WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING** **ON THE SOUTH COAST?”**

California has just passed 15 new laws designed to streamline the production of affordable housing. Since that has long been the goal of our local governments, the League is anxious to learn what these new anti-NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) laws will mean for local rental housing production. For the first time these laws allow no reduction in housing units without serious penalties. They also propose to provide money to build more affordable rental units. They will completely change how housing projects are approved in the future.

At noon on Wednesday, January 17, the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara will host a community forum on how Southern Santa Barbara County plans to increase affordable rental housing. We have invited expert speakers from the County and the three Cities to discuss what they think the new laws will mean for them and their existing housing programs.

The Forum will be held in the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Central Library. There is handicapped access now, and parking on both sides of the Library.

Come hear about these unusual developments.
Connie Hannah and Vijaya Jammalamadaka, co-chairs

The community forums are co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara Public Library and Santa Barbara TV (SBTV). Sound provided by Gary Atkins, Sound Systems.

FORUMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ACTION ALERT!

SPREAD THE WORD: IT'S TIME FOR HEALTH CARE OPEN ENROLLMENT!

Many state and local Leagues have worked to assist with the [open enrollment process](#) under the Affordable Care Act. This year the window for open enrollment is shortened and the marketing budget was drastically cut by the administration. It's up to organizations like the League to spread information about how to sign up. [Check out these great resources and toolkits](#) from like-minded organizations and spread the word today!

The open enrollment period ends December 15. Please help us make sure that everyone who needs to sign up knows about it! One way is to share the message from our @LWVSB Facebook page.

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

JANUARY 2018 DISCUSSION UNITS

Bring your best ideas!

National and Local Program Planning and Priorities

Every even-numbered year local Leagues participate in the national LWVUS Program Planning process. In odd-numbered years we participate in California's LWVC Program Planning. This is how we remain a grassroots organization. And every year, we also need to decide our local Santa Barbara area programs. "Program" in League terms, means the issues we work on through advocacy, education or study. Program planning is an essential League tool for focusing and prioritizing our work and ensuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact.

In our January units, we will consider what recommendations we should make to our national League Board and at the LWVUS Convention next June. This year, the LWVUS board has taken the unusual step of making a recommendation to us: LWVUS and Leagues throughout the country should continue the Campaign "Making Democracy Work®." Our work to champion voting rights is more important now than ever. At the local, state and federal level, League leadership on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and our future.

At our January Unit Meetings, we'll also discuss which LWVUS positions we have used to act or educate our community on local issues, review our local positions, and in light of the LWVUS request and our local issues, we will talk about what should be prioritized in the coming year. To get ready for the January Units, a good resource is the LWVUS publication "Impact on Issues," available online at:

forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition.

The best review of what League has been doing this year to Make Democracy Work® is in the [Program Planning Leaders Guide](#) (pages 2-5). I'll bring handouts to our unit meetings on these recent actions, which are very substantive.

Please bring your copy of our LWVSB "Directory and Local Positions for Program Action" to the meeting.

Linda Phillips, Director, State & National Action

EDUCATION FUND OF THE LWVSB

The Education Fund of the LWVSB is our tax-deductible arm, whose goal is “to provide non-partisan information about issues and governmental processes and services to enable citizens to become active and informed voters, and to help every citizen participate in the democratic process.” We expect to be busy in 2018 – a general election with many important offices and issues at stake -- to help local citizens get to know their candidates and understand the ballot measures. You should have received our annual mailing requesting your support to help us carry on this important work. Checks should be made payable to “LWVSB Education Fund.” The Education Fund letter is reprinted below:

“Dear Friends, We provide Santa Barbara voters impartial, balanced information on candidates, ballot measures, and civic issues. We are asking you to help the League of Women Voters make democracy work.

Our League has reliably provided such services for over 80 years. With your support we will continue to do so. The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Education Fund finances and supports voter service and citizen education. In 2017 the League:

- Funded community forums like “Can We Talk and Listen to One Another?” & “How Can We Protect Voting Rights?” All forums have Spanish translation.
- Hosted Mayor and City Council candidate forums, filmed, televised and posted on the Internet in English and Spanish.
- Published information on Santa Barbara and California League websites, Facebook, Channel Voter, and e-mail messages.
- Cooperated with county libraries to educate and register voters on National Voter Registration Day.
- Collaborated with Santa Barbara Unified School District to educate high school students on voting and new pre-registration process.

We will be busy in 2018 - a statewide general election year. We hope to intensify efforts to register and educate new voters, such as our unreached Latino and young adult neighbors. We will continue to provide voter services, including pros & cons on State and local ballot measures, candidate forums, online and print ballot material, and community forums for education and discussion of emerging issues.

Financial support is critical. With your help we will continue to provide these nonpartisan public education resources and activities. We know you value transparent politics and reasoned, dispassionate analyses of issues. Please support our work with a generous tax-deductible contribution to the “LWVSB Education Fund” this year.

You can name the Education Fund in your will or trust. Gifts of appreciated stock will also be welcome. (Consult a lawyer, estate planner or accountant.) Please help. Informed and active voters are the bedrock of democracy.

Shane Stark
President, LWVSB Education Fund”

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND WATER COMMITTEES

TWO LEAGUE COMMITTEES DISCUSSED THE DELTA TWIN TUNNELS

When the Water and Sustainable Communities committees met together on November 10 to discuss Governor Brown's Twin Tunnels proposal they knew that both the League and the California Water Impact Network (C-Win) opposed the project.

Carolee Kreiger, the co-founder of C-Win, an organization dedicated to protecting the public trust water resources, explained that both the U.S. and the California constitutions mandate the protection of natural resources for all people. She went on to say that water has too often been used for private, rather than public interests in California. This violates the Public Trust Doctrine, and C-Win is considering legal approaches to fight that.

Carolee said that nothing illustrates this problem better than the Delta Twin Tunnels. More than half of all Californians must rely on a single source of water, the California Delta watershed. The tunnels would divert this water to serve two areas, the San Joaquin Valley industrial farmlands, and the populations of Southern California. The district representing the farms, which use 80% of the water, has said they would not pay for the tunnels. Then all the enormous costs would fall on the Southern California ratepayers.

She warned that the tunnels issue is not dead and keeps changng. She hopes that League will continue to oppose it. Her talk was informative, and a call to join the fight to restore the Public Trust Doctrine.

Connie Hannah, Chair Sustainable Communities Committee

ENERGY REPORT

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA MAKES PLANS

As most of us know, our hopes for a boost in local "green energy" in the form of a Community Choice Energy program received a serious blow when the feasibility report was negative. CCE is not dead – the study is being continued at a low level with some new consultants and possibly new assumptions. However, the city of Santa Barbara has decided to also develop a Plan B approach. The city council has approved a program of identifying opportunities in the city for greater energy efficiency and renewable generation.

Both public and private sites will be evaluated. "Pitch ready" proposals can then be developed, the idea being to be able to respond quickly and comprehensively when/if funding opportunities occur. This Energy Strategic Plan has the potential to move the city closer to its goal of being a 100% renewable energy city by 2030. The League will be watching with great interest and hopes to support the plan as it develops.

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

LWVSB Celebrates 80th Anniversary in 2018!

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2018. This is the first in a series of articles about what happened during those 80 years.

When LWVSB was forming in 1938, the recession continued and the stock market reached its lowest point in four years. That spring President Roosevelt asked Congress to finance relief measures and public works projects. In Europe, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler annexed Austria and then occupied the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

In April, 1938 the vote was unanimous to appoint a committee to consider forming a local unit of the League of Women Voters (which had been founded in 1920). Officers of the State League came to a meeting at Santa Barbara State College to explain the organization to 57 interested women.

“The women who in 1920 organized this League realized their first task was to get out the voters,” said Mrs. Warner Clerk of San Francisco (how she was identified by the News Press). “It was not an easy matter to swing into activity a group that had never voted before. They didn’t want them to go to the ballot box without information, and out of this idea has grown a great responsible organization that not only votes but acts to promote responsible participation in elections.”

The northern district vice president added, “Politicians are what we make them and if you wish to be a member of a better element join such organizations as the League of Women Voters.” The state president, Mrs. Carl Voss (the former Esther Adams of Santa Barbara) was the main speaker at the meeting.

LWVSB’s first president was Winifred Frye of the State College Home Economics Department (1938-1940). In the new decade of the 40s, she was followed by Alice McLaren, Dr. Helen Sweet, Louise MacLeod, Helen Murphy, Jeanette Ellison, Floralyn Conway, and Elisabetta Henderson. It took ten years of probationary status for the Santa Barbara League to be elevated to an active chapter of the national organization. The membership then was 101.

Of those early days, Dr. Sweet wrote, members started the **Voter Information Center** and **Meet the Candidates** meetings. “Many people dropped in to see what it was all about—men who wanted to talk and read, and many who asked about the League. We had League material on its studies of pros and cons on propositions as well as legislative briefs and candidate materials. We invited all candidates at the local level to speak for themselves at a public meeting held in the Alhecama Center. Not a man came, even though they accepted our invitation.”

And then there were the rats. Led by Betty Henderson, later League president, “we were instrumental indirectly, in getting a California State Health Department team into the county to inspect the potential for (rats transmitting) bubonic plague through the vectors (disease carriers).” The League put out flyers on how to get rid of rats.

The meetings at that time were small, the board had no more than five members, and 30 was considered a good crowd at a general meeting. There were somewhere around 75 members. They met in each other’s houses, had study groups, began to take stands on propositions, and observed the sessions of local governing bodies. By 1948, there were six UN workshops, three on City Charter, and seven on state and national fiscal policies. LWVSB was one of the first to study and define “smog.” Our local League was off to a good start.

Vicki Allen, Community Outreach Director

VOTING RIGHTS: Making Democracy Work!

Voting – What can we trust?

The League of Women Voters (LWV) champions informed voting to make democracy work. The “informed” part and the “voting” part are both in trouble in our United States today. Are false stories impacting our thinking-and our voting? Are our voting processes under siege?

The Bad News The media surrounds us with both facts and fictions. Social media stories on Facebook and Twitter are often forwarded after readers only read a shocking headline, before even looking at the actual story or the source. So a small number of people can (and do) ultimately spread a story that is false - or true - to millions.

How To Spot Fake News Go online for two good options: www.Factcheck.org or www.Politifact.com. These are two of the best non-partisan websites that research media stories and separate fact from fiction. We now know that Russia has a huge industry secretly working to target various audiences with fake stories (i.e. propaganda) to sow chaos, uncertainty, and discord as well as a list of thousands of targeted individuals to spy on, embarrass, discredit or silence for the Kremlin. (AP report in The Week, 11-2-17) Many of these people are in politics and/or government.

Can we trust the election voting processes? First, LWV is defending voting rights at the federal and state level. While California has many model protections in place, such as fair voting districting, other states have unfair gerrymandering of voting districts as well as voter suppression laws to exclude minorities from voting. The LWV Alerts encourage LWV members to advocate for relevant legislation that protects & ensures free, democratic elections.

Barbara Simons, computer scientist and founder of the non-profit, **Verified Voting** says that many states still have electronic voting machines “with software that can be manipulated to rig elections.” Russians tried to meddle with voting in 21 states in the 2016 Presidential election, according to the Dept. of Homeland Security. In July 2017, Simons staged an attack on four voting machines at the Def Con Hackers Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Hackers found vulnerabilities in all four - within hours! Now we know that security is a problem in computer systems, as we have learned from hacks on Target, credit card companies, Equifax, and other important computerized infrastructure.

The Good News One technology is not vulnerable to hacking – Paper! Voters can use paper ballots –and/or keep a paper copy of their electronic vote to verify it is correct. However 13 states have no paper ballots, including big ones like New Jersey and Pennsylvania. And all 50 states count votes using computerized scanners. So far, only a few states have an auditing system in place to prevent malicious code from changing votes. But these issues are fixable. Simons says “There is no malware that can attack paper...We can solve this. We know how to do it.”

(For the full article on voting machines, see **The Computer Scientist Who Prefers Paper**, in The Atlantic December 2017 paper issue or read it online at www.theatlantic.com.)

Director of Voter Service, Susan Horne

Membership

WE ARE GROWING! ARE YOU HELPING?

Since the October/November Channel Voter, Steve Botts, Lynn Dow, Jo Duffy, Joan Gordon, Judy Mosley, Betsy Newman and Janet O'Laughlin have joined LWVSB! Please do your part too. Those of you who have not renewed your League membership for the 2017-2018 fiscal year are now delinquent and no longer a member of the League. Article VIII Section 2 Dues states "Any member who fails to pay dues within sixty (60) days after said dues become payable shall no longer be a member of the League." If you are unsure of your status please phone me at (805) 687-1124 and I will be able to help you.

ARE FINANCES A PROBLEM? If you have been concerned because your finances are tight right now and you are reluctant to renew your membership or join, we now offer reduced dues of \$35.00 for such a situation. Mail to League of Women Voters, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara 93101 or online at www.lwvsantabarbara.org.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR: Gifts in Memory of a deceased member or in Honor of a living member can be made to either the Santa Barbara Education Fund or the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters. Santa Barbara Education Fund contributions are tax deductible.

Bev King, Vice President Membership, Voter Service & Administration
(805) 687-1124 or membership@lwvsantabarbara.org



*It is with great sadness that we share the
news of the passing of
longtime member
Sylvia Glass
DOD 9/27/2017*



MEMBERSHIP FORM - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA



PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- HERE IS MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$70 STUDENT \$35
- SECOND MEMBER IN SAME HOUSEHOLD \$35
- I CAN'T JOIN RIGHT NOW. HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____
- PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEAGUE
- TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

Make check payable to: League of Woman Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara California, 93101. You may also pay online through PayPal at www.lwvsantabarbara.org (\$3 added if you pay online with PayPal) A limited number of reduced dues are available.

For more information phone the League (805) 965-2422 or email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org

Sign me up to:

Register Voters Join the League of Women Voters Invite a Friend to Join Pledge \$ _____ support

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

DECEMBER/JANUARY Calendar

DECEMBER	JANUARY
THERE WILL BE NO UNIT MEETINGS IN DECEMBER	2 TUES: Communications Committee 12 to 1:30PM League Office UNIT MEETING: Madame Lu's 5:30PM 3524 State Street, Contact Karen Bunker 967-0838 or Jane Honikman 967-9757 (Supper Unit)
5 TUES: Communications Committee 12 to 1:30PM League Office 328 E. Carrillo St. Suite A	8 MON: Downtown Unit - Noon to 2:00PM League Office - 328 East Carrillo St. Suite A Brown bag lunch - Contact Connie Hannah (805) 967-4720 On street parking
8 FRI: Sustainable Communities 10 to 12PM Maravilla Senior Living Community Clubhouse - 5486 Calle Real, S.B.	10 WED: Carpinteria Unit - 10:00AM Carpinteria Women's Club. 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield (805) 684-6086
9 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting 10:00AM League Office	12 FRI: Sustainable Communities 10 to 12PM Maravilla Senior Living Community Clubhouse - 5486 Calle Real, S.B.
20 WED: LWVSB HOLIDAY PARTY! 12 to 2PM LOUISE LOWRY DAVIS CENTER 1232 DE LA VINA STREET	13 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting 10:00AM League Office
27 WED: Water Committee 12 noon League Office	17 WED: Community Forum 12 to 2PM Santa Barbara Public Library Faulkner Gallery
	24 WED: Water Committee 12 noon League Office
	25 WED: Social Policy Committee 3:00 to 4:30PM League Office

