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## Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

---

League Stands  
Against Hate

---

Club Express is  
Coming Soon!

---

Forum:  
Climate  
Emergency

---

Housing Update

---

Support "For the  
People Act"

---

Coming Events

---

Zoom Book Club

### IMPORTANT LINKS:

---

[WEBSITE](#)

---

[CALENDAR](#)

---

[ELECTED OFFICIALS](#)

---

[VOTER INFO](#)

---

[ACTION AND  
ADVOCACY](#)

---

[JOIN LWV](#)

---

[DONATE TO US](#)

---

[CONTACT US](#)

---

[LINKS](#)

## CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

*Serving South Santa Barbara County*



### A Message from the LWVSB President

Less than a week after a gunman in Atlanta, GA shot and killed eight people including six Asian women, a mass shooting at a Boulder, CO supermarket resulted in 10 deaths. These and other tragic events leave in their wake feelings of grief and anger about racism, misogyny, bigotry, and gun violence. The League of Women Voters condemns all xenophobic and hateful acts targeting any community. See LWV statement about hate crimes [here](#) and about gun violence [here](#). Also, read the National Action report in this email.

On March 26, 1790, the Naturalization Act was signed into law, prohibiting non-white people from becoming citizens of the United States. More than 200 years later, Asians in the U.S. are still suffering from the effects of the racism our country was founded upon. Asian elders are being physically assaulted in the streets. Asian American children are afraid to go back to school.

On Saturday, March 27, members of the multinational Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities here in Santa Barbara held a silent vigil to honor and

remember those who were killed in Atlanta, as well as recognizing more than 3800 acts of anti-Asian violence across our country in the past year.

Vijaya Jammalamadaka  
President

*Sharon Hoshida (left), one of the vigil organizers, with Vijaya.  
Photo by Robert Bernstein*



## Club Express is Almost Here

We're not trying to alarm you – we just want to get your attention! In an exciting new development for our League, we will be implementing an online, membership management system called Club Express before the end of April. This means that, among other things, LWVSB members will be able to access and update their records; we will have a new and improved website; everyone will be able to pay their annual dues and make donations online; and members will be able to register for events such as Community Forums, and volunteer for committees via the new website.

Your **first** indication that the new system is in place will be an email welcoming you to Club Express and letting you know that you now have a LWVSB member account on the new system. It will also ask you to reset the password on your account and give you other information about the new system.

To log into your new account and change your password, go to our website-- [lwvsantabarbara.org](http://lwvsantabarbara.org) (note that the website address will remain the same). See the illustration below for how to log into your member account.

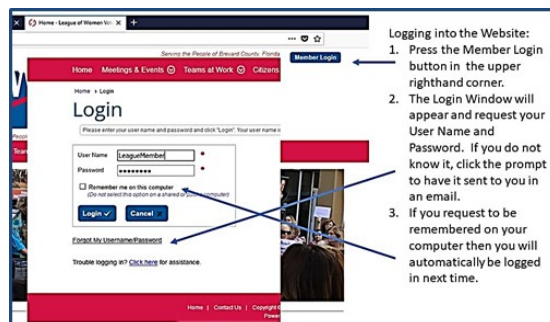
Don't worry – we will help you log into your account and reset your password if needed, or you can call the toll-free phone number in the welcome email from Club Express and request assistance. Club Express staff members are very helpful!

If you need assistance directly from me (Revae) or Anthony, please call us at 805-845-9219, send an email to [Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurer@gmail.com), or send a text to Revae's cell phone – 703-819-8052. We will be happy to help you log into the system or explain anything about the new system works.

Then, in late May or early June, you will receive an email message from Club Express and a letter from our League letting you know that your annual dues are due July 1 (unless you have paid them already). The letter will include a dues envelope that you can use to pay your dues (and/or make a donation) by check. You also can pay your dues and/or make a donation online using PayPal or a credit card.

We will talk about all of this at our annual meeting on June 5, but you are welcome to reach out to either of us at any time to discuss these changes and what they mean to you as a member of our League.

Anthony and Revae Moran



## **Saturday, April 24, 2pm Community Forum Our Climate Emergency: Farming and Nature-Based Resilience**

*What is the history of ecological land stewardship in this region?*

*How can our agricultural and natural lands build climate resilience?*

*How can our region's land draw down carbon and improve our carbon and water cycles?*

*What are the barriers to pace and scale ecological land stewardship?*

Co-sponsored by the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara

*Simultaneous Spanish interpretation provided by Silvia Uribe, Transilpro.*

[Register in advance](#). You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar.

Forum Moderator: Allegra Roth, Food and Climate Program Manager,  
Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara (CEC)

Allegra Roth has a background in environmental and water policy and a passion for food system work. Before joining CEC, she worked for the California State Assembly, both as a District Representative in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and as a Legislative Aide in the State Capitol. Working for state legislators enabled Allegra to develop specialized skills in policy analysis and development, group facilitation, and multi-stakeholder outreach. Allegra graduated from the University of California at Davis with a B.S. in Community and Regional Development. She enjoys working as a Food and Climate Program Senior Associate at CEC, addressing barriers to a sustainable food system and identifying regenerative solutions.



Photo by Andrew Hill

## The Community Forum is Part of This Year's Earth Day

Although everyone was hoping for an in-person Earth Day in 2021, the team at CEC is pulling out all the stops for this VIRTUAL event.

When you tune in from April 22 to April 24, you will have access to:

- Conversations with climate leaders
- Musical performances
- Art contests

Plus so much more! And the best part? It's free. This is CEC's gift to our community #earthday

Read more about it [here](#).



## Draft Update to LWVSB Housing Positions 2021-2022



Our work over the past year and our effort to draft changes to the housing positions is coming to a close. We will wrap up the work of our five Housing Position Sub-Committees.

The coordinators are:

1. Housing Units - Cheryl Rogers
2. Community Planning/Land Use/Neighborhoods - Linda Honikman
3. Social Factors for Residents - Pam Flynt Tambo
- 4.. Natural Resources/Green Energy - Jean Holmes
5. Overview of State and National Positions - Linda Phillips

All meetings and Zoom links are on the Calendar on our website. Here is the schedule:

Thursday, April 8 at 6 - 7:30 pm. - All members are cordially invited to join the discussion on the draft Updates to LWVSB Housing Positions. The discussion will be led by Linda Honikman and Bill Boyd, who organized the March 17 Community Forum. We encourage you to watch or re-watch the video [here](#). [Register in advance](#) for the discussion.

Saturday, April 10 at 10 am - the LWVSB Board will vote on the draft. Changes approved by the Board on April 10 will be presented to the membership for final vote at the June 5 Annual Meeting.

We look forward to seeing all interested members at the meetings.  
Bill Boyd, LWVSB Chair, Housing Positions Study

The draft housing position follows.

## HOUSING

Our Santa Barbara chapter's housing positions are guided by the following U.S. and California League of Women Voters goals which include:  
"Provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family" (U.S.)

There are many additional objectives, strategies and positions which can be found on the website.

Housing is very important as a mitigation for climate emergency.

The Santa Barbara area's housing crisis is one of the worst in the country because of escalating land and building costs, a history of "managed growth", limited water supply and recent fires and mudslides. The high cost of rents due to the almost zero vacancy rate has negatively impacted the security, carbon footprint, resident diversity (decline in families with children, younger workforce, cultural variety) and economic vitality of the community. Government efforts to provide enough affordable housing over the last two decades have not been successful.

## Housing Goals for the South Coast

**Support** efforts to preserve and significantly increase low and moderate income housing supply for all ages, family size and disabilities.

**Support** prioritizing current residents and workers for new housing units.

**Support** policies that increase housing security for all, especially renters.

**Support** policies that improve the sustainability of housing units and neighborhoods.

## Strategies to achieve those goals include:

- Controls to assure that any low and moderate income housing built or otherwise created in the South Coast remains affordable to those income groups in perpetuity.
- Alternatives such as mobile homes, manufactured housing, accessory dwelling units, cooperatives on a community land trust, etc. to accommodate varying needs and low to moderate incomes".
- Subsidized rental and purchase with limited equity programs by governments or employers.
- Improvement of substandard areas and systematic code enforcement, especially for rental housing.
- Exploration of funding mechanisms and incentives to generate more affordable housing for low and moderate income such as density bonuses, large grant applications, housing bonds and community benefit portfolios.
- Vacant properties and buildings should be prioritized for residential use where appropriate.
- Building codes that emphasize sustainable materials and innovative techniques that could reduce building costs.
- Housing production goals determined by State and regional mandates (RHNA - Regional Housing Needs Allocation) should be used for new construction targets, but prioritized for local residents and workers.
- "Community benefit project" designations and other incentives to allow taller buildings, should require a substantial percentage of affordable units and prioritize local residents and workers.



- Considerations of high density for low and moderate income housing where appropriate within environmental constraints such as water supply, air quality, transportation, and dangers of climate change including sea level rise, wildfires and flooding.
- Zoning and planning for large projects that locates high density housing close to job centers and transportation hubs.

**Draft LWVSB Housing Positions Update and the Existing Housing Positions can be found on Page 10 of the LWVSB Directory**

## Stand Up and Speak Out

On Tuesday, April 6, the Board of Supervisors will be voting on a resolution declaring racism a Public Health crisis.

Supervisor Gregg Hart said, "The County is currently taking on a system-wide racial equity initiative. All of our County department leaders and assistant department leaders are participating in an intensive racial equity training program to build awareness on the principles of equity, and to build partnerships between County departments that can advance racial justice. Additionally, the County has approved new community engagement programs to work directly with marginalized communities to affect change."

His comments came as a response to a statement sent to the Board of Supervisors by LWVSB, thanks to League member Daisy Beamon. The statement was a reaction to a racist public comment at the Feb. 2 board meeting, honoring Black History Month.

*"The League of Women Voters Santa Barbara abhors racism in all forms and stands as an ally with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Everyday racism is subtle and insidious whether intentional or unintentional. It is behavior that communicates hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults toward Black, Indigenous and People of Color."*

The statement asks the Supervisors not to remain silent when witnessing racism, concluding, 'In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.' Martin Luther King. Let us move forward together to strengthen racial justice and systemic change within our community."

Supervisor Hart said the County is undergoing a process to reform the justice system—which disproportionately affects Blacks and Latinos--and is carrying out the Covid-19 response with a focus on equity.

"Black History Month received the honor and recognition that was deserved at the Feb 9 meeting of the County Board of Supervisors. Please use [this link](#) to view the meeting," he said.

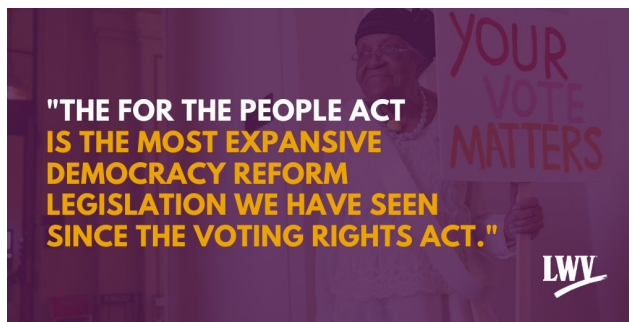
You can request a full copy of the League statement and the response by writing to [League@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:League@lwvsantabarbara.org).

## LWVUS Action: For the People Act

The most recent action alert from LWVUS is especially

timely-- it will protect the voting rights of everyone, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

Around 14 years ago, Janis Hirohama became president of LWVC. In her acceptance speech, she described how her mother "had to wait 50 years to vote." It was a powerful reminder of our country's history of discrimination.

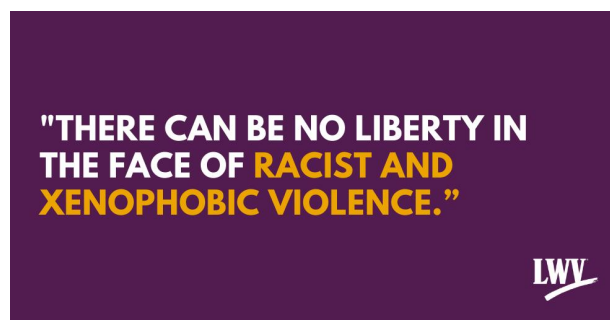


It's the 2-year anniversary of the For the People Act (S1) being introduced to the Senate! Tell your Senators to support this historic voting reform bill and take a stand for voters' rights! Click on the Action Alert [here](#).

The latest report from @VoterProtection reviews the impact that the #ForThePeopleAct will have on various states -- including reduced gerrymandering, protected ballot access, the restoration of civil rights, and strengthened election security. [Read it here](#).

LWV also encourages people to sign up for bystander intervention trainings. [For information, click here](#).

Linda Phillips, LWVSB State and National Action



## A Twitter Storm Against Hate

LWVSB recently joined Leagues across the country in posting and sharing messages like this one.

Other examples:

On this day, pledge to

#StopAsianHate. Anti-Asian violence shows up as racist slurs and "jokes," physical violence, tearing apart immigrant families, and exploiting workers. If you see incidents of racism or bias, do your part to be an ally: <https://bit.ly/3siKLEn>

Last week's killings in Georgia were a wake-up call for so many to the reality that Asian Americans have been facing for the past year. White supremacy ends lives and we must all fight to end it. #StopAsianHate

#AsianAmericans should not live in fear of facing discrimination, racism, or violence! We must denounce violence against the Asian American community. We must work together to #StopAsianHate.

You can follow your League on Twitter, and learn what the national, state other local Leagues are doing. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram too. Find us @LWVSB.

Vicki Allen, LWVSB VP Communications

## Keeping Up With Criminal Justice Reform

Two years ago, the state League (LWVC) organized a committee to rewrite the state position on Criminal Justice Reform (CJR). Local Leagues were invited and we joined the monthly meetings online. The committee reviewed CJR positions from Leagues throughout the U.S. and wrote a new comprehensive LWVC position. You can find the position on the LWVC.org website. It was adopted by state League members at the LWVC Convention in 2019.

Members of our local League continue to be involved in the work of the state committee and its focus has evolved. Last year, the state committee requested support from local League members to encourage passage of several laws and was successful in getting Governor Newsom's signature on several bills.

The LWVC office staff, board and the CJR committee are now reviewing newly proposed legislation and will be supporting new criminal justice legislation this year. We have several local members involved on the state CJR committee and are focusing on this locally in the coming League year. Locally we are interested in Santa Barbara County issues.

The state CJR committee is also changing the format of its monthly meetings. Continuing to meet online, they plan to include speakers from different parts of the state at each meeting who will explain programs from their respective California communities. If you are interested in learning about these programs, join the LWVC Criminal Justice Reform Committee by contacting Carolina Goodman, Chairperson at [carolina.goodman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolina.goodman@sbcglobal.net).

Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month, with start times alternating between noon and 5:30 pm. The April 27 meeting will start at 5:30. Also available online at [www.LWVC.org](http://www.LWVC.org) is access to a Google Group on Criminal Justice Reform—available through the state League website. Numerous articles and notices of online webinars are provided by that group.

We have several local League members focused on CJR issues here in Santa Barbara County. This group will be working with the Social Policy committee and as a sub-group. If you would like to be included in any of our CJR communications, please contact Pam Flynt Tambo at [socialpolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:socialpolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org). We'll welcome your participation.

## Your League Needs You

### Welcome and Support Members

Join the new membership team. Many of the ways we have been reaching out to new members will change with Club Express (see article in this newsletter). If you are excited to learn about the new tools and have some technical skills, let us know!

### Office Help Needed

Do you have a little time to take messages from our phone answering machine (can be done remotely) and stop by our downtown office twice or three times a week to sort mail? We need one or two volunteers.

### Looking for a Nominating Committee Chair

These volunteer opportunities start July 1, 2021. Looking ahead--find people to join the board and take on leadership roles for 2022. It's a good way to meet people and have fun.



To learn more, contact Nominating Committee Chair Gail Fairburn,  
[Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org).

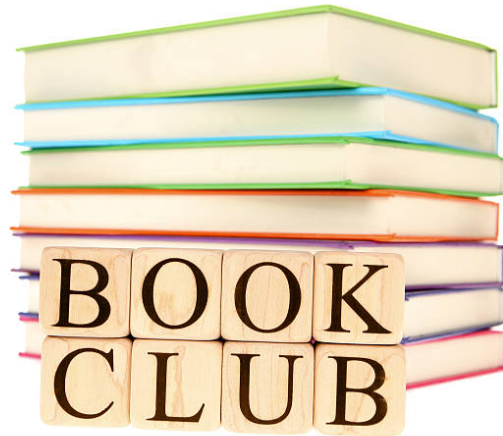
## BOOK CLUB ON ZOOM!

**LOCATION: Zoom**

**DATE: Thursday, April 15, 3-4 pm**

### BOOK SELECTION:

"The Curse of Bigness: Anti-Trust in the New Gilded Age" by Tim Wu. Tim Wu will be joining the Biden Administration's National Economic Council as a special Assistant to the President for Technology and Competitive Policy.



If you would like to join the discussion contact [elainerudin@me.com](mailto:elainerudin@me.com) for a Zoom invitation. We invite you to use your computer, iPad, laptop or Kindle to click on a link that Elaine will send you.



## ALL MEMBERS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Keep up to date with upcoming events and register [HERE](#). All meetings are by Zoom.

*LWVSB is working remotely using electronic meetings. Check the Calendar on our website and email the organizer for instructions. All League members are welcome to join our Board and committee meetings as observers. Registration links are also in these articles.*

**April 6, Tuesday** - Communications Committee - **5:15pm**

**April 8, Thursday** - Update to Housing Position, Members - **6pm**

**April 10, Saturday** - Board Meeting - **10am.**

**April 15, Thursday** - Book Club - **3pm**

**April 22, Thursday** - Social Policy Committee - **4:30pm**

**April 24, Saturday** - Community Forum--"Our Climate Emergency: Farming and Nature-Based Resilience" - **2pm**

## If You Donated or Joined the League During Women's History Month--THANK YOU!

Of course you can support LWVSB anytime, and your gifts are tax-deductible.

***Donate [HERE](#)***

***Join [HERE](#)***

### **New members:**

Oscar Gutierrez, Butterfli O'Shea, and Laura Cardenas Pina



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