



# THE VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

Volume 17, No.2

February 2012

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## **Theater Party and Fundraiser for the League of Women Voters and the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy**

**Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2012**

**Location: 6th Street Playhouse  
Santa Rosa**

**Wine and hors d'oeuvres: 7 pm**

**Play: 8 pm**

**Donation: \$30 a person**

Send your check for \$30 per person to:  
League of Women Voters of Sonoma County  
555 5th Street, Suite 300-O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

or to:

Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy  
555 5th Street, Suite 300A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401



For more information, please call Susannah at 792-2660 or Tanya at 578-9133.

**Please join us for a fun night of theater with friends.**

**This is a preview show before opening night!**

PROOF, Directed by David Lear

Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play.

*On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: how much of her father's madness—or genius—will she inherit?*

**Save the Date**

**March Wed. 14**  
*Lunch with the League*

**Sat. 31**  
*New Members Meeting*

**May Fri. 18**  
*Family Justice Center*

*This Year's Events!*  
*See page 7*

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Valentine's Day!

The following is a message from the President of the LWVUS. She is asking us to sign a petition to stop the big money that is being spent on campaigns this year. I would encourage members to sign this petition. This is something we care deeply about at all levels of government.

Dear League Leader:

Let's fight back against the big money pouring into political campaigns this year. Let's put the SuperPacs out of business. How? Sign the petition on The White House website urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). NOTE: In order to successfully sign the petition, you will need to create an account on WhiteHouse.gov and respond to a confirmation email. If you need guidance on creating this account please use our helpful step-by-step guide to creating your account and signing the petition.

The FEC is supposed to be the government agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it isn't working and hasn't for a long time. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three simply refuse to enforce the law, and five are serving despite the fact that their terms expired some time ago. It's time to clean house and President Obama needs to do something about it.

We need at least 25,000 signatures of support by February 10, 2012 in order to get a response from The White House. Don't just sign it yourself; post the petition on Facebook, Tweet about it and forward this message to all of your friends. Together, we can make sure that the votes of millions of Americans are more valuable to our elections than a big pile of money.

In League,  
Elizabeth

Also see how the League is supporting the President's decision regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline.

**League Supports Keystone XL Pipeline Decision (NEW)** LWVUS Lobby Corps members will be carrying this League message when they visit U.S. Senate offices to urge Senators to oppose efforts to overturn Administration initiatives that protect public health and the environment, such as the new mercury and air toxics rule and the recent decision to block the Keystone XL pipeline. Also read the League's statement.

Things are heating up as we head toward elections. Keep your eyes open for issues that will affect us at the local level.

DeeDee Bridges, President

*The League of Women of  
Women Voters of Sonoma  
County*

*555 Fifth St., Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707-546-5943*

*league@lwvsonoma.org  
http://www.lwvsonoma.org*

*See CONTACT US page to email  
our directors.*

*Directors on Executive Committee*

*DeeDee Bridges, President  
Alice Richardson, VP Admin.  
Max Bridges, VP of Advocacy  
Willard Richards, Secretary  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer*

*Directors*

*Linda Garcia, Voter Service  
Chair  
Shirley Johnson-Foell, VOTER  
Editor  
Juanita Roland, Membership  
Chair  
Chlele Gummer, Programs  
Nancy Richards, At Large*

## ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee met on January 25 with a total of 9 members present, including new member Karen Welmas.

We discussed the following current issues:

We are waiting on the completion of the draft EIR for the Preservation Ranch Project before moving forward with the scheduling of an educational forum. The Climate Protection Campaign will be our joint sponsor and the project applicant, Cal Fire and the County have all agreed to participate. Other participation will be explored to represent the environmental concerns of the project.

Advocacy members continue to follow the progress of the City's Charter Review Committee. Recent topics have included the role of the Community Advisory Board and the possibility of changing to electing Council Members by District. Advocacy members will be researching League policies for items in support of district elections.

The County continues to move forward with Community Choice Aggregation which will allow customers to obtain their power from sources other than PG&E.

The California Disclose Act is moving through the legislature with passing votes in two key Assembly Committees.

The League support for repeal of the death penalty was discussed and at our next meeting we will discuss the City of Santa Rosa Climate Action Plan.

We will be meeting again on February 29 and will discuss the status and additional information obtained on the above items as well as any additional items that may be presented for consideration.

The Advocacy Committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Third Floor Conference Room at 555 Fifth Street in Santa Rosa. Please join us.

Max Bridges, VP Advocacy

[action@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:action@lwvsonoma.org)

The **VOTER**, a publication of The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, is published monthly except during the summer, i.e. nine regular issues per year.

The deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

*"We will be meeting again on February 29 and will discuss the status and additional information obtained on the above items as well as any additional items that may be presented for consideration."*

*“Board voted to be a co-sponsor of the RUN forum which will be sponsored by a group of agencies to educate and empower under-represented individuals to get appointed to boards, commissions, and committees. This forum is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.”*

## BOARD BRIEFS

Treasurer Susannah Likins reported that the telephone bill has increased to \$40.11 per month. Fifteen people have sent checks for the February 8 fundraiser at the Playhouse, and we are allocated a total of 47 tickets.

The LWVSC is sponsoring and providing lunch for the February Latino Service Providers meeting.

The event welcoming new members will begin at 10:30 AM on March 31.

It is planned to focus on individual contacts with new members and how they might become involved.

The Board voted to endorse the SAFE California Act, which has been endorsed by the State League. This is also known as the Death Penalty Repeal initiative statute.

Max Bridges reported that the Preservation Ranch project is being delayed by the applicants.

DeeDee Bridges reported that she filled out and submitted the CA clean money form saying that the LWVSC had endorsed the Disclose Act now being considered by the Legislature.

Board voted to be a co-sponsor of the RUN forum which will be sponsored by a group of agencies to educate and empower under-represented individuals to get appointed to boards, commissions, and committees. This forum is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

DeeDee Bridges said that the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominations for women who have made a difference to be recognized during the March 2012 Women’s History Month.

Willard Richards, Secretary

### MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, 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.

## BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, February 16, to discuss Barbara Demick's *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

*Nothing to Envy* follows the lives of six North Koreans over 15 years, illustrating what it means to live under the most repressive totalitarian regime today.

Beginning in April, the club will suggest several books about a single topic, so that members can choose one book and bring insights from that book to the discussion. The 2012 schedule for the book group can be downloaded from the calendar page of our local League website.

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month, except for December.

Lynda Hungerford

[lh@sonic.net](mailto:lh@sonic.net)

*"Beginning in April, the club will suggest several books about a single topic, so that members can choose one book and bring insights from that book to the discussion."*



## A FORUM ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

### Forum on Regional Government on TV

If you did not attend the LWVSC forum on regional government, there are opportunities to view it on television. KRCB Ch 22 will broadcast the panel presentations from 9:00 to 10:00 AM February 5, before the Super Bowl stuff begins. The KRCB broadcast signal can be received in most of the Bay Area and is available on most local cable services.

Comcast Cable subscribers in Santa Rosa can view the one-hour panel presentation followed by the half-hour audience questions and responses as follows:

Wednesday	Feb 1	10:00 PM	Ch 30
Thursday	Feb 2	11:00 AM	Ch 26
Thursday	Feb 2	2:00 PM	Ch 30
Friday	Feb 3	7:00 AM	Ch 30
Friday	Feb 3	7:00 PM	Ch 26
Wednesday	Feb 8	10:00 PM	Ch 30
Thursday	Feb 9	11:00 AM	Ch 26
Thursday	Feb 9	2:00 PM	Ch 30
Friday	Feb 10	7:00 AM	Ch 30
Friday	Feb 10	7:00 PM	Ch 26

The panel presentation describes each of these four Bay Area regional government planning agencies: ABAG—Association of Bay Area Governments, BAAQMD—Bay Area Air Quality Management District; BCDC—Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and MTC—Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Willard Richards



# SAVE THE DATE

**Save these dates**

*(there may be changes)*

**February Wed. 8 Theater Party , 'Proof'**

**March Wed. 14 Lunch with the League**

**Sat. 31 New Members Meeting**

**May Fri. 18 Family Justice Center**

**June Sat.2 Annual Membership Meeting**



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## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY: HOUSING AND THE BAY AREA'S FUTURE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012, 9 - 2  
METROCENTER, 101 EIGHTH STREET, OAKLAND,  
94607, ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE MERRITT BART  
PRESENTED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
BAY AREA



For more details, call (510) 839-1608  
or send an email to [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org)  
Or visit:  
<http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>

## FEBRUARY 2012 CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 2	10 a.m.– noon	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Wednesday, Feb.8	7:00 p.m.	6th Street Playhouse	Theatre Party, ‘ <i>Proof</i> ’
Thursday, Feb. 9	2:00 p.m.	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
Thursday, Feb. 16	10:30 - noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Tuesday Feb.28	10:30 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Membership Committee
Wednesday, Feb.29	9:30 a.m. - noon	The Conference Room*	Advocacy Meeting

\***The Conference Room** is opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa. All LWVSC meetings are open to the public except as noted.

Check out the **League website.** <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/> for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.





There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!  
 Become a member.  
 Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Renee @579-4452, #273  
 To volunteer call Kristi @579-4452, #271

or visit [www.SchulzMuseum.org](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
 click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



ALWAYS TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS

## League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following areas:

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Speakers Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Social Policy \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Voters Service \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_ Smart Voter \_\_\_\_\_

Community Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

- Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60
- Limited Income Membership \$40
- Amelia Bloomer Household Membership \$90
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100
- Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$200 or more

The membership year is July 1-June 30.

Please send to

LWV Sonoma County, 555 Fifth St. Suite 300 O, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.