



# *The Beach Voter*

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

Spring is here! It's time for our **ANNUAL MEETING AND SALAD LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, May 11, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**At the home of Penny Markey, 1534 Ruhland Ave., Manhattan Beach**

**Speaker: Hawthorne City Council Member Olivia Valentine**

This is our annual event to wrap up the year. ***Please bring a salad to share*** and **ideas** for what you would like to see our League focus on for the coming year. It is your ideas and participation that determine our direction and focus. We are a grassroots organization and now is the time to plan for the coming year.

A kit will be sent by email to all members who have an email address, and by U.S. mail to those who do not. ***Please print the kit*** and bring it to the meeting. You are encouraged to bring a guest. Guests do not have to bring anything other than their interest in learning about the League, who we are and what we do.



Members of the Beach Cities and Torrance Leagues recently interviewed Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi. Highlights of the interview appear on page 5-6 of this issue of *The Beach Voter* and the full report is on-line at [www.lwvbeachcities.org](http://www.lwvbeachcities.org)

From left, Joan LeSage, Lola Unger and Jimmy Gow from LWV-Torrance, Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Arnette Travis and Grace Peng.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Annual Meeting	1
Inside This Issue	2
From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents	3
Membership News	3
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Thanks to Our Members	4
Member Mixers	4
Education Committee	5
Interview with Assemblyman Muratsuchi	5-6
LWV-Ca. Convention & Climate Chg. Forum	6
Book Club Report	7
Calendar	8

The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

**The Beach Voter**

**Co-Presidents:**

Barbara Arlow  
Joan Le Sage

**Editor:**

Henrietta Mosley

**Copy Editor:**

Barbara Arlow

**Production:**

Mignon Thiem-Murphy  
Peggy Bartlett  
Susan Grebe  
Sunhee Park

**Circulation:**

Ann Martin

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person, 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$30.00 (first time members introductory rate) payable to "League of Women Voters Beach Cities" to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

## From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents:

Join the fun! May is full of opportunities to participate in League activities. The Book Club, led by Debra Estroff will be reviewing *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling on May 2. On May 6 a newly forming Discussion Group is meeting to discuss the recent interviews conducted by Jeanne Hamilton and the Education Committee with all of our area School District Superintendents (and topics for future discussions!). The very important Annual Meeting to elect officers and plan for next year is May 11. Hawthorne City Council member Olivia Valentine will be speaking and a potluck salad lunch will follow. Our Third Thursday Mixer organized by Arnette Travis will be at the Tin Roof in MB on May 16, and to cap it all off the League of Women Voters of California Convention is in Pasadena May 30-June 2. Please come to some or all! Find out what is happening and add your ideas. Details for all the events are included in this Voter and on our website- [lwvbeachcities.org](http://lwvbeachcities.org)! Like us on Facebook!

Barbara Arlow and Joan LeSage

## Membership News

Welcome New Members: Jessica Travis of Redondo Beach and Denise Fessenbecker of El Segundo. Thank you to the nine new members who attended the New Member Dinner and a BIG thanks to Harriet Chase for hosting, Joan LeSage for dinner, and Henrietta Mosley for dessert.

Please update your membership roster with these changes:

Don & Sari Brann [dsbrann2020@gmail.com](mailto:dsbrann2020@gmail.com)

Jeanne Hamilton (909) 204-1512

Joan LeSage (310) 854-2254

## Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for ways to get more involved and meet other members? See the list below; more details are in the Beach Voter Newsletter or the Beach Cities Website [lwvbeachcities.org](http://lwvbeachcities.org)

**Looking for a creative, flexible position?** We need Publicity, Photographers, and Newsletter contributors. Please contact Henrietta Mosley [hemosley@gmail.com](mailto:hemosley@gmail.com)

**Interested in Voter Service activities?** Contact Barbara Arlow [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com) or for Voter's Edge support [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca) contact Joan LeSage [sage.joan@gmail.com](mailto:sage.joan@gmail.com)

**Join one of the newer Social Policy groups:**

Education – contact Jeanne Hamilton [jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com)

Housing/Homelessness – contact Teri Neustaedter [tmufic@gmail.com](mailto:tmufic@gmail.com)

**Join the Book Club** led by Debra Estroff [Dbestroff@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:Dbestroff@mednet.ucla.edu)

**Meet up at a Member Mixer** set-up by Arnette Travis [arnettettravis@gmail.com](mailto:arnettettravis@gmail.com)

**Become a New Member Ambassador....** even if you are new! Welcome new members and invite them to league events. Contact Ann Kuhns

Please send all membership updates and ideas to Ann Kuhns [annkuhns@verizon.net](mailto:annkuhns@verizon.net)

*Thank you to our wonderful members - part two*

*The contributions to our annual non-event are still arriving and it is with much appreciation that we thank the following members:*

*Harriet Chase*

*Mary Chieffe*

*Karen Cull*

*Marian Drahnak*

*Debra Estroff*

*Maureen Kelly*

*Joan Le Sage*

*Ellen Margetich*

*Jan Nathanson*

*Vanessa Poster*

*Vivian Rahe*

*Margaret Thelen*

*Carole Wagner Vallianos*

## **Member Mixers**

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Thursday of every month (6 pm to 8 pm), as the League of Women Voters Beach Cities takes a 'time out' for socializing; otherwise known as Third Thursday Mixer (TTM). TTM rotates between three different restaurants: Maderos Cocina Mexicana (Redondo Beach), Locale 90 Neapolitan Pizza Market (Hermosa Beach) and Tin Roof Bistro (Manhattan Beach). See below for the remaining 2019 schedule.

March 21st was the date and Maderos Cocina Mexicana the place, for the first TTM. Both co-presidents of our chapter were present and several members. Our reserved space on the front patio was intimate yet spacious; warmed by heaters, great food (super good tacos!) and the present company. The conversations ranged from informative to funny and were fully inclusive. If TTM had a motto, it would be something like this: Meet greet eat. Drink talk repeat.

TTM offers include special Happy Hour pricing on adult beverages, small plates and most of all; a relaxed atmosphere for new (or would be) members to downshift and enjoy the company of our tribe. RSVPs are preferred (though not required), and any questions should be directed to [Arnette Travis - arnettetravis@gmail.com](mailto:arnettettravis@gmail.com).

### **2019 Third Thursday Mixer Schedule:**

May 16 - Tin Roof Bistro - 3500 N. Sepulveda Blvd, MB

June 20 - Maderos Cocina Mexicana, 231 S. PCH, RB

July 18 - Locale 90 Neapolitan Pizza Market - 1040 Hermosa Ave, HB

August 15 - Tin Roof Bistro - 3500 N. Sepulveda Blvd, MB

September 19 - Maderos Cocina Mexicana, 231 S. PCH, RB

October 17 - Locale 90 Neapolitan Pizza Market - 1040 Hermosa Ave, HB

November 21 - Tin Roof Bistro - 3500 N. Sepulveda Blvd, MB

December 19 - Maderos Cocina Mexicana, 231 S. PCH, RB

## Education Committee

Over the last few weeks, members of the Education Committee have met with Superintendents from the Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, El Segundo and Inglewood School Districts. We discussed with them our recently revised local position statement on K-12 education. While each district faces its own challenges, there was a consistency in many of their concerns. They are all concerned about stress facing students and families, about socio-emotional development of students, about school safety and about budget concerns, particularly related to the rapidly increasing number of identified students with disabilities. They expressed appreciation for our attention to local education and said they would be willing to participate in future public programs highlighting current education issues.

Dale Petrusis will host a discussion event at her home on Monday, May 6 from 4:30 to 6:00 for League members to meet and discuss the new position statement and the Superintendents' impressions, and to share their questions and concerns about local education.

Jeanne Hamilton, Education Chair

## Legislative Interview with Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and the Torrance area interviewed California Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi on March 15, 2019. In attendance from the Beach Cities were Joan LeSage, Grace Peng, and Arnette Travis. Representatives from Torrance were Lola Ungar and Jimmy Gow. We appreciate the time he spent with us, and his work for our district and all of California. A detailed report on this interview can be found on our website at [www.lwvbeachcities.org](http://www.lwvbeachcities.org)

Assemblyman Muratsuchi emphasized how important it will be to do an accurate census count in 2020. The state is allocating resources to facilitate the effort.

Regarding Water Resources, his main water resources priority is for all Californians to adopt sustainable water sources and practices. According to him we need to focus on adopting a culture, practices, and a mindset that water is a precious resource that we need to conserve and use wisely. The state needs to support agriculture, one of our biggest industries, but we must call upon them to adopt sustainable water practices. Locally, voters passed Measure W to fund sustainable water infrastructure that will allow us to capture and treat rainwater to refill our underground aquifers. This allows us to rely less on Northern California. He supports Gov. Newsom's proposal to have only one underground tunnel to bring water to Southern California.

Assemblyman Muratsuchi is very proud of the state's acclaimed higher education system but finds it inexplicable how California can be 41st<sup>h</sup> in the country as to per-pupil funding for K-12 education. He is sponsoring AB39 that will help us to get California back into the top 10. <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB39/2019> (Continued on page 6.)

The legislature is trying to make school districts' compliance with state regulation less burdensome, but we also need assurance that money is well spent. He believes we need to ensure that districts are operating in a transparent way. LCAP <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/>, the local control and accountability plan, provides an online dash board to see actual breakdowns of school district spending in a simple way.

Regarding unfunded pension liabilities he believes cities must be held accountable for fiscal reporting and obligations. Cities determine their own city pensions. Citizens need to monitor and hold their cities accountable. Having the state help school districts with their unfunded liabilities has its pros and cons, but the state should not be counted on to bail out cities and school districts that have not been fiscally responsible. The State has its own pension problems. We need to closely monitor the pension system so it doesn't affect our children's education in the classroom.

Assemblyman Muratsuchi believes the fundamental challenge for the South Bay is how to build more housing while not destroying our quality of life. Proposals for additional housing in the Beach Cities are met with opposition from residents who bring up traffic and parking. As he sees it, his job as the Assembly member for the South Bay is to work with all of the communities to balance those challenges. He believes we need to build more housing to shorten commutes, fight climate change and provide worker housing in a way that has the collective support of residents in our communities.

Joan Le Sage

## **The League of Women Voters of California Comes to Pasadena**

### **LWVC State Convention, Thursday May 30 to Sunday June 2**

This is a rare opportunity to see how the League operates at the state level, shaping positions and priorities for the next two years. It is also a chance to meet Leaguers from other parts of the state. We will be sending three delegates, but any member is welcome to attend. Lively debates and clever procedural maneuvers are practically guaranteed. It's quite a show! If you're interested in attending and want more information, contact Joan Le Sage. (sage.joan@gmail.com 310-854-2254)

### **SoCal Climate Change Forum, Saturday, June 22, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

Also in Pasadena, the LWVC will hold a "SoCal Climate Change Forum" where you can learn about state legislation addressing climate change and find out what other Leagues are doing about the issue. Contact: Diane Wallace (dmbarkwall@gmail.com 310-266-1241)

## LWV-Beach Cities Book Club Report

The LWV Book Club met March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30. We discussed My Own Words by Ruth Bader Ginsberg. The group as a whole knew a great deal about Chief Justice Ginsberg because she has become an icon and a celebrity in today's world. The discussion about her importance to law, her temperament and work ethic and her impact upon our culture was lively and engaging.

The LWV Book Club will meet next on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss

<b><i>Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think</i></b>	
<b>Author</b>	<a href="#">Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling</a>

***Wikipedia says: Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*** is a 2018 book by [Hans Rosling](#). In his book, Rosling suggests the vast majority of human beings are wrong about the state of the world. He shows that his test subjects think the world is poorer, less healthy, and more dangerous than it is.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Rosling recommends thinking about the world as divided into four levels based on income brackets. He suggests ten instincts that prevent us from seeing real progress in the world.<sup>[3][4]</sup> [Bill Gates](#) highlighted the book as one of his suggested five books worth reading for summer 2018.<sup>[6]</sup>

Please come join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm to exchange ideas.

Debra Estroff & Teri Neustaedter



## CALENDAR

<b>May 2 Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 pm</b>	<b>LWV Beach Cities Book Club <u>Factfulness</u> by Hans Rosling</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5</b>
<b>May 11 Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon</b>	<b>Home of Penny Markey 1534 Ruhland Ave. Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>May 16 Thursday</b>	<b>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Member Mixer at Tin Roof Bistro</b>	<b>3500 N Sepulveda Blvd. Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>Thurs May 30 - Sunday June 2</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>LWV-California Convention</b>	<b>Westin Pasadena Hotel 191 North Los Robles Pasadena CA 91101</b>
<b>June 4 Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 pm</b>	<b>LWV Beach Cities Book Club</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 4</b>
<b>June 10 Monday</b>	<b>6:45 - 9:30 pm</b>	<b>Old/New Board Meeting</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5</b>
<b>June 22 Saturday</b>	<b>11:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>LWV-California SoCal Climate Change Forum</b>	<b>All Saints Church, Sweet- land Hall, 132 N. Euclid Ave., Pasadena 91101</b>



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629 19th Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266