



Virtual Third Thursday
Noon, December 19
WE ARE NEIGHBORS
Open to the public
To register, go to lwvlc.org
Scroll down to *We Are Neighbors* photo,
click on Register for Third Thursday

We Are Neighbors, the touring version of *Now, I Am Your Neighbor*, is an original play telling the true stories of courage, hopefulness and resilience of immigrants living in Lane County. Originally produced by Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), in partnership with Minority Voices Theatre (MVT), in fall 2017, the play was inspired by a piece created and performed 20 years ago, as part of the "We Are Neighbors" project of CALC and Network for Immigrant Justice.

The new play is based on new interviews with members of some of the most targeted and marginalized groups living in the Eugene-Springfield area, including Muslims, undocumented immigrants, DREAMers, and Syrian refugees. These stories, generously shared, were woven together in a creative narrative by local playwright Nancy Hopps, in collaboration with a creative team. Directed by Carol Dennis, the play is produced as a staged reading by readers who are immigrants themselves or very close to the immigrant experience.

"In my 40-plus years in theatre, this is the first time I have directed a production with a cast predominantly comprised of minority or underrepresented people, and I am honored and humbled to help facilitate the telling of stories that reflect the experiences of all the people in our community, especially those who are particularly vulnerable during these times when fear of 'the other' is being fanned," said Dennis, co-founder of MVT. "Through this unique theatre experience, I am also hopeful that our audience will be moved to re-envision what it means to be neighbors in a community and country that is becoming increasingly more diverse."

The countries of origin and experiences of all of those featured in the play are indeed diverse. Participants emigrated from Palestine, Germany, Mexico, Guatemala, China, Madagascar, and Syria.

The half-hour play is followed by a community discussion, in which members of the audience are encouraged to share their feedback, experience and observations.

Therese Picado

2020 has been a tough year with the COVID19 pandemic, a toxic election, and locally, a wild-fire season of tragic proportions. On top of all that grief, our League has suffered the loss of some of our treasured members. Titans, warriors, alpha females might describe them. Mostly, their triumphs were accomplished in a quieter way - through grace, grit, and great diplomacy. Their work is passed on for us to continue. We toil on, honoring their efforts and striving to create a more perfect democracy.

Inside are tributes to some who have passed away this year - Flo Alvergue, Jean Carley, Rosie Janz, Joan Mazo, Ruth Miller, and Jean Weick.

Charlcie Kaylor, President

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2020-21

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UNIT DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER

Mary Keating, Chair

One Zoom unit meeting is being held during December. It will be on Monday, December 7, at 10 am. Any member who wishes to participate in the discussion of the Child Care Everymember material from November is welcome to attend, Contact Nancy Mills nmills@trinity.edu to receive the Zoom link.

The other regularly scheduled Zoom briefing and unit meetings will resume in January,

January's emphasis will be Program Planning for local and state issues, 2021-22, Members are encouraged to read the position statements that are included in the back of the new directory, which is being mailed out next week, For further information on local action the League has undertaken, members can access *Issues for Action*, on the League website, www.lwvlc.org, and by clicking the tab, *What We Do*.

Linda Ferdowsian, Program Co-Chair

MISSED A THIRD THURSDAY?

<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>

BRIEFINGS VIDEO

<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>



Veronika Walton, Membership Chair

REACHING OUT

Sharon Posner

As our League works to expand our commitment to the policies of Diversity Equity and Inclusivity we are searching for ways to apply these qualities to our membership. The responses to our membership questionnaire early this year didn't provide many surprises. Our presuppositions were correct. However, although we are overwhelmingly white and middle-aged, we don't have to stay that way and we can expand our efforts to reach out into the community and connect with other interest groups to broaden our connections. Our members are our best ambassadors... and the question is, who do YOU know in other groups or organizations in the Eugene Springfield area who might give us entree to their organizations and help us broaden our contacts and, potentially, our membership?

One Oregon is a statewide coalition that has compiled a very comprehensive list of area groups and interests, Please check out their website <http://www.oneoregon.org/who-we-are/> to see if you are affiliated with any of them or if it causes any "aha" moments for you. Also, be aware of any community projects that share League concerns and goals, such as the active outreach this fall of two University of Oregon coaches who wanted to make sure that all of their athletes were registered and able to vote.

Any ideas or suggestions?
Contact Membership Committee Chair
Veronica Walton, 541-579-3228
veronikaw550@gmail.com.



LANE COUNTY REDISTRICTING

On December 2nd starting at 9AM the Lane County Commissioners are holding a work session on redistricting and potential ordinance changes to the method Lane County carries out the process, Currently Commissioners are responsible for drawing up borders for their own districts, Distancing government officials from directly adopting or influencing district structure by having an independent committee or commission draw districts is one way to safeguard an unbiased process and the process that the LWV supports,

By the time you receive this *Argus* the written testimony deadline will have already passed so if you have not already made a written submission, in person testimony will be your only option at this time. To register to testify in person at the meeting go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8223734958680193039>."

- * Do you have any concerns about the current redistricting process?
- * If so, what are those concerns?
- * What specific changes do you propose for the redistricting process?

There will probably be more opportunities to let your commissioner know how you feel about redistricting. Here is some information and ideas to consider when writing or preparing testimony. Redistricting, while complex and

potentially controversial, carries significant consequences, The League's position on redistricting efforts at all levels of government is that the process be open to the public, transparent and as unbiased as possible. Decisions about Commissioner district boundaries should follow federal and state laws requiring attention to equal population, geographic and political boundaries, continuousness and connection by transportation links, not dividing communities of common interest and maintaining effective representation of racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities. Compactness and competitiveness may also be factored in, An independent commission charged with responsibility for developing a redistricting plan is less likely to result in biased districts that protect incumbency or aid specific political parties, The process to select independent commission members should be open, unbiased, well publicized and given sufficient time to be carried out with care, To minimize political bias one criterion for membership on such a committee could be that no one who has held elected public office in the previous three years or will run for office in the five years following redistricting may be selected, No family members of currently serving elected officials could serve nor should anyone who has donated more than \$2000 to a campaign for commissioner, The makeup of the commission should reflect the broad spectrum of the county's citizens and all members should have been registered voters in Lane County for at

least 3 years, To ensure that a broad spectrum of people participate information requested of applicants should include where they live, their educational background and job history, their party affiliation, age and sex.

One approach to the selection process would be that each commissioner select one individual from their district and a group of three retired judges who reside in Lane County select six individuals, all to come from a pool of applicants arising from a public application process, Efforts should be made that ensure these selections are diverse and reflect the demographic and geographic makeup of the county's population, including members of major and minor parties and unaffiliated voters. Another approach could be to have a panel of three retired judges or other neutral parties select all commission members from a pool of applicants.

Once the commission members are selected, the commission meetings should conform to all open meeting laws, be transparent and include adequate time for public comment, While previous county committees established for this purpose have been advisory, the ordinance should bind the County Commissioners to accept one of the recommended redistricting plans, All of these suggestions have the potential for being implemented prior to the 2021 process.

Paula Grisafi

VOTER SERVICE

Paula Grisafi, Chair

The entrenchment of minority rule in the US.

In the last two decades a problem with our electoral system that has existed for a long time has become much more apparent, The main reason for this clarity is that two elections have been won by the candidate who did not garner the votes of a majority of Americans, That has caused a cascade effect which has also changed the balance in another branch of the government, In that same timeframe five Supreme Court Justices have been appointed by those minority elected presidents,

We also have one house of our Congress, the Senate, which has a majority of its members elected by a minority of Americans, What that means is that all three branches of the US government have been put in power by a minority of Americans, not the majority, This is the opposite of a democracy,

So how can we affect change against this entrenchment? First of all we can start to elect our President by popular vote, Since 1796, nearly the inception of the Electoral College system, efforts have been made to undo it, The past 20 years have made clear the destabilizing effect of having an increasingly smaller minority control power, Our Presidential candidates are running not to win the votes of the majority of Americans but merely try to target small populations in swing states that can throw the election in their favor because candidates can win the popular vote by millions of votes and still lose in the Electoral College,

Even during this 2020 election, a candidate who has amassed a more than five million vote lead had only a thin margin of votes in several states that allowed him to win, If slight differences in two or three of states had occurred, we could have had a repeat of the

2016 election. Because of population distribution across the country, it is increasingly likely that this trend of having a candidate who wins the popular vote by large numbers continuing to be the underdog in the Electoral College will occur.

The framers of our Constitution intended that we have a government based on checks and balances between its three branches. That system is no longer working as they intended, We must work to pass the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in enough states to have it enacted as well as work to pass a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the Electoral College, the former as a stopgap and the later as an ultimate goal,

Voter Service Meeting **January 13, 10am** **Via ZOOM**

Contact voterservice@lwvlc.org to be added to the invitation list.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

by Sharon Amasha

One of the important functions the League of Women Voters does during the election cycle is the Speakers Bureau. League members do in-person meetings with organizations to give impartial and in-depth explanations of the ballot measures. Candidates are not discussed during these sessions. COVID-19 necessitated a new approach. With the help of Rhonda Livesay we were able to do a webinar and zoom meetings. Both were highly successful and greatly appreciated.

We sent notifications of the webinar to retirement homes, neighborhood associations and religious organizations. For those that missed the webinar we

posted it to the League's website. In addition to the webinar we did zoom meetings with American Association of University Women, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club Eugene, Twin Rivers Springfield Rotary and Cascade Manor.

Through these means we were able to reach a substantial number of voters. Wonderful comments poured in for the exceptional presentations of our speakers. They were excellent. Special thanks go to Charcie Kaylor, Terry Parker, Nancy Mills, Pat Hocken, Therese Picado, Linda Lynch, Carol Hildebrand and Merle Bottge.

GET IN ON THE ACTION!

Terry Parker, Chair

“Action is eloquence....”
William Shakespeare
Coriolanus (1607)

Like rolling stones the Action Committee jumped in post election (Nov 4) looking for action on:

- Redistricting, Public Safety and COVID Rent Relief - Lane County
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- Housing and Police Policy - City of Eugene
- Climate Change - Oregon’s Global Warming Commission and local utilities
- Education - 4-J and Bethel Updates

A “short” list of ongoing considerations.

NOW, the Action Committee is asking you to give us a hand (through your voice). The Lane County Board of Commissioners is responsible

for redistricting the five zones represented by commissioners. The Board will hold a **Redistricting Work Session on Wednesday, December 2, 2020** starting at 9am We are asking you to help “fill the Zoom” with your comments on why an independent review is so important, (*See related article in this issue by Paula Grisafi, Voter Services for details*).

Leaguers can say it like no other. You have the history on how boundaries for electoral districts have been drawn. You have the knowledge, interest and passion for upholding our democratic process. Many of you are disappointed that statewide redistricting reform that would help put a stop to gerrymandering was unable to move forward this election. Well, let’s drill down and get local!

You will have up to three minutes of virtual public comment at the beginning of the work session. Go online to the Lane County website at lanecounty.org and search for “redistricting”. You will get information on how to register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8223734958680193039>.

Let us know if you plan to attend and/or if you have any questions.

Terry Parker, Action Committee Chair action@lwvlc.org

Action Committee Meeting
December 9, 10am
Via ZOOM
All are welcome.
 Contact action@lwvlc.org to be added to the invitation list.

MASKS

By Freddi Weishahn, Development Chair

League of Women Voters and VOTE411 logo masks are available through our website www.lwvlc.org.

According to Becky Gladstone, LWVOR president, in November VOTE411 broke records across the country, serving our voting public with a convenient way to access candidate information, ballot measures and more.



Kim Weston

“I think we’re going to have some public health measures together with the vaccine for a considerable period of time. But we’ll start approaching normal – if the overwhelming majority of people take the vaccine – as we get into the third or fourth quarter [of 2021].” Dr. Anthony Fauci, *New York Times*, 11/19/2020.

HOW TO ZOOM

Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair



Here are guidelines we hope will make your participation in LWVLC meetings and forums easier, more productive and enjoyable.

Only signed-in users can join this private meeting: LWVLC members who've responded "yes" to the attendance invitation. Please do not share the link. We're controlling access to bolster security and prevent uninvited participation (Zoombombing). We'll record the meeting and share the video link with members later.

Prepare your space and equipment ahead of time.

- - If you're joining by video-chat, be sure your camera is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with others.
- - Check your lighting. Position yourself so that most of the light is coming from in front of you (behind your monitor), instead of behind you. If you have a window behind you, shut the blinds. Otherwise, you will be backlit.

1) If you're attending a meeting on your computer, please follow the link that is sent via email, Make sure you have copied the passcode for the meeting in case it is not imbedded in the link. If

you haven't used Zoom before, you may be asked to download the App, which can take up to a minute before you enter the meeting. You will be placed in the waiting room until the host lets you into the meeting.

2) If you are calling in by phone, use the phone number included in the link information, You may need to add the Meeting ID and password so have those numbers on hand.

3) Once you enter the meeting, if you are not already muted, mute your audio feed, This can be done by bringing your cursor to the bottom of the screen for PCs and Macs and clicking on the mute microphone icon that appears, If you are using an iPad or tablet, tap on the TOP of the screen and use the mute button that appears.

4) Keep your feed on mute unless you are asked to speak. This will prevent background noise (dogs barking, phones ringing, etc.) or feedback interference. You can also lower the volume on your phone if you are hearing feedback noise.

5) If voting needs to happen, the host will poll the group. A small screen will appear with a question and place to click or tap Y or N, Register your vote by hitting SUBMIT, Your vote will be regis-

tered, and the host will receive the tally and announce the results.

6) If you have questions click on the Zoom chat function, again bottom of the screen for PC/Macs, To get to the Chat function on the iPad/tablet, click on the three dots at the top of the screen. It will open a new window with the chat function. You may type in a question and send, We will have a clerk who will moderate the questions.

7) Once you have asked your question in the chat section, if you need to speak further raise your hand on screen or use the responses icon (Mac/PC) or tap on the Participants icon at top of the screen and use the raise a hand icon at the bottom of the new screen that appears (iPad/tablet), You will be unmuted and called on by the moderator.

8) People attending only by phone will have a chance to ask questions and offer comments, too. The moderator will check in with telephone participants as we move through the meeting.



FRUIT AND NUTS DELIVERY

Marj Maxwell, Head Loop

Fruit and nuts will be arriving the first week in December! **Watch your e-mail for times, dates, location and pick up instructions**, If you did not provide an email you will be receiving a phone call from our Nutty Fruit Loop team.

Collectively you did good work! You sold or purchased 390 boxes of fruit and bags of nuts. One hundred fifteen of those boxes/bags will be picked up by Food for Lane County.

Some of you may be able to deduct all or part of your purchase from your 2020 taxes. Letters verifying your purchase/donation will be available at pick-up. If you purchased through the website you received your tax information with your purchase receipt. Those who purchased for donation to FOOD for Lane County, but not for personal use will receive will receive an email or mailed letter.

If you have questions please text or call Marj Maxwell at 541-521-3051 or email marjmaxwell@lwvlc.org.

Directory

Coming to your mailbox soon...

The 2020-2021 Directory is in the works. A handy booklet, my directory is always close at hand. Its cover is a color that makes it easily located in my "piling" system. Inside is contact information for LWVLC members, of course, and other nuggets of information.

Better email addresses

New this year on page three is a list of board members and other important folks you might want to email. The change? Each email address is tied to the office they hold, Want to get in touch with the president but forgot the name? It's president@lwvlc.org! Want to put something in the *Argus*? Use argus@lwvlc.org. Tada!

It's not just intuitive, those outside the League (elected officials, our partner organizations, etc.) know who the president was the last time they emailed but don't know who that is now so they do their best. Our last two presidents Keli Osborn and Linda Lynch are still getting emails for the League on their personal accounts.

Full of information you might need

Brief explanations of our policies, principles and positions. What's the League's position on immigration? Check page 33.



Veronika Walton and Kim Weston working on the Directory.

REMEMBERING FLO ALVERGUE by Pat Hocken



In sadness over Flo's tragic death, we recall the many ways Flo supported the League of Women Voters of Lane County. She will be greatly missed.

There are many facets to the life of Flo Alvergue. She was a kind, open, and welcoming person. She was a person every community needs - someone willing to take her turn, frequently more than that, to do things that must or should be done. Need someone to mentor a new League unit? Flo would say, I can do that. Need a place to meet? Flo would say, you can meet at my house. Need a carpool for a meeting in Salem? Flo would say, I can drive. Thus she led the fledgling Springfield discussion unit for many years and also hosted 12-15 League members in her living room for Monday morning's unit discussion meeting. She served on nu-

merous League nominating committees to recruit leaders for the League. She participated in the League's Action committee and helped plan League's advocacy responses to local governmental issues.

And Flo took on the challenging job of local League president with co-president Nancie Fadeley, who says of her: "It was a privilege to work with Flo. She was an enthusiastic League member, always quick to volunteer to serve on committees, always smiling as she welcomed new - and old - members. Her devotion to the League and willingness to do what needed to be done, even if it was time consuming and demanding, made her a wonderful role model. Her energetic participation in League projects energized others to participate."

One highlight of Flo's time as co-president was an exchange visit from a group of young professional women from Russia to learn about local government in this country. Flo made sure our visitors got to see the functioning of local governments but also arranged

retail experiences for the Russian women so they could spend the cash they brought to purchase real denim jeans plus a large Stetson hat for a brother back in Russia. And she took them to the beautiful Oregon coast so several visitors could see the ocean for the first time in their lives.

In addition to League activities Flo was a quilter and belonged to many community groups. And she really loved politics. She loved learning about issues, learning about candidates and political processes. She loved both nonpartisan and partisan politics. She had family members living in Georgia and always had stories about their political views to tell when she returned from visits. She would have been fascinated to see the role Georgia is playing in the current election, how the demographics there are changing, what it means for voting, what are the main issues there versus here,

To learn more about Flo's life, visit the musgroves.com website where her formal obituary and a guestbook are posted.

JOAN MAZO by Sharon Posner

We received news recently from Philadelphia that long-time active League member Joan Mazo had passed away after many years of living with Alzheimer's Disease. Joan, a native of Philadelphia, moved to Eugene with her family in the mid-60s. She'd met her Chemistry professor husband while they were both graduate students in Chemistry at Yale. Joan first joined the Eugene League board in 1966 as a committee chair and then went on to serve for a number of years as Treasurer. She was fre-

quently the "go-to" person when it came to money matters or understanding complex fiscal situations. Not only did she have an encyclopedic memory, she had a wonderfully analytic mind and could instantly ferret out the weak points of plans not carefully thought through or budgets with conceptual or factual flaws. Numbers were her specialty and in addition to serving as Treasurer of both the local Lane County League as well as the Oregon State League, she was also at one time a member

of both city and county budget committees. Although Joan never wanted to be the president of the League, in later years she did serve as president of the board of the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. After retirement Joan and Bob traveled extensively, visiting over 30 countries and probably going around the world at least twice. In 2012 they moved to the Philadelphia area to be closer to their children and their families.

MEMORIES OF FLO

She was the gracious host for our unit meetings. She was knowledgeable and active in trying to make a better world. A lovely human being, **Joyce Salisbury**

Flo had many roles in the LWV over the years, but the one closest to my heart was her leadership in our LWV neighborhood unit for several years. She opened her home for meetings with a bright and sincere interest in each person, plenty of hot coffee with real cream, and the ability to find enough chairs from somewhere even if too many of us showed up. She did love to talk! But it was never just blather. She knew past history about the League and about every level of government from the city to the nation and apparently never forgot details. With no hesitation Flo could site names, dates, and events as background to nearly any discussion. She was like an extra resource person for every meeting. I will miss her warm generosity, her positive outlook, her curiosity and her depth of knowledge. We will have to try hard to keep our unit as vibrant as we knew it with Flo there. No one can replace her, **Lois Taylor**

It's really hard to put into words what one feels after Flo's death. When I think of her what comes to mind is that she was always upbeat and positive, always radiated some kind of positive energy that made you feel good.

In our unit meetings at her house she was always so hospitable and made everybody feel welcome. She had the rare ability to make one feel included and valued.

Veronika Walton

Flo's death was very sad news, and I am grieving. Not only was she someone who worked hard for the Lane County League of Women Voters, but she was a good friend. She could always be depended upon to step up when she was needed, **Elleen Levy**

Flo was an amazing woman who was politically astute and a caring person. She always had a smile for everyone. Her kindness knew no bounds.

She was in my small Indivisible group. She always kept us informed and involved. To me that says it all. She was a fountain of information on any subject.

We will miss her so much and are still wrapping our minds around the fact that she is gone, **Barb Carter**

In her everyday way of relating and especially for me personally when I was a new member, Flo Alvergue was always so welcoming as she talked with ongoing enthusiasm about concerns dear to her heart with the spirit of the League never far away. When I brought guests to our Third Thursday meetings, I often sought out Flo as an introduction to the LWVLC and she never once missed a beat to open the door of welcome and attend to current issues with a smile. I will miss the treasure of her vibrant attention and presence among us.

Martha Binstadt

I was so impressed when I joined the unit with Flo's encyclopedic knowledge of politics, local and national, and of her deep understanding of League activities. She always made me feel welcome at her home and at unit meetings.

Nancy Mills

Flo Alvergue was flat out wonderful. She was warm, funny, kind, intelligent, supportive, knowledgeable, and a friend. We are less without her, **Anne Best**

RUTH MILLER

Ruth was honored in the November *Argus* for her work to bring affordable child care to the area. She passed away November 11 and according to her daughter, "Yes, she knew that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election and smiled when she was informed." Her further accomplishments are on line at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/ruth-miller-obituary?pid=197133077>

Charlcie Kaylor

JEAN CARLEY

Jean Carley was the mother of five, worked as a teacher and counselor in Houston, and traveled the world. In 1993 she and her husband settled in Eugene. In all, Jean visited an amazing 84 countries. Here in Eugene she was instrumental in the creation of the Nobel Peace Park in Alton Baker Park. When a heart condition caused her to slow down, she moved into Cascade Manor, where she made many new friends and remained active, including in the League unit meeting. Jean loved art and collected numerous paintings and art objects during her travels. Some of her collection is now helping to decorate the halls of Cascade Manor.

Merle Bottge

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

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For the latest information visit our website <http://lwvlc.org/>

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 9 - 10 am, Action Committee (page 5)
- 10 - Unit meeting (page 2)
- 16 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting
- 17 - Noon, Third Thursday (see page 1)
- 19 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline
- 21 - 2 pm, Membership Committee (page 2)

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
(except holidays)
11 am - 1:30 pm

**Please contact the committee chairs to confirm meeting method.
Most will be via Zoom and require an invitation to attend.**

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<http://lwvlc.org/get-involved/donate/>

DEDUCTIBLE!

Because LWVLC is a 501-c-(3) donations and even your dues are tax deductible.

If our **local** League's work is important to you, please consider a donation.

Thank you!