



MARCH 2024

# Argus

*League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter*



**RABBI RUHI SOPHIA  
MOTZKIN RUBENSTEIN  
ON ANTI-SEMITISM**

**League Speaker Series - MARCH 26**  
More information on page 5.

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

- It's STAR voting and Disaster Preparedness Units - pg 2
- President on 4J Levy - pg 3
- Busy, busy Membership - pg 4
- More on Rabbi Ruhi Sophia & Table Talk - pg 5
- League Heroes & DEQ in Eugene - pg 6
- Kudos to LWVLC and Elections - pg 7

## LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2023-24

### President

**TERRY PARKER**

president@lwwlc.org

### Vice President

**DIANA BODTKER**

vicepresident@lwwlc.org

### Secretary

**JEANNE TAYLOR**

secretary@lwwlc.org

### Treasurer

**GARY HARMON**

treasurer@lwwlc.org

### Action

**TERRY PARKER**

action@lwwlc.org

### Argus Editor & Historian

**CHARLCIE KAYLOR**

argus@lwwlc.org

### Development

**FREDDI WEISHAHN**

development@lwwlc.org

### Mailing Manager & Office Manager

**LINDA FERDOWSIAN**

office@lwwlc.org

### Membership

**RICHARD CUNDIFF**

membership@lwwlc.org

### Nominations

**SHARON POSNER**

### Program

**SHARON AMASHA &  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN**

program@lwwlc.org

### Public Relations

**LEAH MURRAY**

publicrelations@lwwlc.org

### Technology Director

**RHONDA LIVESAY**

technologydir@lwwlc.org

### Units

**MARJORIE MAXWELL**

marjmaxwell@gmail.com

### Voter Service

**NANCY MILLS**

voterservice@lwwlc.org

### Webmaster

**JUNE SEDARBAUM**

webmaster@lwwlc.org

### Director

**RUTH SEEGER**

ruthseeger1@lwwlc.org

## MARCH UNITS -

BY MARJORIE MAXWELL - UNIT CHAIR

All Eugene units have elected to join the Central Eugene Unit for a presentation on STAR Voting - a voting method under consideration in Eugene's May election. Nancy Mills, in her Voter Services ARGUS article gives background information on why it is important to learn more about the STAR preference scoring method. Cottage Grove's Unit will consider Disaster Preparedness.

### Unit Notes:

- February Unit Attendance: 35 members and 5 guests participated in one or more discussions.
- April's Unit topic will be Antisemitism. Units meet April 8-12, based on location.
- **April Briefing:** April 2, 2pm, New Office 175 W B Street, Ste E2, Springfield
- For Zoom link: [office@lwwlc.org](mailto:office@lwwlc.org)
- If you have questions or suggestions about units or to attend briefing, contact Marj Maxwell, Unit Chair. Phone or text 541-521-3051 or email [marjmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:marjmaxwell@gmail.com).

Central Eugene Unit (joined by South Eugene, Cascade Manor and Coburg Road Units)

**March 8, Friday. 10 am (in person only)**

**First United Methodist Church**

**1376 Olive St., Eugene**

*Topic - STAR Voting*

Central Eugene Discussion Leader: Diana Grandberry, 541-342-8402

South Eugene Discussion Leader: Nancy Mills, [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

Cascade Manor Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191

Coburg Road Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian, 541-579-1866

### Cottage Grove Unit

**March 21, Thursday 11am (hybrid)**

*Topic - Disaster Preparedness*

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove

Discussion Leader, Cindy Sharp

Contact: [office@lwwlc.org](mailto:office@lwwlc.org)

## LEARN ABOUT STAR VOTING AND MORE

BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

The units from Cascade Manor/Merle Bottge and South Eugene/Nancy Mills are joining the Central Eugene/Diana Grandberry unit for a presentation on STAR voting for the March Unit choice. STAR voting for Eugene mayor and city councilors will be on the ballot for Eugene voters in May and may be on the November ballot for state and federal offices.

Sara Wolk and Sass from Equal Vote will do an educational presentation on how STAR voting works, using ballots that the three units filled out in an "election"

for favorite refreshment at unit meetings.

The meeting is on **March 8, at 10 am** at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. Members from other units are invited to attend. (See above.) In addition, there will be other presentations on STAR voting, at the following:

- **April 11, 5:30-7:30**, Downtown Library
- **April 13, 1-3**, Bethel Library
- **May 1, 11-12:30**, Sheldon Library

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## YES FOR 4J SCHOOLS BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

### League of Women Voters US Position on Education:

"We support equal opportunity for high quality education for all students from early childhood through community college. We work actively to educate ourselves and the community about innovations in education as well as financing for education."

<https://my.lvv.org/mylo/issues/social-policy/education/%2A?page=3>

The somewhat unorthodox (for our League anyway) email "blast" asking for members' thoughts on a renewal of the 4J School District local option levy was a late in the day brainstorm by yours truly.

You came through! Thanks to those of you who chimed in with opinion, questions and resources. The Board has agreed to support the levy renewal and submit an Argument in Favor for the May Voters Pamphlet, consistent with past support. Here are responses to questions you raised provided by 4J School Board member Judy Newman and Joy Marshall of Stand for Children:

### **Question: Is it possible to use other funds such as the "kicker"?**

No, not without tax reform and relative changes to Oregon's Constitution.

*The Oregon Legislature created the "kicker" in 1979. Essentially, when the total revenue collected in a biennium exceeds the official revenue projection for the biennium by more than 2 percent, all of the surplus revenue is returned to taxpayers. Voters enshrined the "kicker" into the Oregon Constitution in 2000.*  
[10 Things You Should Know About the Kicker, MyOregon by Robin Maxey Oct2023](#)

The ability to levy local option taxes was extended to school districts by the 1999 state legislature. This created voters' only opportunity to increase revenue for school operations since Measure 5 was passed in 1990. Proceeds are excluded from the State School Fund formula, permitting districts to retain all funds generated. State law limits the amount of money a school district can raise from a local option levy.

School operations in Eugene School District 4J are supported by funds from the levy. The tax is levied at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, subject to Measure 5 limitations so some property owners pay less than the maximum rate. The local option levy currently provides about \$25 million in revenue, equivalent to about 32 school days or 205 teaching positions under the 2023-24 cost structure. The tax rate will remain the same and extend the levy past June 2025 when the current one expires.

### **Question: How has the 4J District prioritized existing funds including covid grants?**

"The Covid Funds" (most often referred to as ESSRS funds) came into the District in three waves of funding totaling about \$55 million.

A rough summary of the many things that ESSRS were used for include immediate needs due to the pandemic such as personal protective equipment (PPE), computers, technology, support for online learning, and child care for essential workers. Also, cleaning materials, expanded learning spaces and materials, systems and filters, summer learning, wrap around services and supports. Phase three funding was directed to tutoring, summer learning, family liaison positions, mental health services and supports.

All ESSRS funding are spent or are earmarked to be spent by the deadline of September 30, 2024 (or close to that date).

### **Question: Tell me more about the local option levy.**

Local option tax levies to support **operations** may be approved by voters for periods up to five years at each renewal. 4J voters first approved a local option levy in May 2000 shortly after this form of local funding became an option for Oregon school districts.

Limits on this funding were revised most recently by the HB 4117 in the 2018 Legislature and include the following:

- **Measure 5 Limit:** Total taxes for education may not exceed \$5 per \$1,000 of the real market value (RMV) of each property.
- **Percentage of State Resources:** Levy revenues cannot exceed 25% of the district's state funding.
- **Dollars per Student:** Levy revenues cannot exceed \$2,000 per student average daily membership/weighted, growing by 3% per year beginning 2019-20.

In summary, **this is not a new tax or a tax increase.** If approved, taxpayers will continue their current support for our schools. This may be the best way for our community to support education for our students. The 4J option levy has been supporting schools for 24 years.





# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY RICHARD CUNDIFF AND RUTH SEEGER - MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

**GREETINGS** and a hearty hello to all our existing members and a special welcome to our new members! We love to celebrate adding new members to our League. The Committee has been working hard to reach out to folks who have joined in the last 24 months or so. If you are a new or newish member and we have not reached out to you, please reach out to us! We want to make a personal contact, and "get to know" you. **Thank you** to Jen Allison-Keim for stepping up to help by joining the Membership Committee! Welcome Jen!

## HELP WANTED

Mary Keating is coordinating the League's participation in the **Naturalization Ceremony**, and we need 2-3 people to attend with Mary. We will be welcoming new citizens and distributing voter registration forms to welcome them to American democracy. This is a short term, two hour commitment.

March 21 @ 10:30 am

Wayne Morse Courthouse

Please contact Mary if you can help (541-344-4889 or [myrnalouise@hotmail.com](mailto:myrnalouise@hotmail.com)).

## INVITE A FRIEND

We will be hosting

**League 101 on Thursday, April 18, 5:30 pm**

Please start reaching out to friends, relatives and neighbors who might like to learn more about the League, what we do and why!

Refreshments will be served.

Held at Tsunami Bookstore!

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Peggy Dame, Laura and Michael Flanigan, Laura Kellenbarger, Rita Malmud, Jim Rothstein, Lori Stern, Lina White.

## NOTES

- Roe v. Wade, decided January 22, 1973. End of the Draft announced January 27, 1973. A busy week, indeed.
- Today, more than fifty years later, no draft, but no peace.
- Today, Dobbs v. Jackson, an end to a woman's privacy and her right to make her own health decisions. The law of the land is no more.
- The League of Women Voters of Lane County has many members who, for over fifty years, have fought for peace, the right of reproductive choice and the right to vote.
- Before April 18 we squares and circles should get together and share ideas—we have a lot to do --- again!

In these weeks before April 18, (League 101) we have a lot to do. Calling members is highest on the list, closely followed by deciding the cookie menu. And not forgetting the new members.

## RECALL TIDBIT BY KELI OSBORN, RECALL STUDY TEAM MEMBER

James Barnett, in his book, *The Operation of The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall in Oregon*, published by MacMillan in 1915, made this observation:

"Mayors of cities have thus been attacked on charges of neglect of the interests of a particular district of a city; of an 'opentown' policy; of presence in a bar-room after legal hours; of failure to enforce city ordinances against vice, extravagant expenditure of public funds without accounting therefor, etc.; of usurpation of the power of the council, misstatement of the proceedings of the council, etc., and total unfitness for office on account of lack of education and ability; because

of permitting public speaking on the streets and of retaining a police force alleged to be corrupt; on charges of failure to enforce the city ordinances."

Stay tuned for more later on recall elections--Oregon history, legal framework, process, potential consequences, and possible refinements. A team that includes Linda Lynch, Rhonda Livesay and Keli Osborn from LWVLC, and Alice LaViolette from LWV Marion/Polk, are wrapping up the first draft of the LWVOR state recall study approved by delegates to the May 2023 LWVOR convention.



## LEAGUE SERIES SPEAKER IN MARCH

### RABBI RUHI SOPHIA MOTZKIN RUBENSTEIN

BY SHARON AMASHA, PROGRAM CHAIR

Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein will speak about antisemitism and its impact.

She became TBI's (Temple Beth Israel) rabbi in July, 2015, after graduating from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. While completing her studies, she served for two years as a Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York's LGBTQ synagogue. She also interned with the Woodstock Jewish Congregation, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Pennsylvania, and GreenFaith, a New Jersey based environmental organization. She continues to be committed to environmental issues.

Rabbi Ruhi Sophia also spent a year in Jerusalem through the New Israel Fund – Shatil Fellowship and received chaplaincy training through the Clini-

cal Pastoral Education program at the Jewish Theological Seminary, in placement as a Hospice chaplain.

Rabbi Ruhi Sophia is vocally trained and brings a love of music, including melodies from the Nava Tehila community in Jerusalem and the Hadar community in New York. She is inspired by both the personal and communal aspects of the rabbinate: holding and guiding people in moments of joy and sorrow, and helping bring people together, whether to join our voices in prayer or to work for social justice. She is committed to finding ways to dialogue and connect with other faith traditions and communities.

Rabbi Ruhi Sophia is married to Rabbi Jacob Siegel. They have three young girls.



## LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES

### SPEAKER

## RABBI RUHI SOPHIA MOTZKIN RUBENSTEIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 11:30

The Community at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road

LUNCHEON \$20, BEVERAGE/DESSERT ONLY \$5

Reservations due by Tuesday, March 19

TO RESERVE - Email to [contact@lwvlc.org](mailto:contact@lwvlc.org) or

Call League office at 541-343-7917

## TABLE TALK

In February Lane County Commission Chair, **Laurie Trieger**, joined us to talk about her work in volunteer public service and supporting her working class family. We heard when and why she decided to run for office and the challenges and victories of her job as commissioner.



Talk with more such influencers in our community at our monthly Table Talk organized by LWVLC member **Sharon Posner**.

Watch your inbox or check our website for the next speaker.

On March 20, 3pm at the usual place, the Da Ra Restaurant in the Community building at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road, Eugene.

*Charlcie Kaylor, Editor*

# LEAGUE HEROES

BY CHARLCIE KAYLOR, *ARGUS* EDITOR

Two stalwart members of LWV Lane County recently passed away.

For many years

**Louie Levy**, with his wife Elleen, worked as a two-fer to help with League mailings. They raised funds by collecting books and magazines from League members and selling them to local bookstores as well as on eBay.

Many Leaguers will remember that for years Louie greeted Third Thursday attendees outside Valley River Inn and told them in which room the talk was located.

He served in the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team during the Korean Police Action and retired from the US Coast Guard in 1983 as an E9 Master



Chief Petty Officer. To quote *The Register-Guard* obituary, "As they say in the Coast Guard, Louie crossed the bar in the early morning hours of January 22 while lightly dozing with family at his side..."

## Gayle Downing

passed November 11 last year. Raised and schooled in Woodburn, she moved to Cottage Grove in 1990. She attended Oregon College of Education and Salem Tech.

She loved Duck football and basketball. In 2009-10 the Daisy Ducks named her

Daisy of the year. Gayle was a member of Christian Women's Club. We remember her as our Historian and admire her lovely scrapbooks of Lane County League's activities.



State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

The [Oregon Environmental Quality Commission](#) will hold its next regular meeting on March 21-22, 2024 in Eugene.

This meeting will be held by Zoom and in-person at the Eugene DEQ offices.

165 E 7th Avenue, #100

Eugene, Oregon 97401

Willamette Conference Room

The [meeting agenda](#) is now posted online. Materials will be posted as they become available.

The meeting will be a hybrid in-person/remote meeting.

People may attend in-person

People may also join remotely via Zoom. Zoom links and call-in details are posted on the [meeting agenda webpage](#).

This is an opportunity to learn about:

- Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Plan
- Climate Protection Program update
- Participate in Open Forum

**Terry Parker, President**

## WHAT A LEAGUE!

BY FREDDI WEISHAHN, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Youth Era and 15th Night were very grateful to receive donations from our generous members to benefit unhoused youth in our community. The hats, gloves, thermal underwear, socks, and hand warmers (a whole case!) will be crucial to these teens and young adults living in such precarious circumstances. Thank you!



We are also lucky to have two very experienced members joining me for our LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) grant to engage incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in resuming their voting rights.

The grant for \$750 will be used to develop outreach materials and work with resource staff to hold events from now through November.

**Debra Levinson** is a retired Speech-Language Pathologist who has worked with incarcerated juveniles with generational ties to gang activity.

**Pam Berrian** has worked to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with community college programs.

## WORKING AT THE ELECTIONS OFFICE

BY CHARLCIE KAYLOR, ARGUS EDITOR

In January Dena Dawson, Lane County Elections Clerk, spoke at our League Speaker Series and said 70% of the election team had not worked in a presidential election. She needs help, and that might have stirred some to consider the job.

I wondered about the process so I googled Lane County Elections and a site popped up with three button options. One was Temporary Jobs. The following appeared.



### Thank you for your interest in Lane County's Temporary Election Worker Program!

We are excited to invite enthusiastic individuals to join our team and play a crucial role in the democratic process. As the heart of our community, Lane County is committed to ensuring fair and transparent elections, and we are seeking dedicated individuals to support us during the election cycles.

Open Positions:

- Customer Service and Voter Registration Data Entry
- Ballot Receiving and Processing
- Ballot Deconstruction
- Ballot Drop Box Collection

*Our temporary election positions are paid positions;*

*this is not a volunteer opportunity.* We partner with Personnel Source, an employment agency, for the efficient administration of employment processes. Join us in making a difference in Lane County's electoral system. Your commitment to democracy is highly valued, and your efforts will contribute to the success of our elections. Apply today and become an essential part of our dedicated team working towards a fair and inclusive electoral process! Please read the job descriptions below to see where your talents can be best utilized!

Please be advised that Lane County Elections strives to create equally balanced, bi-partisan teams, so party affiliation is a major consideration when filling available slots.



I was disappointed to see "not a volunteer job" since I imagined a more flexible position. On more thought, the level of training would be fairly specialized. I visualized learning signature verification.

However... this might be something you, a friend or someone casting around for an interesting, short-term job to add to their resume might want to explore.





175 West B Street, E2, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-343-7917

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

## MARCH CALENDAR

No Action meeting in March

7 - 1:30 pm, Voter Service (pg 4)

8 & 21, Unit Meetings (pg 2)

12 - 2 pm, Membership (pg 5)

20 - 3 pm, Table Talk (pg 5)

19 - 1pm, Board Meeting

21 - 10:30 am, Naturalization Ceremony, (pg4)

21 & 22 - Oregon Environmental Quality Commission meeting (pg 6)

22 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

26 - 11:30 am, League Speaker Series (pg 5)

### ***Thanks to our 2023-24 Directory Advertisers***

*Lane Forest Products*

*Baker Bay Bead Company*

*Christine Dambach  
Farmers Insurance*

*Lohring Miller, DMD PC*

*Sundance Natural Foods/  
Wine Cellars*

*Unique Properties*

*Aayres Appliance Repair*

*Ambrosia*

*Art's Watch and Jewelry*

*Bel Ami*

*Campfire Collaborative  
Architecture & Design*

*Folkways*

*FusedGlass.Art*

*McKenzie Honey Farm*

*Mi Café*

*Pepperberries Kitchen Store*

*Plank Town Brewing Co.*

*Quality Cleaning*

*Shelton McMurphy Johnson  
House Museum*

### **Mark Your Calendars!!!**

#### **League 101 Event**

Learn more about the League

With snacks and beverages

Evening of the 18th of April

**Tsunami Book Store**

### **LWVLC Office Hours**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
(except holidays)**

**11 am - 1:30 pm**

### **MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?**

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

### **BRIEFINGS VIDEOS**

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

**DONATE NOW**

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