



# Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

November 2019

## LWVCC Leaders

### Executive Committee:

Hilly Alexander

Katie Lu

Nancy Murray

### Secretary:

Mike Taylor

Treasurer: Nancy Murray

### Directors:

Voter Service: Katie Lu

Program Chair: Robina

Ingram-Rich

Clackson & Website:

Karan Kuntz

Membership: Hilly

Alexander

Action: Marge Easley

LWV Anniversary: Sonja

Kollias

### Off Board:

Nominating Committee:

Karen Faw

Budget chair: Sarah

Chaplen

### Unit Leaders:

Monday: Betty Barber

Wednesday: Jean

Hoffman

Thursday: Katie Lu, Sylvia

Smith

Friday: June Routson, Lea

Wells

## November General Meeting

**“Putting Ethics Back into Immigration Policy”**

**Alex Sager, Ph.D**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

**7:00 pm**

**Oswego Heritage House**

**398 10th Street, Lake Oswego**

Alex Sager is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Portland State University. He has published widely on ethics and political policy of immigration. His recent books include *Toward a Cosmopolitan Ethics of Mobility: The Migrant’s-Eye View of the World* (Palgrave, 2017) and *The Ethics and Politics of Immigration* (Rodman and Littlefield, 2016). His book *Against Borders: Why the People of the World Need Free Movement* (Rodman and Littlefield) is available for pre-order and will be published in February 2020.

The November General Meeting is part two of our focus on the complex topic of immigration to the United States. Consider continued probing of the list of background materials provided for the October Unit meetings.

Carpooling is encouraged. Consider reaching out to LWVCC members who you suspect prefer not to drive at night and offer a ride. Invite friends, family and the rest of the public.

There is parking at Oswego Heritage House but often is not sufficient. Additional parking is available at Christ Church Episcopal Parish at 1060 Chandler Road. There is parking on the east side of the church (10th Street) and in the larger parking lot on the west side of the church off Chandler.

Public transportation: TriMet bus #78 stops near the Oswego Heritage House on Country Club Road.

## Recap of Immigration Discussion

*Robi Ingram-Rich*

*"If you had the power to design a more efficient, humane and fair immigration system in the US, what would it look like?"* was the overarching question of the four October unit meetings. Led by the hypothesis that opinions are not facts and that an individual's values, opinions and facts may not always align, LWVCC members and guests considered and discussed six questions. The newsletter article was read by most, and most viewed "Detained: How the United States created the largest immigrant detention system in the world" online. The David Frum article in the April *The Atlantic* seemed to be the next most read item.

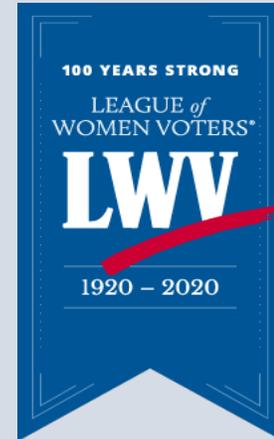
Differentiating between various categories of incoming peoples - asylum seekers, refugees, migrants (time-limited residents) and immigrants (seeking permanent residency) provided some nuance to the conversations. Undocumented immigrants contribute mightily to agriculture and the service sectors, allowing prices to stay low. The U.S. has been enriched by generations of immigrants.

The question of what assimilation should look like meant consideration of the fact that U.S. "culture" means different things to different people. The consensus was there are regional and state cultures but no single U.S. culture. Regardless, (some) English proficiency was advised. However, "home" culture - music, food, other arts - should not be abandoned or lost but perhaps blended into American sub-cultures.

A related tangent was that bilingual and multilingual signage, voter guides and pamphlets, and other public spaces may not help assimilation or could be isolating immigrants, but perhaps not. However, traditionally, newcomers have been segregated into immigrant or minority enclaves upon arrival.

Topics during the conversations that could have led to more attention and consideration included:

1. Past practices supported and encouraged newcomers to acquire skills. Refugees and immigrants were welcomed. Present policies don't.
2. The impact of the U.S. participating in the global economy, the outsourcing and offshore movement of manufacturing, the power of multinational corporations.
3. Present and future impact of:
  - a. decreasing U.S. refugee allotments
  - b. Population growth in some countries, population stagnation in others, and low birthrates in first world countries.
  - c. Environmental burden of immigration and immigration policies
  - d. Explicitly learning to appreciate "the other" vs. fear of "the other"



### Celebrating 100 Years! A Look Back!

*This year we will celebrate the National League of Women Voters 100th birthday. In celebration, we will take a look at our greatest national accomplishments, one decade at a time. We begin with our founding decade.*

#### 1920's

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters in 1920 during the Chicago convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. This amendment gave women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

As the first elected president of the League, Maud Wood Park led the League to influence policy and specifically advocate support for the Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of married women that became law in 1922. Within four years of its creation, the League spread throughout the nation with 346 National Leagues organized out of 433 congressional districts. During that time, the League also sponsored their first "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

Source: [lww.org](http://lww.org)

## Deliberative Democracy Event in Milwaukie

If you're interested in observing an innovative form of deliberative democracy, here's your chance. The **Milwaukie Citizens' Jury** will take place **November 9-12, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, at Harmony West Building, Clackamas Community College/Harmony Campus, 7738 SE Harmony Rd., Milwaukie. The professionally facilitated proceedings are open to the public.

This four-day citizen jury is a project of [Healthy Democracy](#), an Oregon nonprofit that conducted the Citizen's Initiative Review to assess selected statewide ballot measures. This time the focus will be on a local issue, and the question to be considered is: "Should Milwaukie City Council members be paid more than their current volunteer stipend? If so, how much should Council members be compensated?"

Special note: The best days for observing are November 9 or 10 when panelists are presented with information from expert witnesses. Please consider stopping by for an hour or two to observe this fascinating process. Also, you may want to be at Milwaukie City Hall when the Citizens' Jury will formally present its recommendations to the City of Milwaukie at a special session of City Council at 5:15 p.m., November 12.

## Book Recommendation from Board Member Katie Lu

Since we are continuing the discussion on immigration this month, you might be interested in reading Senator Jeff Merkley's book, entitled "America is Better Than This: Trump's War Against Migrant Families". He has visited sites where migrant families are housed in Oregon and other states. He talked about the conditions in the facilities, and the concerns of the people held there, and what's being done and not being done for their care.

He also tells of his background, which includes time as an AFS exchange student in Africa, his studies in international relations, and later experiences in time in Mexico and Central America. This was not in resorts but exploring life in the area. He saw first-hand the problems involved in everyday life and the turmoil there.

Merkley offers suggestions on how to improve our immigration system and describes what we are doing for asylum seekers who hope to enter this country and are detained in our facilities. He makes a plea for the general public to demand and encourage the end of the current strategies because they do not represent the character of the United States of America.

## Welcome New Members

We welcomed two new members in October:

Lynn Hingson - Lake Oswego

Ellen Pierson - Lake Oswego

The Membership Directory 2019-2020 will be available at the November General Meeting.

*Plan Now to Attend*

League of Women Voters of Oregon

## Century Celebration Luncheon

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**  
**10 AM- 2 PM**

**Guest Panel**  
Governor Kate Brown (invited)  
Secretary of State Bev Clarno  
Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum  
Commissioner of Labor and Industries Val Hoyle  
Oregon Chief Justice Martha Lee Walters  
Moderator: Governor Barbara Roberts

Santiam Ballroom  
Salem Convention Center  
200 Commercial St SE  
Cost: \$50

For More Details Visit :  
LWVOR Century Celebration Website  
<http://lwvor.org/celebrate-100-years-of-the-league/>

- 1920 - **100 YEARS STRONG** - 2020 -

**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS®**

Creating

★ **A MORE PERFECT** ★

Democracy

## State League Workshop

Karan Kuntz, Libby Medley and Nancy Murray attended the recent workshop in Eugene to prepare for the program year and upcoming elections in 2020. As next year is a very active year for **voter service** activities, LWVOR will support local Leagues with an updated “tool kit” on policies and practices on holding debates, forums and get out the vote activities. Our primary election is May 19, and we provide several avenues to prepare voters for ballot issues and candidates. Vote 411.org has been improved, and although it still has its demerits (still too many candidates do not respond), local Leagues need to supply content on local candidates, events, and local ballot measures. We have a few volunteers to support our voter service chair, Katie Lu, but we can always use more to help with various activities. **Redistricting** will continue to take our attention as Oregon’s census will likely call for redrawing legislative and congressional districts. Stay tuned.

Two excellent speakers provided important thinking on areas at issue in the public domain. Dr. Erik Girvan of UO School of Law addressed how implicit bias might impact decisions in the legal system and other contexts. Donna Cohen, former teacher and librarian, discussed fake news and political propaganda. She will be giving a talk Nov. 2, 4:00 pm on elections and campaign financing at the Oregon City Public Library. She has a wealth of knowledge in all areas of civics.

## History and Civics as a Case Study

This past summer Leagues across the nation sponsored teacher applicants to Harvard Business School's case study program as prepared for history and civics teachers. Our League sponsored Beth Downs from McMinnville HS. Historians today write up a number of case studies written like a factorial narrative. Students then place themselves in the role of the decision maker as they read through the situation and identify the problem(s) they are faced with. The next step is to perform the necessary analysis—examining the causes and considering alternative courses of actions to come to a set of recommendations. Beth's class is currently working on the period of restoration after the Civil War. We are also pleased that Oregon had the greatest number of teachers attending (13).

## LWV CLACKAMAS COUNTY WINTER HOLIDAY BRUNCH & RAFFLE

**Mark your calendar: Saturday, December 7!** Join in celebrating the holidays with the Clackamas County LWV at our Holiday Party Brunch. We will gather at 9:30 for brunch, drinks and another fun raffle.

Once again, we have the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and raise some money for a good cause as well as our own coffers while getting in the holiday spirit. It is always a fun day!

**Speaker: Rachel Pearl, Friends of the Children**

**Where: Clackamas Banquet & Catering, 15815 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Dr., Clackamas**

**Breakfast buffet \$15**

RSVP and directions to follow later



## Upcoming Events

**November General Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 7:00 pm, Oswego Heritage House, 398 10th Street, Lake Oswego. Speaker: Alex Sager, Ph.D, "Putting Ethics Back into Immigration Policy"**

**Tuesday, November 26: LWVCC Board Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Social, 9:45 a.m. Meeting, Pacific West Bank, West Linn**

**Saturday, December 7: Winter Holiday Brunch, 9:30, Clackamas Banquet & Catering, 15815 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Dr., Clackamas**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of Clackamas County  
PO Box 411  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
lwvclackamas@lwvclackamas.org  
www.lwvclackamas.org

## Join the League of Women Voters!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email

- I am renewing my membership.
- This is a gift membership. (Please provide the recipient's contact information above.)
- I am interested in volunteering for the League. Please contact me.

Annual dues: \$70 Individual. \$105 Household. Full-time student attending an accredited institution or adult under age 25 free! Membership grants are available.

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Clackamas County.

Mail to: LWVCC, PO Box 411, Lake Oswego, OR 97034