



VOTER

Volume 8 Issue 5

APRIL 2014

CALENDAR

April 3, 2014

Agriculture
Consensus Meeting
Tumwater Library
1 pm

April 24, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
Topic:
Homelessness

May 22, 2014

LWVTC Annual Mtg.
Details TBD

June 28, 2014

Candidate Forum
TCTV



Inside this issue:

<i>President's Article</i>	2
<i>Candidate Forums</i>	2
<i>March-Women's history month Remembering the Women that history books forget</i>	3
<i>Women Who Dare</i>	4
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	5

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DON'T MISS IT!

**Agriculture Consensus meeting
April 3, 2014 1-pm
Tumwater Library**

LWVTC APRIL GENERAL MEETING

**April 24, 2014
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30 pm**

TOPIC:

Homelessness

- causes and solutions -

Tradition's Café; 300 5th Ave. SW; Olympia

SPEAKER:

**Phil Owens
Program Director
SIDEWALK**

President's Article

Homelessness in Olympia, and Thurston County, has been a major concern for a long time. Our county has thousands of men, women and even children, living without any type of decent shelter. This spring LWVTC has decided to focus on the issue of homelessness in our community.

In March we had a terrific turnout for our program on "Would You Live Downtown?" that started our program thread on housing and homelessness. One of the points made in the March program was the connection between people living in downtown and a safer area. It was clear that many members of our audi-

ence were very willing to live in the downtown area.

It wasn't the safety factors that concerned the attendees but that the type of housing stock people wanted just isn't available. Although there are 700+ square foot apartments being constructed, members of the audience were looking for condos in the 1200-1400 square foot range. Our speakers noted that the barriers to constructing condos of this size were an inability to construct underground parking, development fees and permitting. Overall though, it was clear there is an emerging market for mid range and upscale downtown housing.

Our next program will be a general review and discussion of homelessness in Thurston County. Phil Owens from Sidewalk will be speaking on causes and solutions and Sidewalk's role in reducing the homeless population.

In May at our annual meeting, Jill Severn will discuss Camp Qui-xote. We are looking forward to hearing how the program evolved and how it is currently functioning. So please join us on April 24th at Traditions to hear Sidewalk's presentation. The location for our annual meeting has yet to be determined but we will be providing details soon.

*Allyson Brooks
LWVTC President*

LWVTC CANDIDATE FORUMS

It's time again for our League members to think about what questions you would like answered from candidates who will be up for election this year.

Candidates for Legislative Districts 2, 20, 22 and 35 will all be on Thurston County ballots for those districts. We'll be voting for one County Commissioner position and for all Thurston County offices which generate opponents. One Court of Appeals race and races for District

judges will also be on our ballots. We want to know, and to help Thurston County citizens to know, as much as we can about where candidates stand before it's time to vote. In order to do that, we need your help to come up with good questions to ask them. Please send your questions to me at jetheiss@aol.com.

We also would love to introduce more of you to moderating and timing our forums, so do, please, let me know if you'd like to give

it a try It's fun and you learn a lot!

If you'd like to have us provide some public forums, I'd like to hear from you about that too. Elections this year are August 5 and November 4.

Our first TCTV forums will take place Saturday, June 28 and aired many times.

*Barb Theiss
Voter Services Chair*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LWVTC Annual Meeting May 22, 2014 Details TBD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This Women's History Month, Remembering the Women That History Books Forget

By: Renee Davidson 03/27/2014

This post is part of "[Celebrating Women: Past, Present & Future](#)," the League's series honoring Women's History Month.

In honor of Women's History Month, the League was a proud co-sponsor of the [National Women's History Museum](#) panel, "[Standing Up for Change: Women and the Civil Rights Movement](#)." The panel, which took place at George Washington University, featured a revealing discussion between [Dr. E. Faye Williams](#), Chair of the [National Congress of Black Women](#) (NCBW), [Paula Giddings](#), Professor of Afro-American Studies at Smith College and moderator [Keli Goff](#), author and blogger.

The panelists discussed how women played an integral role in advancing the civil rights movement from the time of slavery through present day— though few have received public notoriety. In addition to Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Ella Baker, Giddings and Williams named just a few of the admirable women that history books often fail to recognize:

[Phyllis Wheatley](#) (1753-1784) - Wheatley was the first African American to publish a book of poetry, an especially novel feat given that Wheatley was a slave, and slaves were largely forbidden to learn to read and write.

[Dorothy Height](#) (1912-2000) - A women's and civil rights activist, Height served as president of the [National Council of Negro Women](#) and the [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](#). During the peak of the civil rights movement, she organized "[Wednesdays in Mississippi](#)," which brought together black and white women from the North and South to foster dialogue and understanding around women's and civil rights.

[Fannie Lou Hammer](#) (1917-1977) - Hammer was a member of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) (SNCC) and founder of the [Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party](#). She was instrumental in organizing [Freedom Summer](#), a campaign launched in 1964 to register as many African American voters as possible in Mississippi.

[Diane Nash](#) (1938-present) - A founding member of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) (SNCC), Nash was in her early 20s when she became a key organizer within the male-dominated civil rights movement. Arrested numerous times for her activism, she was instrumental in organizing the [Freedom Rides](#) and the [Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights](#).

[Dorie Ladner \(1942-present\)](#) and [Joyce Ladner](#) (1943-present) - [Dorie Ladner](#), a founding member of the [Council of Federated Organizations](#) (COFO), participated in every civil rights march from 1963 to 1968, including the March on Washington in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the Poor People's March in 1968. [Joyce Ladner](#), who was field secretary for SNCC, is a respected scholar and the first woman to serve as president of Howard University.

Giddings and Williams underscored how the civil rights movement not only helped all women – young and old, black and white alike – but also all people. While the talk had a historical focus, they made clear connections to the present, calling out current racial and economic injustices that mimic those fought during the civil rights movement. "It's not so different from today," said Williams, referencing such issues as the [recent undermining of the Voting Rights Act of 1965](#). We've still got a lot of work to do."

Williams is right: As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, voters everywhere – men and women alike – [are in urgent need of modern, common sense legislative fixes to ensure that every American is treated fairly at the ballot box](#).

Ultimately, Williams, Giddings and Goff reminded us of the unbridled power that women possess to effect change – especially at the grassroots level. The League of Women Voters understands this power well. [Rooted in the women's suffrage movement](#), our work is fueled by thousands of League activists in [nearly 800 chapters across the country](#). We're proud to celebrate Women's History Month as a means to highlight the invaluable – and often untold – role that women play in Making Democracy Work®.



EMMA GOLDMAN
(American, b. Lithuania, 1869–1940)

An anarchist and a lifelong agitator on behalf of “liberty unrestricted by man-made law; the theory that all forms of government rest on violence and are therefore wrong and harmful,” Emma Goldman was born and raised in a Jewish ghetto in the USSR and fled to the United States as a teenager. There she was radicalized by the conditions of the urban laboring masses and the prevailing socialist and anarchist currents. For her continuous activism she was jailed many times, gained national notoriety by the 1890s, and eventually was deported from the United States. Goldman is remembered as one of the most uncompromising and courageous radicals of her age—which journalist William Reedy pronounced her “about eight thousand years ahead of.”

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Women Who Dare

ALICE PAUL
(American, 1885–1977)

Alice Paul always held that much of the world’s trouble was rooted in the thwarting of the power of women. She devoted her life to seeing that women gained more of a say in all matters that affected them—that is to say, in all matters of life.

Paul came to social activism first as a settlement worker in New York. In 1906, while doing settlement work in England, she became involved with the suffrage movement there and eventually was jailed three times. Subsequently Paul became a mover in the American suffrage movement. Dissatisfied with what she considered the timidity of mainstream suffrage groups, in 1913 she founded her own organization, which would evolve into the National Women’s Party, in which she was a dominant figure for some three decades. Though perhaps best known today for drafting the first equal rights amendment, Paul’s accomplishments as a feminist and internationalist were myriad. It was her doing, for example, that an affirmation of the equality of women and men was included in the preamble to the charter of the United Nations.

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Member Spotlight



RITA ROBISON

This year's Nominating Committee Chair Rita Robison joined the League of Women Voters in 1964 just after graduating from Washington State University.

Following graduation, she lived in Sydney, Australia, for three years then moved to Olympia. After joining the Thurston County League, Rita was appointed to the Thurston County Board of Adjustment, then to the county planning commission.

While working on the Thurston League board, Rita served as newsletter editor, Environmental Committee chair, and Action chair.

Rita led the Thurston League study on Olympia's commission form of government. After the League decided the council-manager plan would be a better form of government for the city, she formed a citizens' group called Olympians for Council-Manager Government, which worked on changing the city's form of government.

Rita also was a board member for the Puget Sound Leagues of Women Voters, a regional group of nine Leagues which discontinued operating in 1983.

She edited the PSL newsletter and worked on PSL studies on air pollution, the Nisqually Delta, and regional governmental structure.

After Rita earned a journalism degree at Eastern Washington University in 1981, she worked for The Spokesman-Review and The Anchorage Times. At The Times, Rita wrote a column called "Tell It to Bud," "Bud" being short for ombudsman. In the column, she answered questions from consumers.

When Rita returned to Olympia in 1989, she worked for the Department of Commerce as a land use planner in growth management. In her job, she reviewed comprehensive plans and development regulations and edited growth management publications.

For more than 18 years, Rita wrote a monthly senior consumer column for The News Tribune in Tacoma as a free-lance writer.

Rita retired from the state in 2007 so that she could pursue her interests in consumer journalism. She writes two blogs, [The Survive and Thrive Boomer Guide](#), a national blog, and the [Boomer Consumer](#), a reader blog on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer website. As a blogger, Rita has written more than 3,000 articles.

Rita grew up on apple ranches in Central Washington. Her daughter Mona lives in Sacramento, and her daughter Lisa lives in Madrid.

Rita Robison

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please refer to www.lwvthurston.org for more information about League activities and membership, or mail in the membership form below.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____

DATE:

◇ \$60 for my membership

◇ \$_____ for an Educational Fund Donation

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

LWVTC Newsletter:

The LWVTC newsletter, VOTER, will be distributed by e-mail.

Check this box to specifically request a paper copy by regular mail

LWV Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone of voting age may become a League member.

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