

November 2023 "eVoter"

Mudhouse Specialty Coffee Roasters and Bluebird & Company hosting the "Voting Equality Bus"

November 2 - Crozet, VA - 10 am to 1 pm

On **Thursday November 2, 2023**, the *Mudhouse Specialty Coffee Roasters and Bluebird & Company* will host the **Voting Equality Bus** to benefit non-partisan, grassroots efforts for the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** and **inclusive gender equality awareness initiatives**. The event will provide the community a way to check their voter registration, learn more about the candidates running for local office, and chat with advocates about the not yet published ERA. The event will take place at Mudhouse Crozet (5793 The Square, Crozet, VA 22932) **from 10 am to 1 pm**.

The push is on to make the Equal Rights Amendment that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, permanent as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. Its limbo status has gone on too long and the Voting Equality Bus Tour is going around the country to drum up and create a groundswell of support to give teeth to it. Our Local League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area has been asked by LWV-VA work with the Voting Equality Bus Tour to spread the word for the cause for Equal Rights for Women.

Come out to show your support for this initiative. Only 20 minutes from downtown Charlottesville. Questions? Contact Lisa Hilgartner, email: lisamezzo@gmail.com

The League's banner at the Ting Pavillion on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall!

November 7 - Tuesday - Election Day! VOTE!

Need to find out about the 2023 Elections? Go to lwv-cva.org and click on "Are You Ready to Vote?" on the homepage.

Community Engagement Report: - by Lisa Hilgartner, Gerry Kruger, and Shirley Payne, committee chairs

Our team worked together this month to encourage participation in our October Community Dialogue with postcards and PSA's in print, web, and radio. We also completed online event calendars for it. Because we had notified TV stations of our event, it was covered by NBC29 news that evening.

Gerry Kruger is busy with book events for the *That's Not Fair* coloring book. She has been in touch with a summer school civics class to use this book as a teaching aid. She and Lisa are working on a

grant to cover the expense of printing these books. There is a possibility that the founders of this program will pay for the books with a grant they've been given.

Lisa Hilgartner is working with the **Voting Equality BusTour** folks who are coming to Crozet on November 2nd. They are being sponsored by Bluebird Bookshop and the MudHouse and will be in the lot near the MudHouse in Crozet. **They will be there from 10am to 1 pm.**

Please come out and join us. Our state league is working with them to promote the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Their goal is to obtain voting equality for all citizens in the US. Go to www.voteequality.us for more information.

Gun Violence Prevention Committee Annual Yearly Vigil Set for December 9 - by Beth Alley and Maggie Hoover, LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee chairs

GVP committee will hold their **annual yearly Vigil** for the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School and all out victims of mass shootings on **December 9 at noon** on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall.

It is a very short event and **absolutely all are invited** for a ringing of bell and a few moments of thoughtful reflection.

For more information please contact Maggie Hoover maggiehoover@gmail.com or Beth Alley beth.alley@gmail.com.

International Relations/Federal Gov't Report

By Gerry Kruger

On October 18, the International Relations/ Federal Government Committee enjoyed an outstanding report about India. Due to a Fulbright scholarship, which she received in 1981, Anita Pilling lived in India for a year. Diane Skalak, Carol Cutler, Susan Roberts, Rosalie Simari, Jean Minehart, Miriam Fleitiman, Rice Wagner, and Gerry Kruger were treated to Anita's firsthand stories of India's long and arduous history and current circumstances.

Anita's report included tales of tribes that invaded India as early as 2600 BCE. India's rich, natural resources were a magnet for invaders, seeking power and riches. Europeans, especially the French and British, desired their spices, silks, and great wealth. As different groups invaded India, they brought different religions and cultures. This created more divisions in its population. Of all the invaders, Great Britain did the most harm, destroying the textile industry, controlling which crops could be grown, and what could be exported. Under their rule there was widespread starvation, and they exacerbated the caste system and sectarian strife because they pitted the various groups against each other. There has always been friction among diverse groups in India.

In 1947 India gained independence with Nehru as its first Prime Minister. Education, religious tolerance, women's rights, and socialism prevailed for years. Nevertheless, the United States supported Pakistan and ignored India. As a result, India turned to Russia for weapons. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is expected to be elected again shortly. Modi's party is the Hindu Nationalist Party or the BJP. Under Modi, India has become world's fifth biggest economy, but there is a sharp contrast between the northern part of India and the South. Those in the South are richer, better educated, healthier, and more respectful of women. Modi appears to be widening the country's regional divides. The United States hopes to wean India off Russian weapons and provide them with military support. As China has become more dominant, the US wants an Asian partner. India sees American ties as economic opportunities.

Join us as we continue to study and discuss international issues and events. Anita highly recommends reading *My Promised Land* by Ari Sharvit as an excellent source of factual information on Israel, which is sure to be a topic of discussion in the near future. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 15 - noon to 2 pm at Northside Library. For more information about the IR/FG committee, contact Rice Wagner, email: ricew123@icloud.com.**

LWV CVA Community Engagement Committee News

by Lisa Hilgartner, Community Engagement Director

The end of September through mid October was a busy time for **Voter Services**. Kerin Yates had our banner placed in the front of the stage area at the TING pavilion on the Downtown Mall while I had out VOTE flags out in Scottsville and Palmyra.

We had voter information/registration drives at the Waynesboro and Scottsville Libraries, one at The Colonnades, one at The Center, and one at Stonefield on National Voter Registration Day and on the Downtown Mall for Democracy Day. Thanks to Karen Christiansen, **Meg Heubeck, Carolyn Fitzgerald, Pat Cochran, Frances Schultz, Karen Gray, and Katie Angioletti** for assisting in this important work. **At The Center along with Susan Roberts and me were Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Rhondas Landis and Beth Kariel. Lucky for us that Beth was there to sign up two new members!**

We have been working in tandem with *Cville Tomorrow* in getting out their postcards with the QRCode to get right to their voter guide. Along with our flyer that showed who was on the ballots for Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Waynesboro, they both provided sufficient information to know about the candidates for races in our area. *Vote 411* information gave important information as to what new district each voter was assigned and a portal to verify their registration status. All vital parts to achieving our mission to inform and educate the electorate.

After several years of trying to get into the schools to assist high school students in voting, we were finally successful at Western Albemarle High School. Katie Angioletti and Lisa Hilgartner worked our table during the lunch hour to assist students and spread the word about voting. Thanks to their principal, Jennifer Sublette, a new *League of Women Voters Club*, and Mr. Richmond their government teacher and sponsor we were able to make this happen. Katie and I both agreed that it was fun to talk to the students. (See photo below.)

Our state League has been asked by VCET (*Virginia Civic Engagement Table*) to assist them in their project to follow up on the curing process by the registrar offices through out the state. Our Electoral Board Observers have taken up the assignment to obtain the information weekly and send it on to them.

WAHS Voter Registration Drive - Caroline Grist (right) with Katie Angioletti (LWV CVA Vice-President) and Lisa Hilgartner organized a registration drive for Western Albemarle High School student voters.

Update your LWV CVA 2023-24 Handbook:

Welcome New LWV CVA Member!

Susan Gallander, 1417 Farrow Hill Ct., Charlottesville, VA 22901

email: Susan.gallander@me.com

LWV CVA Calendar of Events for November/December 2023 -

Mark your Calendars!

"Voting Equality Bus" - November 2 - Thursday - Crozet, 10 am to 1 pm.

Election Day - November 7 - Tuesday - VOTE!

International Relations/Federal Govt - Meeting - Northside Library on

Wednesday Nov 15, noon to 2 pm.

LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting - Northside Library on Wednesday

Nov 15, 3 - 5 pm. Also available by zoom - contact Meg Heubeck for link -

email: mfh2n@virginia.edu

Gun Violence Prevention Committee - Vigil - Downtown Mall - Saturday

December 9, noon: Beth.alley@gmail.com

LWV CVA December Holiday Gathering: Potluck Dinner - Susan Roberts' Home

- Friday, December 13 - 4 to 6 pm. There will be a "sign-up genius" link in the December eVoter.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

President: Meg Heubeck

eVoter Editor: Michele Kellermann

Visit our website: lwv-cva.org

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

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