



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
O F S A N I B E L

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

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Our Mission:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Editor's Note: If you do not see photos below, click on "display images" in your email program.

Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

The months of "season" are whizzing by and it seems that what may be a current event in the morning is past tense by 5:00! I can't begin to thank our members and friends enough for supporting the work of the League. Soon the Florida League will send advocates to Tallahassee to educate and lend their support to the policy making of high priority to League members. Watch for legislative activities from March 5 through May 3. We'll report more as the Florida Senate and House progress through their agendas over the coming weeks.



You will want to take a look at the interesting March and April luncheon programs coming up and then reserve your space. The March program couldn't be more timely with the growing public interest in U.S. and Russian relations. Our April speakers will share their deep and substantial knowledge about the drinking water issues in our region.

You are invited to attend a meeting on Saturday, March 2, at 9:00 a.m., of the League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida featuring Jackie Byers, Esq., retired Director of Research and Outreach at the National Association of Counties. She will discuss "The Impact of the 2020 Census on the Community." The meeting

will be held at the Collaboratory, Southwest Florida Community Foundation in Fort Myers. For more information and details, call 239-278-1032 or visit www.lwvlee.org.

Of Note: Friday, March 29 at 2:00 at Sanibel Congregational UCC: Bat Yam Temple of the Islands is hosting a "Know your Rights" workshop to train people interested in the topic and/or who wish to present to immigrants in our community. Presenter/trainer Adonia Simpson is a lawyer for and director of the family defense program of American Immigrant Justice in Miami. For more information contact Garry Weiss at gsw211@gmail.com.

Yours "in League,"
Robyn Cook

Coming Soon!

"A Russian Perspective on Russia-U.S. Relations"



Thursday, March 21,
2019
LWVS Luncheon &
Program
Featuring:
Sidney Picker, Jr.,
President
and
Jane M. Picker,
Vice President
& Secretary



RUSLEF (Russia-U.S. Legal Education Foundation)

The League of Women Voters of Sanibel is offering a unique and timely opportunity to hear a Russian perspective on the current state of U.S.-Russia relations and to learn about the work of Sidney and Jane Picker, emeriti law professors and Sanibel residents with a long history of dealing with Russia. In 1991, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the Pickers realized that the future of U.S.-Russia relations would change, and it was to the benefit of both, as well as to the world at large, to understand one another, beginning with their legal systems, as law serves as the foundation for society building. It was additionally important to assist Russian legal education in adapting its legal system for a post-Cold War environment of increasing interaction with the U.S. and the emerging interdependent global system.

At the time, Sidney and Jane were international law professors in Cleveland, Ohio, at the law schools of Case Western Reserve

University and Cleveland State University, respectively. Together they jointly established a Russian Legal Studies Program at their two law schools that continued until their retirement when they established RUSLEF (Russia-U.S. Legal Education Foundation), a nonprofit whose mission is to seed the rising generation of the bench and bar in Russia with a rule-of-law legal culture. Working in cooperation with ABA-accredited law schools from Maine to California, the Pickers have brought more than 100 Russian law students to study for a year in the U.S. and then return to Russia to pursue their legal careers. The participating U.S. law schools waive tuition, and RUSLEF pays non-tuition expenses.

Jane and Sidney met as students at Yale University, where Jane received her LL.B. and Sidney an LL.M. Jane also holds an A.B. from Swarthmore, and Sidney received his LL.B. from Stanford and an A.B. from Dartmouth. Both have substantial overseas experience. In addition to Russia they have lived and/or taught in Australia, South Africa, Brazil, Slovakia, Thailand, the U.K., Canada, and China. They served as Consultants on Russian Legal Education to the World Bank. Both hold honorary doctorate degrees from St. Petersburg State University as well as Novgorod State University, the first husband-and-wife team to be so recognized in Russia and the only Americans to be so honored in law by Russian universities.

Rather than having you read about it here, make your reservations to hear the Pickers discuss U.S.-Russian relations from the Russian side of the fence and also tell you about their experiences and current work. There will be time to listen and time for all of your questions.

When: Thursday, March 21. Registration at 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2 p.m. luncheon and program, with time for Q&A.

Where: Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel
RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by mail, or call Robyn Cook at 239-312-4996.

Deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is NOON on Monday, March 18.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check to:
LWV Sanibel. PO Box 1194, Sanibel 33957. Or you may pay at the door (only check or cash, please).

Please note:

Indicate with your reservation if you would prefer a vegetarian meal.

If you would like to hear the speakers only, please let us know ahead so that we can have a seat for you. The program will begin around 12:30.

**On the horizon....
League of Women Voters of Sanibel**

**2019 Annual Meeting & Program
Thursday, April 18, 2019
"Social Justice & Drinking Water"**



Patricia Borns

**Featured Speakers:
Patrica Borns and
Janine Zeitlin,
award-winning print
journalists in
Southwest Florida**



Janine Zeitlin

We hope you will join us at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Sanibel. The event will conclude our successful luncheon programs for the year. We are excited that the award-winning journalists Patricia Borns and Janine Zeitlin will be our distinguished speakers. In the past few years, they have closely reported on two social justice issues involving the devastating results of contaminated ground water in two Lee County communities: Dunbar and Charleston Park. As you will hear, their stories have truly made a difference in the lives of the affected residents.

In the Dunbar neighborhood, the City of Fort Myers had been disposing of toxic sludge in a residential area for a number of years. Only recently has the city committed to cleaning up the site. Homeowners in Charleston Park, a rural community near Alva, were using drinking water from contaminated wells. Motivated by Janine's and Patricia's coverage of this problem, a handful of Lee County citizens organized to have filtration devices installed in a number of these wells.

Both of these stories highlight the need for consistent, well-documented journalistic coverage of the often under-covered social justice issues of our day.

Patricia Borns is known for her work as a social justice reporter in Southwest Florida. She was a 2018 recipient of the Green Eyeshade and Florida Society of News Editors first place awards for public service and community leadership. She is skilled at change-making investigations and storytelling from deep source building, data, and public records. Before coming to the Fort Myers News-Press, she reported for the Miami Herald and Boston Globe, and did video reporting in Haiti where she has volunteered for a healthcare clinic.

Janine Zeitlin is a freelance writer and storyteller for the News-Press. She is also a contributor to Gulfshore Life and Gulfshore Business, and she has taught feature writing at FGCU. She was also a winner of the 2018 Green Eyeshade Award for public service, as well as the 2018 Florida Society of Newspaper Editors community

leadership award for environmental justice reporting in Southwest Florida. Her articles and essays have appeared in a variety of publications including The Washington Post, USA Today, Village Voice Media, the Miami Herald, and New York's Daily News.

The April 18 luncheon & program will take place at the Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with the lunch and program following from noon to 2 p.m. The Annual business meeting will follow, and LWVS members are urged to attend.

Luncheon meals are \$25 per person. To reserve your place, email the LWVS with the names of those attending. You can pay at the door or mail your check to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel FL 33957. RSVP by Monday, April 15, to lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

2018-2019 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President
Maria O'Brien, Vice President
Bob Terry, Treasurer
Chris Schluter, Secretary
John Kramer, Director
Barbara Moore, Director
Rick Siders, Director
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Carla Benninga, Director Emerita
Off Board: Dorit Fisher, Membership
Barbara Freeman, Communications

2018-2019 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Judy Adler, Linda Kramer, Bob Terry

LWVS Founders, aka "founding mothers"



Carla Benninga
Linda Kramer
Linda Robison

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend all board meetings, which are held at noon at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank: Monday, March 18, and Thursday, April 11.