



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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## STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-February 2018

### LWVMD Calendar

#### February

14 – Wednesday, League of Women Voters 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

19 – Monday, Presidents' Day, LWVMD Office Closed

27 – Tuesday, Deadline for candidates to file to run for office in Maryland.

#### March

5 – Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, FELC Ellicott City, 10am.

6 – Tuesday, Legislative Day, Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, 8:30am

Planning your local league calendar? Click [here](#) to see the whole 2017-2018 calendar.

## Presidents' Message



During the past few weeks I have had the privilege of testifying before the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Session on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Nancy Soreng, former LWVMD President, and I have testified on several election bills and will be testifying on more as the session evolves. It is interesting to note how little in-person support, either pro or con, these bills receive. It seems that the League of Women Voters is one of the

few go-to organizations that legislators count on to speak to the important topic of election and voting reform. Of course, since we are a multi-issue organization, we have also submitted testimony for bills in several other areas. This State Board Letter will summarize these actions.

Another way of keeping on top of what is happening in Annapolis is [Report from State Circle](#) (RSC), our State Legislative Session newsletter. Thanks go out to our diligent RSC reporters and editor, Judith Heimann; as well as Lois Hybl, Action chair and Ashley Oleson, Administrative Director. As a team they are the backbone of our efforts during this Legislative Session.

Since League is a grassroots organization, you also have a chance to connect with your state legislators and speak for the League at our upcoming [Legislative Day](#) on Tuesday March 6.

Once you are registered, be sure to inform your Local League so that they can schedule appointments for you with your Legislators. We will provide all the material you need in order to discuss the bills that the League is particularly interested in supporting or opposing. Please see our attached flyer for a complete agenda and registration information. If time is not a problem, consider attending a 1:00PM Senate or House Committee hearing.

Another great opportunity for Maryland Leaguers and their guests is our [Spring True Grit Tour](#) on Tuesday May 15. Here is a chance to support the League while you discover [Harriett Tubman](#) who led scores of people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Then mosey on down to the home of Phoebe Anne Mosey, who shot her way to stardom as sharpshooter [Annie Oakley](#). [Bea Arthur](#), a Cambridge native, served as an early United States Marine, later becoming a comedienne serving up laughter as our favorite Golden Girl.

*Elaine Apter,*  
LWVMD Co-President  
[pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org)

## February Board Meeting

The Winter Workshop was a great success. Thanks go out to all who attended. The Board is busy working on a successful [Legislative Day](#) for March 6. Be sure to register now for a morning of learning, socializing, and advocacy for LWV issues and positions. Our [Spring Fundraiser](#) is also fast approaching. Join us for a fun trip on the Eastern Shore. You'll want to register now for the True Grit Tour, as space is limited. Joyce is doing a great job with wares. Be sure to [peruse the items](#) the league has for sale. They make great gifts, and so does a [gift membership](#) which is also available now. Thank you to all the local Leagues for supporting your State Board, don't hesitate to let us know how to better help you.

*Theresa Freligh,*  
LWVMD Secretary  
[secretary@lwvmd.org](mailto:secretary@lwvmd.org)

## Statewide Participation at Winter Workshop

Our Winter Workshop was a huge success thanks to our presenters and the fact that every Maryland local League was represented. We were so inspired to see statewide participation in these important issues and opportunities for the League.



Ralph Watkins, LWVMD Voter Service VP, presented a timely presentation on election forum procedures and guidelines. This was followed by Nancy Soreng's informative talk on conducting condo elections as local league fundraisers. Carolyn Hetterick, LWVMD Treasurer, provided two excellent question and answer sessions for local League Treasurers et al. Each session provided attendees with materials and ideas for supporting our League work.

Our luncheon speakers reported on [ALICE](#), an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE is a study released by United Ways with valuable statistics about Maryland including specific information on each county. Several Local Leagues have already scheduled speakers on ALICE for their upcoming meetings.

Thanks to the entire State Board for their help in making the Winter Workshop such a successful event. And a special thanks to the weather gods for such a beautiful day.

*Elaine Apter,*  
LWVMD Co-President  
[pres@lwmvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwmvmd.org)

## Empower the Ones You Love

98 years ago, a love affair began... a love affair with democracy, advocacy and women's right to participate in it all. The League of Women Voters turns 98 this Valentine's Day. Our mission to educate voters, and encourage informed citizen participation in a non-partisan way has never wavered. Today we continue the legacy of our founders by educating all Marylanders on the issues and empowering them to engage in their democracy to create a high functioning and responsive government.



As you know, membership in the LWVMD gives you a chance to learn how to make a difference in your community and in Maryland by researching and evaluating topics which directly affect the lives of everyday Marylanders. This research then helps the League create narratives which can change or create laws, ordinances, and regulations.

Give a membership today by following this link:  
[https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/gift\\_membership](https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/gift_membership)

Love Democracy, Love Maryland, Love the League!

## Focus on a Local League

### Baltimore City League: Focused on Youth Voter Registration



#### Voter Registration:

The Baltimore City League wanted to prioritize high school voter registration and voting this year. A grant from the LWV

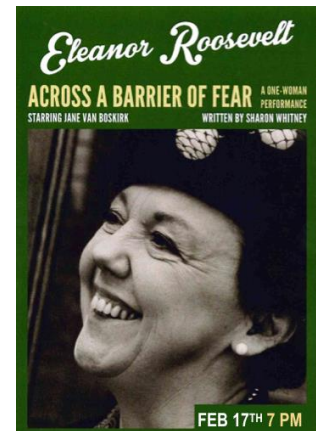
Education Fund (LWVEF) has provided an additional incentive. To help us identify schools that might be underserved in voter registration, we contacted League member, Julia Baez, Executive Director of Baltimore's Promise (a collaborative for youth programs). She helped us work with the Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Family and Community Engagement which put us in contact with Community School Coordinators in five high schools—Ben Franklin, Patterson, Frederick Douglass, Reginal Lewis, and Western. We will also return to Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) where we have been registering voters around National Voter Registration Day.

On one Tuesday per month, January through May, we will either register voters during the lunch periods or provide voter education or election information. We are having registered students sign pledges to vote on self-addressed postcards with information about Vote411 and election dates. These will be mailed close to the primary election early voting. In spite of many schedule changes due to weather and mid-term exams, 12 volunteers registered 84 students in January. Argentine Craig is the project director. Flo Valentine, Co-President, is coordinating the volunteers.

**City Council Breakfast:** Nine councilpersons (of 15) and approximately 50 guests participated in a lively discussion at our first City Council Breakfast on November 4 at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. While we have traditionally had a Legislative Breakfast in January, this was our first City Council breakfast. Unfortunately, our January Legislative Breakfast had to be cancelled due to a flood from broken pipes at the church location.

#### **"Eleanor Roosevelt: Across a Barrier of Fear":**

This is a one-woman show starring Jane Van Boskirk which will be performed at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, on Saturday, February 17, at 7 pm. The church is



sponsoring the event to raise money for social action projects, but reached out to the League and other organizations to promote ticket sales in exchange for part of the proceeds, an ad in the program booklet and an information table at the event. The Baltimore County League is also advertising the performance. We thought it would be of special interest to League members because of Eleanor Roosevelt's activism.

Look for the flyer at the end of this Board letter, or call 410-825-6045 to order tickets by phone.

Lois Hybl,  
LWV Baltimore City  
[vp1@lwvmd.org](mailto:vp1@lwvmd.org)



## What Would You Do About Gerrymandering?

Please [click here](#) to let us know what you think should be done to address the problem of Gerrymandering. We would love to be able to tell our elected officials that 1,000s of people weighted in on what they think is the most important reform to improve the redistricting process. After you fill out the survey share the link with your friends, family and list-serves. Then, make sure the link is included in your local League newsletter.



## WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT GERRYMANDERING IN MARYLAND?

Making Your Voice Heard is as Easy as

1

2

3

Thanks for helping the League of Women Voters of Maryland Tame the Gerrymander!

## Meet Your New State Intern



**Brielle Rozmus** - *I am currently a junior at Hood College, I am studying Law and Criminal Justice with minors in Political Science and Nonprofit and Civic Engagement studies. I got interested in the League due to a research project with Dr. Hoda Zaki. I studied the Frederick County League's history, and explored the purpose of the League. My favorite part of the research project was the 2017 state convention I attended. Seeing the state League work was inspiring. I love how what the League focuses on is decided upon by consensus of its members, not by a single person.*

*My Internship in the state League office has been absolutely amazing. I have learned so much about LWVMD, from putting the Report from State Circle together to testifying on bills. Everything we do at the office helps pass important legislation. I can't wait for Legislative Day and the opportunity to see League members in their element.*

## Legislative Testimony: How it Works

Now is the time we act on the legislative priorities we developed last fall, and on other issues based on state and/or national consensus positions. Some bills have already had hearings. For example, the League testified for [HB 152, the Secure and Accessible Registration Act](#). By registering to vote through a convenient dual-purpose application at the time of routine and necessary transactions with certain state and local agencies, voters won't have to worry about registration deadlines or application submissions. Also, name and address changes will be automatically sent to election officials allowing them to keep voter rolls current. Testimony has been submitted on many campaign finance bills, as well. Redistricting bills are coming up soon. Bills which might provide a "Bridge to Kirwan" to increase funding for PreK-12 public education have not been introduced yet, but LWVMD did oppose \$8.5 million budgeted for the BOOST Scholarship program for nonpublic schools. By the time you receive this SBL, you will have received an Action Alert to support the [Maryland Metro Funding Act \(HB 372 and SB 277\)](#). Please contact your legislators when you receive this and other alerts.

To get an educational update on legislation on various topics, read [Report from State Circle \(RSC\)](#). But to see all the positions the League has taken so far, go to the [Testimony](#) page where you can click on the title of the bill to read the testimony.

The RSC reporters are our "experts," and they closely follow bills and write testimony on their areas of expertise for RSC. We all owe them a big thanks for keeping a close eye out for relevant legislation during the intense MD General Assembly session. If you have questions on specific pieces of legislation, the respective RSC reporter may be the person to ask. Our 2018 reporters and the areas they follow are:

GOVERNMENT		SOCIAL POLICY	
Administration of justice	Marlene Cohn	Children's services	Judy Morenoff
Campaign finance	Nancy Soreng	Domestic violence	Deborah Mitchell
Campaign finance	Jennifer McGuire "YPVP"	Drug abuse	Chris Hager
Corrections	Marlene Cohn	Education	Lois Hybl
Election process	Lu Pierson	Education (vouchers and charters)	Pat Gordon
Ethics	Betsy Sexton	Equality of opportunity	Ruth Crystal
Fire arms control	Mary Ellis	Health care	Neilson Andrews
Juvenile corrections	Judy Morenoff	Human trafficking	Deborah Mitchell
Juvenile corrections	Jill Muth "YPVP"	Immigration	Carole Conors
Police accountability	Marlene Cohn	Meeting basic human needs	Ruth Crystal
Redistricting	Ashley Oleson	Meeting basic human needs	Sakiera Malone "YPVP"
State budget & taxes	Barbara Hankins		
Transparency in government	Valerie Glenn		

NATURAL RESOURCES			EDITING & REVIEW TEAM	
Climate change	Betsy Singer			
Land Use	Susan Cochran		RSC Editor	Judith Heimann
Renewable energy	Shari Glenn			
Storm water, bay, phosphorus, pesticides, recycling	Linda Silversmith		Action Chair	Lois Hybl
			Administrative Director	Ashley Oleson
Transportation	Bee Ditzler		Co-President	Elaine Apter
			Co-President	Richard Willson

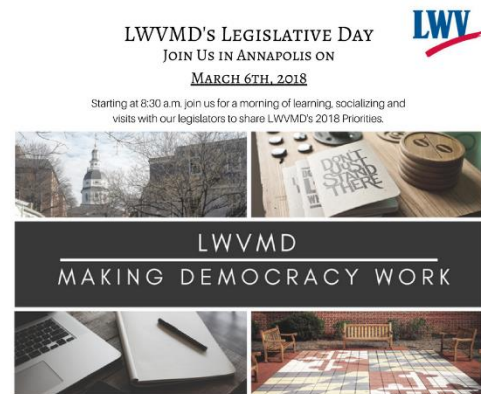
## Registration for Legislative Day

Please get your registrations in by **February 28** to join us in Annapolis for an exciting [Legislative Day](#) on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>! We can't guarantee you an information folder if you don't register by the deadline. See the flyer in this issue of the State Board Letter to register.

From 8:40 to 10 a.m, you have a choice of lobbying your representatives (Don't forget to make your appointments soon) or taking a tour of the statehouse complex. After we review results of legislator visits and discuss our priority legislation, Victoria Gruber the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) will provide an overview of the state budget. Before Gruber joined DLS, she had been Senate President Miller's chief of staff since 2006. From 1996 to 2006, she worked for DLS, first as a policy analyst, then as senior legislative counsel to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee. She also worked as a lobbyist while attending the University of Baltimore Law School.

Our luncheon speaker, Nikki Baines Charlson the Deputy State Administrator of the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE), will speak on Election Security. She joined SBE in 2002 and was involved in implementing the requirements of the federal [Help America Vote Act of 2002](#). She assists the State Administrator with managing the office and overseeing the administration of elections in Maryland, including implementation of a new voting system and same day registration and address changes during early voting. Prior to her appointment as the Deputy Administrator, she oversaw projects involving election official and public education to improve accessibility of the electoral process for individuals with disabilities. Charlson helped develop and implement SBE's first comprehensive post-election audit and oversaw the development and implementation of SBE's online services, including online voter registration and online ballot delivery.

This will an informative day for all and a wonderful chance to acquaint new members and guests with the workings of the General Assembly and LWV action on legislation.





## Voter Service Edition

As we all know, 2018 is a statewide election year for Maryland, and this means the League has a lot of important work to do to ensure that every Marylander is informed on the candidates and the issues. While [local Leagues](#) have built strong Voter Service teams to share information in their communities, the State has several counties to cover that do not currently have an active League. Our dedicated [Voter Service](#) Chair, Ralph Watkins heads this initiative with skill and charisma.

This year, we've combined this effort to educate voters with our efforts to engage young professionals in the work that we do. We have developed and recruited for a [Young Professional Program - Voter Service Edition](#), and we are thrilled to announce that we have found three excellent candidates who are excited about Voter Services (look for introductions in the next SBL). There will be two cycles of this program to cover the primaries in June, and the general election in November. Our current recruits have the important job of getting information from the primary candidates when they file at the end of this month(!) for [Vote411.org](#).

An important element of the program will be coming up with creative online messaging to direct people to the information all Voter Service volunteers have dutifully retrieved and entered in [Vote411.org](#). I will be in charge of helping these Young Professionals with a social media campaign that informs people all over Maryland about the kind of valuable information they can gain access through on [Vote411.org](#) and through print [Voters' Guides](#).

Ralph and I are looking forward to getting started on this initiative to educate voters and send a well-informed electorate to the polls!

*Ashley Oleson,*  
LWVMD Administrative Director  
[stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org)





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND  
**LEGISLATIVE DAY**  
**Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

Miller Senate Office Building  
Miller Conference Room, West Wing  
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD



Registration fee: \$35 Members/\$40 - Guests  
Includes buffet lunch Parking not included

**Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.**

- 8:30am Registration and Coffee
- 8:30 -10:00 am Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues  
**Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.**
- 8:40 -10:0 am Optional tour of Legislative complex
- 10:00 am Report on legislative visits
- 10:15 am Discussion of proposed legislation impacting the League's legislative priorities
- 11:00 am State budget presentation by Victoria Gruber,  
Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services
- 11:45 am Discussion of impact of budget on our legislative priorities
- Noon Lunch - Speaker: Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator,  
State Board of Elections, will speak on Election Security
- 1:00 pm Optional visits to committee hearings

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**LEGISLATIVE DAY 2018 REGISTRATION FORM**

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office.

(Deadline for Registration - Wednesday, February 28, 2018)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee - \$35/\$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Or donate online: Go to [http://www.lwvmd.org/join\\_donate](http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register online: [http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative\\_day\\_2018](http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative_day_2018)

# LEGENDARY LADIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE

## TRUE GRIT



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Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Maryland, Inc., & League of Women Voters Prince George County

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

**Join us for a Tour of History, Fun & Adventure!**

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Come to the shore and celebrate centuries of legendary local ladies. Discover [Harriett Tubman](#) who led scores of people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Then mosey on down to the home of Phoebe Anne Mosey, who shot her way to stardom as sharpshooter [Annie Oakley](#). [Bea Arthur](#), a Cambridge native, served as an early United States Marine, later becoming a comedienne serving up laughter as our favorite Golden Girl.

Meet your local step-on guide at the [Dorchester County/Sailwinds Visitor Center](#) and then wind through the picturesque rural landscape on Maryland's Eastern Shore exploring the childhood, teen and young adult years of Harriet Tubman's life. Visit the 1800's general store which was the site of her first act of defiance. Hear stories about her life as a slave, her family and escapes along the Underground Railroad in this area. Visit the Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. Tour downtown Cambridge including Pine Street, Freedom House/Black House, Annie Oakley, Bea Arthur, Courthouse, High Street and Long Wharf (slave trading sites).

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*See Next Page for Details*

## True Grit Tour Details

### Bus Options:

*Baltimore* - Meet at 6:45 am at Greenspring Shopping Center Parking Lot, 2801 Smith Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209

*Annapolis* - Meet at 7:45 am at Riva Road Park and Ride

**Lunch - will be included** at the Portside Restaurant in Downtown Cambridge, MD with your pre-selected choice of grilled chicken breast or traditional Eastern Shore crab cake. Vegetarian meal also available.

*\*\*\*Tour package includes local step-on guide for a full day of touring, basic guide gratuity, Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad sites, donation/admission to Bucktown Village Store, lunch, meal tax and gratuity, guide gratuity, round trip motor coach transportation via Superior Tours and driver gratuity.*

**Dinner - will be on your own** at Cracker Barrel in Stevensville, MD

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You may choose to make a \$40 deposit at this time, and **pay the full amount of \$140 by April 14th** to finalize your ticket purchase and reserve your seat.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Hetterick (410-935-5925) & Joyce Duckett at  
[truegrittour@lwvmd.org](mailto:truegrittour@lwvmd.org)

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### Reservation Form for True Grit: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

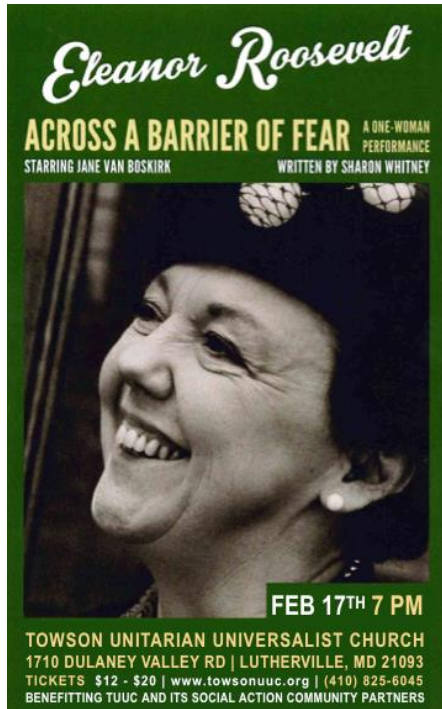
Board bus: Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_ Annapolis \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs or Dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRÉE CHOICE: Grilled Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Shore Crab Cake \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks to LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401  
OR pay online at [http://www.lwvmd.org/true\\_grit\\_tour](http://www.lwvmd.org/true_grit_tour)



BENEFITTING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BALTIMORE CITY, TUUC & ITS SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY PARTNERS (Earl's Place to house men healing from addictions | Mentoring Male Teens In The Hood to educate young men to the world beyond their neighborhoods | Araminta Freedom Initiative to battle child sex trafficking | Assistance Center of Towson Churches to provide food for the hungry and services to the homeless)

### **Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 – 1962)**

She was at one time the most loved woman in the world, and the most despised. She was an aristocrat who believed in “vision and bigness of soul,” the author of books and magazine columns, the wife of four-time President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and a diplomat and tireless worker for universal human rights. Nevertheless, she began life as an “ugly duckling,” painfully shy and lonely. Our play tells how she ultimately achieved greatness, “across a barrier of fear.” Sharon Whitney

Jane Van Boskirk is a founder of the Oregon Repertory Theatre in Eugene. She has been seen in dozens of productions throughout the Northwest since 1980. Her one-woman touring shows include “Prodigal Daughters,” “Hillbilly Women,” and “The Youngest Pioneer.” Other plays she has appeared in are “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf,” “Tom and Viv,” “The Diary of Anne Frank,” and “Little Women.”

Sharon Whitney is the author of 11 prize winning plays and four books, including a 1986 biography of Eleanor Roosevelt for young adults. She has received various awards, including playwriting fellowships from the Oregon Institute for Literary Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission.

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Jane’s performance is particularly compelling in these times of intense political discord when many are questioning the role of government in providing opportunities for the economic success and prosperity of all of its subjects. Performance will be at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093.

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Tickets (Deadline to order from LWV Baltimore City, February 14)

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: \$20 | No. \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Senior(65+)/Student: \$15 No. \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Child (under 12): \$12 No. \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: LWV Baltimore City with “Eleanor Roosevelt” on memo line. Send to LWV Baltimore City, 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212. Tickets will be available at the door the night of the performance.