



# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

---

President: JINKY GARDNER

DECEMBER 2006 – JANUARY 2007

Editors: A. KISCH AND J. BRANDES

---

## AFTER THE VOTES ARE COUNTED

By the time you read this, the election will be over and the votes counted. We all will have had a chance to relax, breathe, take time off; in other words, indulge in R & R. Right? Right - we earned it! *But as you know rest and down time re-energizes, and after an election is over our most important work lies ahead!* We now have new officials to meet and work with. Our Action VP will be setting up interviews with them. Contact *Helene Lecar*, 549-9719, if you'd like to be part of the interview team. We'll need to print a new "Who Represents You" flyer, of course. It will be available at the League office soon. Come in and take enough for friends and neighbors.

Our Civics Ed committee has been busy with Mock Elections. *Bill Chapman* set up a section of our website for students to use for registration and on-line voting. Albany High School participated. Now the committee will begin efforts to reach the schools in other ways. Two of us visited Pleasanton High to see their Civic Mission of Schools curriculum in action. It was exciting to see the students learn to take the lead in producing public events on issues that they care passionately about. These students and their teachers would like to bring word of this program to Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville schools. If you are interested in working with the Civics Ed committee to help bring civics education to all grade levels, come to our monthly meetings 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesdays. For more information call *Bill Chapman*, 527-0827, or *Cathy Lynch*, 527-2173.

On the health care front, we have word that State Senator Sheila Kuehl will reintroduce her single-payer health care legislation (SB840). It passed both houses last summer, but the governor vetoed it. It is an extremely good plan that would cover all Californians. Our State League lobbied strongly and effectively on behalf of Kuehl's bill, and has joined the OneCareNow campaign that is now gearing up to back the legislation when it's reintroduced. This will be an important fight, and *Ursula Rolfe*, a retired pediatrician who is serving on our Board as Director of Health Care, will be planning a major event this spring. But she can't do it alone. "No duh," I hear you say. Well, jump on board! Let *Ursula*, 841-2239, know of your interest. The event that we put together will depend on who and how many can help. Put your ideas together for something that will be fun to do, and that will get the word out.

As you can see, there's a lot to do as soon as you've recharged your batteries. Jump in right away or wait until after the holidays, then jump in with new year's vigor. The League of Women Voters is not about to work itself out of a job!

*Jinky Gardner*, President

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**BAY AREA DAY**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2007**  
**10 AM – 1 PM**

LWVBAE members will get a larger look at housing needs and “smart growth” concepts when the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA) presents its annual Bay Area Day on Saturday, January 27, 2007, in San Mateo. The keynote speaker will be John King, Urban Design writer at the San Francisco Chronicle, who will speak on “Successful Smart Growth Design for the Bay Area.”

Following Mr. King’s talk will be panel discussions on topics such as:

- The Bay Area League’s “Focusing Our Vision” project;
- Redefining Regional ‘Smart Growth’ Criteria;
- New Round of Regional Housing Needs Allocations and Housing Element Updates.

The final program schedule will be available on the LWVBA website [www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org) by the end of November.

Anyone interested in attending Bay Area Day 2007 should contact Luanne Rogers, LWVBAE Program VP, at the LWVBAE office (510) 843-8824; Luanne will provide further information and will coordinate carpooling. The program costs \$10 per person.

See you there!

*Jane Brandes*  
 VOTER Co-Editor

**NEW OFFICE MANAGER**

We have found a new office manager. Her name is Cheryl Nichols and she comes with the highest of recommendations - *Karen Carlson-Olson*, our manager for the past eight years, says Cheryl “is terrific.” They have known each other for years as they raised their children in the Albany schools, were active in the PTA, and helped in the classroom. Both of them are ready to spread their wings and start something new - *Karen*, by using her well-honed office and organizing skills on a new assignment, and Cheryl, by applying her prioritizing talents and enthusiasm to the League’s field of citizen empowerment.

We are grateful to *Karen* for her many years of service. We’ll miss her in the office, but we look forward to her participation on various committees and projects.

We welcome Cheryl who will have completed her training by the time this Voter arrives in your mail box. Come to the office and meet our new manager.

**The VOTER**

Published monthly except January, June & August  
 by

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D  
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Telephone: (510) 843-8824  
 Facsimile: (510) 843-8828  
 Email: [office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org)

The VOTER is free to members, \$10/year for non-members. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website: <http://lwvbae.org/>.

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**  
**LAWRENCE BERKELEY**  
**NATIONAL LABORATORY**

In pursuance of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has issued a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Demolition of Building 10 and Construction and Operation of a User Support Building. The Notice is available at the reference desk of the main Berkeley Public Library, at the LBNL Library or at [www.lbl.gov/Community/index.html](http://www.lbl.gov/Community/index.html). The public review and comment period is from November 6 to December 8, 2006.

*Gil Bendix*  
 Environmental Concerns

**IN THIS ISSUE**

PAGE	
1	AFTER THE VOTES ARE COUNTED
2	BAY AREA DAY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS NEW OFFICE MANAGER
3	STANLEY BENJAMIN WRIGHT HOLIDAY SHOPPING BOOKS STILL NEEDED NEW MEMBERS
4	ELECTION SERVICES REPORT OCTOBER DONATIONS BROWN BAG LUNCHES???
5	PESTICIDE RESEARCH & RECOVERY
6	CALENDAR

## STANLEY BENJAMIN WRIGHT

AUGUST 13, 1932 – OCTOBER 17, 2006

Stanley B. Wright, husband of LWVBAE Recording Secretary and Board member, *Angharad Jones*, passed away on October 17, 2006. Stan was a retired junior and senior high school teacher and counselor, and was loved by all who had the good fortune to know him. Our hearts go out to *Angharad* and to their extended and extensive family in the United States, Northern Ireland, Ireland and the British Isles, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. To honor and commemorate Stan's remarkable life, donations may be made to the Cal tennis team c/o Peter Wright, 115 Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Holidays are coming, and our office has just the gift you need for those you love or at least like, not to mention that total stranger whose name you drew in the office gift exchange.

These small, thoughtfully-chosen items include: The U.S. Constitution (\$2 for one, \$5 for three); Suffragist Note Cards (packet of 8 cards for \$10); mugs with the League logo (\$5 each); copies of *The Sixth Star*, a book which contains images and memorabilia of California Women's Political History 1868-1915 (\$10); canvas tote bags with the Suffragist figure (\$20 each); and last but not least, boxes of different blends of the famous "Voters' Choice Tea" (\$3.50 for one box and \$10 for three boxes); we have a large supply of the teas, in particular.

Please call the League office (843-8824) and leave a message to let us know when you'd like to come in. The office is not always staffed. We'll return your call to confirm the time.

Our coffers can use your suggested donations (payment for items), and your purchases will help to free up office space. We look forward to your order!

*Karen Carlson-Olson*  
Member, LWVBAE

## BOOKS STILL NEEDED FOR BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

As many of you know, Berkeley City College (formerly Vista College) has moved into a beautiful new building – a considerable improvement over their former quarters. There is a very large library in the new facility, and our donations are needed to help fill the shelves!

The Berkeley City College Library is particularly interested in:

- Foreign language dictionaries
- Classics
- Byron
- Chaucer
- Dante
- Fitzgerald
- Hemingway
- Literary criticism
- African-American history and literature
- Asian-American history and literature
- Hispanic-American history and literature
- Macroeconomics & microeconomics
- Art, artists
- Film/cinema
- Books by Howard Zinn and Arundhati Roy (any titles)

Since our article appeared in last month's *VOTER*, LWVBAE members *Evelyn Light*, *Alba Witkin* and *Flossie Lewis* came through with book donations, and *Adeline Kahn* facilitated a contact with the Friends of the Berkeley Library, which resulted in a very large donation to the Berkeley City College Library. All of these efforts are much appreciated, and donors should know that their gifts are being put to very good use.

As always, I am willing to pick up donations and deliver them to the library; books must be clean and in good condition. Please feel free to contact me either by email at [marshaskinner@yahoo.com](mailto:marshaskinner@yahoo.com) or by telephone at (510) 526-1154.

*Marsha Skinner*  
Albany Action

## NEW MEMBERS

OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

*Sarah Anderson*  
*Jean Holmes*  
*Sondra Schlesinger*  
*Rose M. Williams*

## ELECTION SERVICES REPORT

Hello, League members. As you read this, the election has occurred. Whatever happened, happened. But cast your thoughts back to last summer, when initiative petitions were being qualified, candidates were filing and we were gearing up for Election Services.

*Lessly Wikle Field* organized the writing and production of local measure Pros and Cons, and she thanked those who participated in the last *VOTER*. *Sherry Smith* was in charge of the Smartvoter website for our area.

Candidates' forums for Berkeley City Council and School Board candidates were taped at Berkeley Community Media, through the efforts of *Jill Martinucci*, *Masako Yamada*, *Doris Fine*, *Lessly Field*, *Phoebe Watts*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Neil Goldstein*, *Jinky Gardner* and *Mim Hawley*.

Candidates' forums for candidates for Albany City Council and School Board candidates were held with the help of *Lessly Field*, *Anne Henderson*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Barbara Nelson*, *Karen Carlson-Olson*, *Jean Safir*, *Fran Packard*, *Luanne Rogers*, *Jody Bush*, *Karen Nelson* and students from Albany Middle School. League members *Rachelle Distefano* and *Phoebe Watts* helped facilitate a mayoral candidates' meeting at Berkeley City College.

The League registered voters and distributed election information at the Solano Stroll, How Berkeley Can You Be?, the Spice of Life Festival and at the State Farm Insurance Company in Emeryville. Only a partial list of those who helped is available at presstime: *Nancy and Peter Bickel*, *Jinky and Mike Gardner*, *Phoebe Watts*, *Mary Lou Breiman*, *Cecile Briar* and *Karen Nelson*.

The following League members spoke about the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures in 25 presentations: *Jody Bush*, *Lessly Field*, *Jinky Gardner*, *Anne Henderson*, *Betty Hicks*, *Helene Lecar*, *Cathy Lynch*, *Fran Packard*, *Luanne Rogers*, *Sherry Smith*, *Mary Wainwright* and *Phoebe Watts*.

Many League members distributed our election materials: *Claudia Berger*, *Nancy Bickel*, *Jody Bush*, *Karen Carlson-Olson*, *Bill Chapman*, *Constance Fraser*, *Jinky Gardner*, *Betty Hicks*, *Alice Kisch*, *Helene Lecar*, *Doris Nassiry*, *Barbara Nelson*, *Karen Nelson*, *Ginette Polak*, *Luanne Rogers*, *Ursula Rolfe*, *Jean Safir*, *Marsha Skinner*, *Sherry Smith*, *Janet Strothman* and *Phoebe Watts*. *Bob Compton* and *Aimee Riechel* assisted.

Our many thanks to all who participated and made the effort successful.

*Betty Hicks* and *Phoebe Watts*  
Election Services Co-Chairs

## OCTOBER DONATIONS

### TO THE GENERAL FUND

*Helen Canin*  
*Edith Gladstone*  
*Ann-Marie Hogan*  
*Julie Nachtwey*  
*Penelope Nellis*  
Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship

### TO THE TRIBUTE FUND

*Peter and Nancy Bickel*  
in memory of *Eva Brecher*

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Mary Friedman*

*Louetta Erlin*  
Donations Secretary

## BROWN BAG LUNCHESES???

*Luanne Rogers*, LWVBAE Vice President for Programs, is eager to revive the luncheon-presentation-discussion meetings which were enjoyed by so many of us in former years. These informal, hour-long informational gatherings feature a speaker followed by a question-and-answer period; all interested persons are welcome to participate. The topics are of relevant or pressing interest, and the speakers are individuals with experience and expertise in their respective areas.

These gatherings are a great way to keep informed on subjects of current interest as well as League activities and initiatives. A likely venue for the meetings is the Albany Public Library on Marin Avenue, which affords a central location and easy parking. We anticipate that Brown Bag Lunches will resume in February 2007.

If you are interested in joining in the fun, send *Luanne* an email at [luannerogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luannerogers@sbcglobal.net) or telephone her at (510) 559-1006. Once you start, you'll likely to become A Regular!

*Alice Kisch*  
VOTER Editor

---

As VOTER Editor *Alice Kisch* will be out of the country from December 20 to January 20, *Bill Chapman* will coordinate the February 2007 VOTER, the deadline for which is 5 pm, Friday, January 5, 2007. Submissions to the February VOTER may be sent to *Bill* at [bill@classroomtools.com](mailto:bill@classroomtools.com). *Bill's* telephone number is (510) 527-0827.

## PESTICIDE RESEARCH AND RECOVERY IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Pesticide research and recovery in San Francisco Bay was the topic of an address to LWVBAE Environmental Concerns group November 13 by Ben Greenfield, Environmental Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute ([www.sfei.org](http://www.sfei.org)). Greenfield's research focuses on the fate and bioavailability of PCBs, pesticides, mercury, and other legacy pollutants. Since 1995, he has worked on aquatic ecology projects in six U.S. states, and has collaborated on 24 peer-reviewed journal publications and technical reports in aquatic environmental sciences.

Pollution in the waters of San Francisco Bay is an ongoing problem. Pesticides and heavy metals enter the water, as well as sediments from many sources including runoff from California's Central Valley and local watersheds, biological and chemical pollutants from industrial and municipal sources, atmospheric deposition, erosion of historically contaminated sediment deposits, and dredging.

The SFEI Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay and related research projects focus on both spatial patterns and long-term trends of contamination.

Monitoring of the spatial distribution of contaminants sometimes can be helpful in identifying possible areas of source clean-up. Other times, the spatial patterns may be useful to identify areas where wildlife may be more highly exposed. Greenfield has been part of a four-year study that researched locations where small forage fish have high mercury concentrations, posing a risk to wildlife predators.

Long-term trends can be useful for management activities such as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, which is mandated by the Clean Water Act. By monitoring every year or every few years, researchers gather a sense of the rate at which pollutants are naturally declining in order to estimate when these pollutants will pose less of a problem.

Some legacy contaminants, such as PCBs and pesticides, show evidence of gradual declines. (See winter 2006 RMP News on legacy pesticides at ). This is good news about these problem contaminants, but the declines are slow, often taking decades. Some legacy contaminants, such as mercury and selenium, don't really seem to consistently increase or decrease over time.

Many legacy pesticides, such as DDTs, are

neurotoxins classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as probable human carcinogens. They are persistent in the environment and subject to accumulation as they move up aquatic food webs.

Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFCs) are a class of synthetic compounds that have recently been discovered to be widespread in human blood and wildlife tissue at concentrations that are generating concern from scientists and the EPA. PFCs have been manufactured for over 50 years and have been widely used as refrigerants, surfactants and polymers, and as components of pharmaceuticals, retardants, lubricants, adhesives, cosmetics, paper coatings and insecticides. New PFC pollutants that are being introduced are of great concern. Many of these are found in personal care products, articles of clothing and home furnishings, and are now found in San Francisco Bay sediments. Common products that contain PFCs include Teflon®, Gore-Tex® and Scotchgard.

(See Winter 2004/2005 RMP Update Cover Article - 05.pdf)

Also of great concern and receiving greater scientific attention is the fact that Pyrethroid insecticides, which are commonly used to control home and garden pests in residential areas, are found increasingly in Bay Area creeks and streams where they show evidence of negatively impacting the bottom-feeding invertebrates that live there. Dr. Don Weston of the USEPA has spearheaded a large research effort to study the distribution and effects of these pollutants. Pyrethroids commonly found in retail products under the "active ingredient" listing often end in "thrin", such as Permethrin; Bifenthrin; Cyfluthrin; Lambda-cyhalothrin; Cypermethrin; Deltamethrin and Resmethrin. Another is Esfenvalarate. Pyrethroid pesticides available in San Francisco Bay area retail outlets can be found at the American Chemical Society publications website at [www.pubs.acs.org](http://www.pubs.acs.org).

Look for more information at the SFEI website or in the publication SFEI (2006). *The Pulse of the Estuary: Monitoring and Managing Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary*, SFEI contribution 517, SFEI, Oakland, CA. For more information contact: Ben Greenfield, Environmental Scientist, SFEI, 510-746-7385, [ben@sfei.org](mailto:ben@sfei.org).

*Gail Schickele*  
Environmental Concerns



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**  
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville  
1414 University Ave., Suite D  
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Berkeley, CA**  
**Permit No. 29**



## CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

### IT'S EASY TO JOIN The LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip this coupon and mail it with your check for \$65 Annual Dues made out to:

**LWVBAE**

**1414 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE D  
BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel. Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible, to extent allowed by law.

#### NOVEMBER

23 Thurs. - 24 Fri.  
30 Thurs. 7:30 pm

**THANKSGIVING** - LWVBAE office closed  
Action Committee, *Phoebe Watts'* house, *H. Lecar*, 549-9719  
1419 Grant Street

#### DECEMBER

7 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
11 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm  
23 Sat. - 31 Sun.

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner*, 548-5292  
Environmental Concerns, *C. Stone*, 549-0959  
1340 Arch St. (Horst Bansner's house)  
**LWVBAE office closed for holiday season**

#### JANUARY

1 Mon.  
4 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
5 Fri. 5 pm  
8 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm  
15 Mon.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** - LWVBAE office closed  
Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner*, 548-5292  
**Deadline for February VOTER** *B. Chapman*, 527-0827  
Environmental Concerns, *C. Stone*, 549-0959  
1340 Arch St. (Horst Bansner's house)

25 Thurs. 7:30 pm  
27 Sat. 10 am-1 pm

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY** -  
**LWVBAE office closed**  
Action Committee, LWVBAE office *H. Lecar*, 549-9719  
Bay Area Day, San Mateo (see p. 2) *L. Rogers*, 843-8824

#### FEBRUARY

1 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
2 Fri. 5 pm  
12 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm  
19 Mon.  
22 THURS. 7:30 pm

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner*, 548-5292  
**Deadline for March VOTER** *A. Kisch*, 985-0651  
Environmental Concerns, *C. Stone*, 549-0959  
1340 Arch St. (Horst Bansner's house)  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY** - **LWVBAE office closed**  
Action Committee, LWVBAE office *H. Lecar*, 549-9719

#### MARCH

1 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
2 Fri. 5 pm

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner*, 548-5292  
**Deadline for April VOTER** *A. Kisch*, 985-0651