

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville



NOVEMBER 2009

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DOES CALIFORNIA NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

Alameda County Supervisors recently joined with a number of non-profit public-interest organizations to sponsor a public forum in Oakland titled "Repairing California." Speakers presented many examples of the fiscal and functional crisis facing our state government, and they all concluded that it is time to call a constitutional convention that could agree on solutions to these problems, thereby repairing California.

Many other states regularly hold constitutional conventions to review their governments' operating systems and their ability to achieve stated goals and to revise elements as needed; but California has not held a constitutional convention since 1890. The concept of a constitutional convention is not new to California: despite great resistance to reform, other similar forums are being held throughout the state.

However, with the widespread and growing public dissatisfaction over a myriad of issues, including (1) the inability of the legislature to adopt a budget within the prescribed deadline, (2) the amount of money repeatedly taken from local governments and school districts in order to balance the state budget, and (3) the draconian measures proposed by the governor to cut state expenditures, such as closing state parks, cutting work hours of state employees, and eliminating services to low-income elderly and youth, the conclusion seems obvious: This situation simply cannot continue.

Some of the areas speakers identified in which reforms are needed are: the initiative process, the budget-making and approval process, the way taxes are raised (especially Proposition 13), term limits for legislators, and the inability of local governments and school districts to control locally raised taxes to provide mandated and needed services.

(continued on p. 4)

HEALTHCARE REFORM HOUSEPARTY!

WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
2:00 - 4:30 PM

WHERE: NANCY PAKTER'S HOUSE
615 WOODMONT AVENUE
BERKELEY

SPONSORED BY THE LWVBAE HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, THIS EVENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS TO INVITE FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEALTHCARE REFORM AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING NON-LEAGUE MEMBERS AS YOUR GUESTS.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE LEAGUE OFFICE SO WE HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MANY PEOPLE TO EXPECT (THOUGH LAST-MINUTE INTEREST IS ALSO WELCOME). SEATING WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT BRING A FOLDING CHAIR IF YOU CAN.



ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT MEASURES FOR NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

The Board of Education of the Albany Unified School District has approved two Parcel Tax Initiatives to be placed before the electorate on the November 3, 2009 ballot. The two measures would help to maintain the educational quality expected by the community, and important school programs and services that were recently lost due to State budget cuts would be restored.

A parcel tax is the only type of tax that voters may approve in order to pay for the operation of schools. With the exception of parcel taxes, all property taxes are collected by the State, and the legislature then decides how much money will be returned to school districts for their operations.

Measure I is identified as an Emergency Parcel Tax that would help restore teaching positions and student services that were lost when the State cut its funding for local school districts. In order to balance its budget, the Albany School District had to cut many services including reading and math support, safety and security, music, art and libraries. This measure includes exemptions for seniors and for low-income homeowners and renters.

Measure J combines parcel taxes that were previously approved and does not increase the amount of any of those taxes. This measure would fund library and mental health services, science, technology, arts and music classes and athletics. Because small class sizes would be restored, Measure J would thus serve to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. The measure would also extend the senior exemption and exemptions for low-income homeowners for all three current taxes and would make the 2005 parcel tax permanent.

The cost to property owners would be as follows:

MEASURE I Residential: \$149/parcel
Non-residential: 3 cents/square
foot or \$149, whichever is greater

MEASURE J Residential: \$555/parcel
Non-residential: 11 cents/square
foot or \$555, whichever is greater.

Additional information may be obtained from the Albany Unified School District at 510.558.3750 or via their website at <http://ausd.ca.schoolloop.com/>.

As of *The Voter's* deadline, there is no organized opposition to these measures.

Jean Safir
Director at Large

THE VOTER

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

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

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GLOBAL DEMOCRACY: LEAGUE HOSTS ARMENIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) REPRESENTATIVES



THE ARMENIAN DELEGATION, ALONG WITH LEAGUE MEMBERS, MET WITH REP. NITA LOWEY, MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE & MEMBER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON ARMENIAN ISSUES

The national League recently welcomed five members of the Clean Community Coalition from Southern Armenia as part of its program, "Coaching NGOs in Armenia on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy: U.S. Study Tour." Representatives are meeting with League Leaders, Members of Congress and DC Government officials to learn how trash collection, landfills and other waste management issues are handled in the United States. The following article is reprinted from the October 1, 2009 issue of LWV's *Leaders' Update*.

As a follow-up to the workshop series "Coaching NGOs in Armenia on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy," which took place in Armenia in the fall of 2008, the League is organizing a study tour to the U.S. From September 26th through October 3rd, 2009, five workshop participants will travel to Washington, D.C. and meet with local and federal government, community based organizations and larger NGOs to gain a sense of how these entities work together on environmental issues. The League is designing a program in that will offer the participants a glimpse into how trash collection, landfills, and other waste management issues are handled in the U.S. The participants will also use this opportunity to continue cultivating their advocacy and coalition building skills.

About "Coaching NGOs in Armenia on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy" and the Clean Community Coalition:

In the fall 2008, the League of Women Voters, the Armenian Assembly of America and the NGO Center of Armenia carried out a program entitled: "Coaching NGOs in Armenia on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy." The goal was to provide, and expand on existing, skill sets of NGO professionals for effective cross sector coalition building. Through an intensive, three-part workshop series with

focused coaching sessions, homework assignments, and team-building exercises, the participating NGO representatives learned how to build and maintain coalitions and work together to effectively advocate for positive change in their communities. The workshops culminated in the formation of a Clean Community Coalition, which is focused on improving trash collection and waste management in four cities in southern Armenia.

Since the conclusion of the workshops, the newly formed Clean Community Coalition has put their advocacy skills to practice by visiting the reelected Mayor of Yeghegnadzor, the recently elected Mayor of Vayk, the Mayor of Kapan and the Mayor of Kajaran. During each session the coalition members briefed the mayors about the establishment of the Clean Community Coalition and their efforts on cleaning up trash and other waste in cities. To date, members of the Clean Community Coalition have been invited by several mayors to be part of the Armenian government's efforts in cleaning rivers and trash collection.

In March 2009, Zaida Arguedas, Senior Director of Global Democracy Programs, traveled to Armenia to evaluate the results of the fall 2008 workshop series. Since the conclusion of the workshop the participants have organized their NGOs into a Clean Community Coalition and continue to advocate for improved trash collection and waste management in their communities. After witnessing the participants' progress and their desire to continue developing their skills, the League of Women Voters decided to design and implement a study tour in the U.S. for five (out of twelve) of the participants.

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Patricia Day
Violet Feinauer
Ruth Ganong
Anne Henderson
Fran Packard
Milton and Sondra Schlesinger
Frances Townes
Elizabeth Warrick*

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Barbara Adair
in memory of Luanne Rogers*

Many thanks for remembering your League.

*Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary*

DOES CALIFORNIA NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION? *(continued from p. 1)*

The current plan proposed by the Bay Area Council, California Forward, the New America Foundation and others is to place two initiatives on the November 2010 ballot: The first would give the voters the power to call a convention; now only the legislature can do it, and that doesn't seem likely, considering their present inability to make other important decisions. The second initiative would actually call a convention, with a limited list of issues to be addressed. In order to get these on the ballot, two million signatures are needed by April 16, 2010.

Once the initiatives are on the ballot, an educational campaign will be needed to ensure voter approval. It is hoped that a constitutional convention will then be held in 2011, and the outcome of the convention would be voted on in November 2012. That's when the next presidential election will be on the ballot, so we can expect a very large turnout of voters.

The League Of Women Voters of California has not taken an official position on the Constitutional Convention or on the proposed initiatives, but we clearly support some specific reforms. The LWVC board has appointed an ad hoc committee to look into these matters and advise the board, so there should be more information available shortly. We will keep you posted.

For much more information on these issues and proposals, go to the following web sites:

- www.repaircalifornia.org
- www.caforward.org
- www.bayareacouncil.org/takeaction_ccc.php
- www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/citizens_constitutional_convention_California
- <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/letters/2009-08govreform.pdf>

Jean Safir
Director at Large

LWVBAE OFFICE HOURS

Cheryl Nichols, LWVBAE Office Manager, is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm; however, *Cheryl* will be out of the country from October 7 to November 1. In *Cheryl's* absence, we will try to have volunteers staffing the office as frequently as possible. It will be important that all callers be sure to use email or leave a phone message if an office volunteer is not present to take the call.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the September meeting of the LWVBAE Climate Change Committee we were pleased to have LWVBAE member *Jane Bergen* of the City of Berkeley Energy Commission as our guest speaker. In her presentation, *Jane* provided us with background of the Commission and updated us on the Commission's current activities. In 2002 *Jane* was an active participant in LWVBAE's study of the State electric utility system; prior to producing a booklet that was used as the statewide study for the state League, her study committee worked on the project for three years. *Jane* noted that local leagues are the work horses for the state leagues, and the responses of local leagues are pulled together for state positions.

At present, Neil De Snoo, Energy Program Officer and Secretary of the Berkeley Energy Commission, sees energy efficiency as the city's best focus for obtaining federal stimulus money. The Commission has been very successful in getting grant monies. The Energy Commission has spent many hours discussing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA is legislation that allows local jurisdictions to form an entity which purchases power independently of PG&E and sells electricity to its residents.

The main purpose of CCA is to increase the percentage of renewable energy sources available to customers. A CCA entity or city could actually purchase its own source of power by owning a dam or desert solar panels or windmills. Funding CCA is a stumbling block for some city council members. The City of Berkeley's low bond rating limits how much the City can go into debt. Prices and the availability of renewables also keep changing. There will be a vote on the current CCA proposal at the next Berkeley City Council meeting. Last year the Marin Energy Authority was formed and has drafted a contract to procure a much greener electricity mix for Marin County. More information is available at www.marinenergyauthority.org.

Climate Change Committee members continue to contact friends and family in other states to ask them to encourage their Senators to pass a strong energy bill in the U.S. Senate.

At the December 1 Conversation at the League to be held in the Albany Public Library, Climate Change Committee Co-Chairs *Jan Blumenkrantz* and *Regina Beatus* will present the "Low Carbon Diet," a talk based on their training in a series of classes offered by the Berkeley Ecology Center. Their discussion will explain how one can lose 5,000 pounds in 30 days by using a Low Carbon Diet. All team members are asked to compute their carbon footprint for our next meeting by using one of these sites:

- www.becoolberkeley.org
- www.myfootprint.org
- www.coolcalifornia.org/calculator.html

Regina Beatus, Co-Chair
Climate Change Committee

LWVBAE Budget Performance Fiscal Year 2008-09

Income		Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Dues		21,105	20,215.00	890.00
Contributions		8,300	6,028.12	2,271.88
LWVB Foundation		9,000	7,075.72	1,924.28
Contract Services		1,000	1,420.23	(420.23)
Scrip - fundraising		44,000	40,246.85	3,753.15
Community Lunch		13,500	15,425.00	(1,925.00)
Dividends - Money Market		200	0.00	200.00
Product Sales - Fundraising		250	92.90	157.10
Program Meetings		1,200	1,530.00	(330.00)
Transfer from Other Assets		22,281	12,970.65	9,310.35
TOTAL INCOME		120,836	105,004.47	15,831.53

Expenses		Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Action		2,000	623.56	1,376.44
Program		2,000	1,857.07	142.93
Per Member Payments to LWV, LWVC		15,836	16,733.50	(897.50)
Convention Subsidies		3,000	310.00	2,690.00
Special Educational Projects		2,500		2,500.00
Election & Other Community Services		3,000	4,416.42	(1,416.42)
Administration				
Board		200	41.56	158.44
Office Rent		11,000	10,816.00	184.00
Salary & Fringes & Taxes		13,000	10,693.77	2,306.23
Supplies, Copies, Postage		3,600	2,512.84	1,087.16
Phone, FAX, Internet		2,100	2,461.78	(361.78)
Insurance		1,500	1,237.60	262.40
Publications, Subscriptions, Memberships		200	654.29	(454.29)
Other Taxes & Fees		200	143.68	56.32
Equipment, Purchase & Maintenance		4,000	592.63	3,407.37
Professional Fees, IRS990		500	440.00	60.00
Total Administration		36,300	29,594.15	6,705.85
Member Services and Publications				
Voter Newsletter		6,000	7,355.82	(1,355.82)
Member Support		1,000		1,000.00
Total Member Services and Publications		7,000	7,355.82	(355.82)
Development & Community Outreach				
Community Lunch		9,000	9,649.29	(649.29)
Scrip		40,000	38,051.20	1,948.80
Product Sales		200	14.00	186.00
Total Development Expenses		49,200	47,714.49	1,485.51
TOTAL EXPENSES		120,836	108,605.01	12,230.99

Net

(3,600.54)

LWVBAE Balance Sheet
June 30, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Union Bank 7,069.03

Union Bank Fraud Protection 100.00

Union Bank Money Market 714.57

Total Checking/Savings 7,883.60

Other Current Assets

Fidelity Fund 20,404.99

Fidelity Money Market 0.43

Fidelity Balance Fund 43,102.02

Fidelity Int'l Growth Fund 30,317.50Total Other Current Assets 93,824.94

Total Current Assets 101,708.54

Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation -100.00

Depreciation expense 100.00

Total Fixed Assets 0.00

Other Assets

Petty Cash 11.20

Post Office Deposit 100.58

Furniture & Equipment 5,154.15

Rent Deposit 650.00Total Other Assets 5,915.93TOTAL ASSETS 107,624.47

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Payroll Liabilities -920.86

Equity

Opening Balance Equity 1,970.65

Retained Earnings 162,656.48

Net Income -56,081.80Total Equity 108,545.33TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 107,624.47

800 CANARIES GASPING FOR AIR IN A MINE OF URBAN SPRAWL AND GREENHOUSE GASES

U.S. bird populations are disappearing at an alarming rate, according to Golden Gate Audubon Society's Education Chair Bob Lewis, who addressed the effects of climate change and population growth on the birds of the San Francisco Bay Region and beyond at Environmental Concerns' September 14 meeting. Lewis discussed some of the 800 (+/- 100) bird species in the U.S., including some of the one million migrating birds that pass through the Bay Area, which is a major stop along the Pacific Flyway.

Critical habitat has disappeared in the past 200 years as the country's population has swelled from about 8 million to 300 million, contributing to the loss of more than half of the nation's original wetlands, 98 percent of our tall-grass prairie and virtually all virgin forests east of the Rockies. This, coupled with climate change, has resulted in the extinction of four American bird species, including the Passenger Pigeon, once the world's most abundant bird. As many as ten species are possibly extinct. Bird populations in many habitats continue to decline, a warning signal of the failing health of ecosystems, Lewis said, citing the first comprehensive analysis of the state of our nation's birds forged from a partnership of government agencies and conservation groups.

Steep declines in many bird populations are a direct result of unplanned and sprawling urbanization, according to the 2009 State of the Birds report. Climate change has already influenced the abundance, distribution and timing of migration and breeding for many bird species. A recent study by the National Audubon Society showed that more than half of the birds commonly found in the Christmas Bird Count are wintering farther north now than 40 years ago. The report concludes that birds are at great risk from habitat changes caused by climate change, including inundated nesting areas and altered food supplies.

- 67 species are federally listed as threatened or endangered

- 184 additional species are considered of "conservation concern" due to limited range of habitat, declining populations or other significant threats

- In Hawaii, where more than one-third of all U.S. listed bird species occur, 70 percent of birds are threatened and 71 bird species have gone extinct since humans colonized the islands about 300 A.D.

- Grassland areas have endured a decline at 40 percent among the 42 grassland species with sufficient monitoring data; 48 percent are species of conservation concern and four populations are federally listed as endangered

- At least 39% of the U.S. birds restricted to ocean habitats are declining because of pollution, over-fishing and warming sea temperatures

- Of 81 ocean birds, 50% are of conservation concern including the Black-footed Albatross and Laysan Albatross; four are federally endangered, including the Short-tailed Albatross (possibly extinct); threatened species include the Marbled Murrelet

- Coastal birds are of high concern with half of all coastal migrating shorebirds in decline due to human disturbance and dwindling food supplies; 173 species use coastal habitats during some part of the year; 53 are species of conservation concern; 14 are federally listed as endangered; in California threatened or endangered species include the California Brown Pelican (there are fewer than 1000 in California, almost extirpated along Gulf Coast), California Clapper Rail, and the California Least Tern

- Of 83 arid land breeding birds, 39% are of conservation concern and 10 are federally listed; endangered in California are the California Condor and threatened are the Snowy Plover and the California Gnat Catcher

- Of 163 species of wetland birds that breed in freshwater, 24 percent are of conservation concern; endangered or threatened include the Wood Stork, and many in the Everglades including several species of heron

- Good news is that duck and geese populations are thriving due to successful conservation practices. The Aleutian Canada Goose went from fewer than 1,000 birds to more than 60,000, and there have been remarkable comebacks of the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon. However, the possibility of extinction is still a cold reality to many birds. Of the 74 bird species, subspecies and populations listed in the U.S., 30 have increased since listing, 16 have remained stable, 15 have decreased, and 13 are possibly extinct.

What You Can Do

- Help count birds during the annual "Christmas Count"

- Drink shade-grown coffee

- Keep cats indoors and don't support TNR (trap, neuter and release) programs

- Join a bird conservation organization such as the Golden Gate Audubon Society

- Plant natives in your garden

- Reduce the use of pesticides

- Reduce night-lighting to minimize window strikes

- Familiarize yourself with bird conservation issues

Resources

State of the Birds

www.stateofthebirds.org/introduction

Stutchbury, Bridget. *Silence of the Songbirds*, Walker Publishing, NY (2007)

California Birds in Decline

<http://ca.audubon.org/birds/birds-in-decline.php>

Gail Schickele, Co-Chair
Environmental Concerns

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAUL HAWKEN

The following is an excerpt from Paul Hawken's Commencement Address to the Class of 2009 at the University of Portland on May 3, 2009. LWVBAE Climate Change Co-Chair Jan Blumenkrantz submitted Mr. Hawken's remarks to *The Voter*.

This planet came with a set of operating instructions, but we seem to have misplaced them. Important rules like don't poison the water, soil, or air, and don't let the earth get overcrowded, and don't touch the thermostat have been broken. Buckminster Fuller said that spaceship earth was so ingeniously designed that no one has a clue that we are on one, flying through the universe at a million miles per hour, with no need for seatbelts, lots of room in coach, and really good food -- but all that is changing.

What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world. The poet Adrienne Rich wrote, "So much has been destroyed I have cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world." There could be no better description. Humanity is coalescing. It is reconstituting the world, and the action is taking place in schoolrooms, farms, jungles, villages, campuses, companies, refugee camps, deserts, fisheries, and slums.

Paul Hawken is an environmentalist, entrepreneur, journalist and best-selling author. Among his many writings is his most recent book, Blessed Unrest. The complete text of Mr. Hawken's address was published by Common Dreams.org on May 23, 2009 and may be seen at <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/05/23-2>. Paul Hawken lives in Sausalito.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In our attempt to have the LWVBAE office open and available to Leaguers and to the general public as much as possible, we are asking our membership to volunteer for Desk Duty! Desk Duty can be once or twice a month, in shifts of 2-4 hours, and is a wonderful way to become acquainted with the daily workings of our League and of our office.

Desk duty includes answering the office phone, fetching and processing the mail, and doing whatever else needs doing. Now that we have three new, up-to-date computers in the office, there will certainly be other tasks that desk volunteers can perform. Please respond to this call and sign up for a shift or two by contacting me, Jane Barrett, at 510.845.8055 or janebarrett@onebox.com. Desk Volunteer training is available!

Jane Barrett
Office Volunteer Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome
To Our Newest Members:

David Auerbach
Adelie Bischoff
Bella Feldman
Rita Haberlin
Marjorie Harmon
Elizabeth Horowitz

And To Rejoining Member
Laura Murra

NEW VOTER EDITOR SOUGHT

Alice Kisch, *Voter* Editor for the past three years, will be stepping down at the end of June 2010, and we now look for her successor. The new Editor will need to be in place in June in order to take over management of the September 2010 issue, which will be produced in August. Although optional, the *Voter* Editor is encouraged to sit on the LWVBAE Board.

The *Voter* Editorship benefits from the many dedicated individuals who assist in its production, so the new Editor will have many people – including Alice – upon whom to call for advice, counsel and support. If the job interests you but you'd like to have more specific information, please give Alice a call at 510.985.0651 or contact her by email at bambi323@sbcglobal.net; she will be happy to fill you in on matters such as time commitments and other aspects of the *Voter* Editorship. Experience is not as important as interest. 2010 will be a year with very important elections in June and November, so our newsletter will be a resource for the entirety of our three cities – Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville.

For the past two years the software that has been used to prepare the *Voter* is InDesign, an Adobe product which is easy to learn. The Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers an excellent 9-week class in InDesign for \$80. The next BAS InDesign class is scheduled to start on November 3 and will run through January 21; LWVBAE will cover the cost of BAS tuition for our new Editor. InDesign classes are offered at BAS throughout the year, so there is plenty of time to learn and practice the application.

If you are interested in being our next *Voter* Editor, please contact LWVBAE Office Manager Cheryl Nichols at the League Office, 510.843.8824, or by email at office@lwvbae.org.

The LWVBAE Board

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board meets each month to discuss current League matters, which generally include but are not limited to listening to reports from Board members, reviewing potential actions, and arriving at decisions as to ongoing and future endeavors.

In JULY we planned activities for 2009-2010 and we voted to co-sponsor a Conference on Health Care Reform in San Francisco on July 24.

In AUGUST we voted to send a letter to the League of Women Voters of San Francisco (LWVSF) and to the Older Women's League (OWL) suggesting that they invite a speaker to address Medicare for All (single-payer) options at their September 10, 2009 Health Care Forum; we voted to forward a letter from LWVUS to our membership supporting action on Climate Change; and we decided that the Executive Committee should perform tasks which are normally handled by the local LWV president and should then report their actions and recommendations to the full Board at its next meeting.

In SEPTEMBER we decided to organize candidates meetings for Emeryville's November 2009 election, and we decided not to prepare Pros & Cons or advocacy recommendations on Albany's parcel tax measures on their November ballot; we voted to raise the non-member Voter subscription fee from \$10 to \$20 in order to recoup the costs involved.

Ginette Polak
Conversations at the League

IT TAKES A LEAGUE ...

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the skilled crew who helped organize our October 1 Fall Meeting:

Jane Barrett for help setting up and for the beautiful flowers; *Jane Coulter* for her advice, garden greenery and for coming early to set up and start the dreaded coffeepot; *Pat Day* for donating the vases, coming early to set up and staying late to clean up; *Bill Chapman* for – as always – keeping our numbers straight, making name tags and staffing the reception table together with *Nancy Parker*.

Many thanks to *Helene Lecar* for helping us get the food on the table on time, and to *Sherry Smith*, *Fran Packard* and *Cheryl Nichols* for helping us clean up.

And of course, without the energetic and dedicated efforts of *Helene Lecar*, who organized the program and obtained our speakers, there wouldn't have been a meeting at all. *Helene* – many, many thanks. A big thank you as well to *Suzanne Chun*, who arranged for and transported the food and supervised the clean-up after the meeting. And finally, our gratitude to *Mim Hawley*, our very capable moderator, for guiding us through the evening.

Suzanne Chun and Bill Chapman
(subbing for vacationing *Rainey Sykes*)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

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Environmental Concerns	CAROL STONE/ (CO-DIRECTORS, ONE VOTE) GAIL SCHICKELE
Healthcare Director	URSULA ROLFE
Directors at Large	MIM HAWLEY JEAN SAFIR

NANCY SKINNER TO ADDRESS LWVBAE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

On Monday, November 9, 2009, Assembly Member Nancy Skinner will be the featured speaker at the November Environmental Concerns meeting. The meeting will take place from 7:30-9:00 pm at 2811 Claremont Boulevard (NOT Avenue), the home of *Wendy Markel*.

One year ago Nancy Skinner was elected to represent the Bay Area's 14th Assembly District, which includes Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville, among other cities. Nancy was promptly named Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, a rare post for a first-year Assembly Member.

The Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction includes water and air quality, recycling, waste management, energy issues such as efficiency, power plant siting, and energy development, oil spills, wild and scenic rivers, forestry, open-space conservation and oversight of California's global warming solutions act. Assembly Member Skinner will talk to us about what the state is doing with respect to some of these pressing issues and what California residents can do to help preserve and conserve our natural resources.

Carol Stone, Co-Chair
Environmental Concerns



League of Women Voters
Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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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 the extent allowed by law. Voter subscriptions for non-members cost \$20/year.

calendar

NOVEMBER

1 SUN.	2-4:30 PM	HEALTHCARE REFORM HOUSEPARTY (SEE P. 1)	LWVBAE, 843-8824
3 TUES.	12-2 PM	ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE ELECTIONS (SEE P. 2) CONVERSATION ON SUNSHINE ORDINANCE IN BERKELEY EDITH STONE ROOM OF THE ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY	G. POLAK, 841.4546
6 FRI.	5:00 PM	DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY VOTER	A. KISCH, 985.0651
9 MON.	7:30-9 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (SEE P. 9) HOME OF WENDY MARKEL, 2811 CLAREMONT BLVD. (NOT AVENUE)	C. STONE, 549.0959 G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826
16 MON.	1:30-3:30 PM	HEALTHCARE CTE, LWVBAE OFFICE	C. LYNCH, 527.2173
17 TUES.	3-5 PM	ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	S. SMITH, 548.1769
18 WED.	1:30-3:30 PM	CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE	J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548.3845
	3:30-5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE	D. AKERS, 527.1288
21 SAT.	11-12:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CTE, LWVBAE OFFICE	J. COULTER, 524.0525
24 TUES.	7:30-9 PM	CIVICS EDUCATION ACTION CTE, LWVBAE OFFICE	J. GARDNER, 548.5292
26-27 THURS.-FRI.		THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED	

DECEMBER

No VOTER DEADLINE IN DECEMBER			
1 TUES.	12-2 PM	CONVERSATION ON LWV ISSUE (SEE P. 4) EDITH STONE ROOM OF THE ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY	G. POLAK, 841.4546
14 MON.	7:30-9 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, LOCATION TBA	C. STONE, 549.0959 G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826
15 TUES.	3-5 PM	ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	S. SMITH, 548.1769
16 WED.	1:30-3:30 PM	CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE	J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548.3845
	3:30-5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE	D. AKERS, 527.1288
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