



The Voter

“ . . . to promote informed citizen participation in government.”

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May June 2011

Conversation: The Berkeley Public Library –An Update

CONVERSATION on May 3: Library Director Donna Corbeil will join us to provide up-to-date information about branch improvements and other Berkeley Public Library issues and answer questions we may have.

When: Tuesday, May 3, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Where: Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue (at Masonic), Albany

Our League has supported our Public Library for many years, most recently with Measure FF in the November 2008 election. But not all our League members may be clear about the Library budget, the Board of Library Trustees, the Foundation, or Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. So much is going on now, the conversation should be lively and enlightening! You may bring your lunch, but only water is permitted as a beverage at the Albany Library

Ginette Polak, Program VP

Call to Annual Meeting

When: Thursday, May 26, 2011, 5:00 - 8:30 pm

Where: Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Join us at the Annual Meeting and hear a talk by journalist Peter Schrag on: “How We Made the Mess and How We Might Fix It”

All the details are in the “Call to Meeting Kit” in this Voter. Please look the Kit over and bring it with you to the meeting.

As California faces the effects of almost unimaginable budget cuts in the fiscal year that begins on July 1, we scan our daily papers attempting to learn if state government will be able to limit the damage.

Our speaker, Peter Schrag, will help us put this unfolding calamity into perspective as he talks about how we got into this mess, and how we might emerge from it. Mr. Schrag, a lifelong journalist, served for 19 years as the Sacramento Bee editorial page editor until he retired in 1996. From then until 2009, he wrote a weekly column for the Bee. Currently, he writes a weekly piece, published each Monday, for the California Progress Report blog. As background for Mr. Schrag’s talk, you may read

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Health Care Reform Where are we now? What do we need?

Where: North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way)

When: Wednesday, April 27 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Don’t miss this presentation by our Health Care Committee. Bring your friends and relatives too. We all need this information!

Annual Meeting Continued from page 1

his most recent posts via links at:

<http://www.californiaproggressreport.com/site/taxonomy/term/123>

We also recommend two recent columns in the Bee:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/02/3441689/state-gops-last-chance-to-make.html>; and

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/29/3510304/has-brown-let-himself-become-obama.html>

When he last spoke to us at our annual meeting in 1998, Mr. Schrag surveyed the history of the initiative process in California, explaining how it had been transformed from a check on the moneyed interests into a vehicle for them. He described how initiatives have had the effect of reducing public services because the state's voters are by and large not the consumers of those services.

Now, thirteen years later, the process he described then seems to be reaching its logical, if largely unwanted, conclusion. Come hear him as he helps us make sense of the mess in which we find ourselves, and perhaps points to a way out.

Before Peter Schrag's talk, please join us for dinner. It will be lovingly prepared by our member and chef, Rainey Sykes. Rainey is planning three salads (Chicken, Caesar and Vegetarian); fresh bread and butter; lemonade, decaf, tea and water; with hot fudge sundaes for dessert. If you've been to recent League meetings, you already know how indescribably good Rainey's dinners are; if you haven't, come and find out. You will not be disappointed.

To help Rainey know how much food to prepare, please phone the office (843-8824) or e-mail (office@lwvbae.org) before May 20 to tell us how many dinner reservations you'd like to make. Dinner is \$15 per person, payable with check or cash at the door when you arrive. Also, if you'd like to help with dinner setup and/or clean up, please contact Jane Coulter (524-0525 or e-mail tcoulter2@comcast.net).

Finally, from 7:30 - 8:30 we'll conduct our annual business meeting. Among the important agenda items are election of next year's officers, adoption of next year's budget, and reports on this year's activities. We'll need a quorum to conduct business, so we hope you'll plan to stay to the end to help insure that our League's 101st year is as productive and valuable as the 100 that are now concluding.

Bill Chapman
Treasurer

Drawing New Lines for City Districts

Under the California Elections Code, every 10 years, after each US Census is completed, governments that elect by district must redraw their district lines to assure that all districts have nearly equal population.

Among the three cities monitored by our League, only Berkeley conducts district elections.

Some League members may recall that after the 2000 Census, the district boundaries initially approved by the Berkeley City Council caused such an uproar that petitions were signed and those boundaries were altered, resulting in the districts that the City has been functioning with for the last ten years.

LWVBAE is forming a committee of League members interested in monitoring the process the City of Berkeley will use in drafting new district boundaries. We will be advocating for an open, transparent process; extensive public input; and boundaries that respect communities of interest.

If you are interested in being appointed to this committee, please contact me at js1589@berkeley.edu. Time is of the essence, because this redrawing process must be completed by November 1 of this year.

Sherry Smith
President

LWVC Convention

"**Grow the Future**" is Theme for Annual Convention of California League, in Ventura May 13-15

The biennial meeting of local League delegates to the State League Convention will be held in Ventura over the weekend of May 13-15.

Addressing the theme of "**Growing the Future**", is an outstanding lineup of speakers. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, California Assemblyman and long-time League member Katcho Achadjian, and Assembly Speaker pro tempore Fiona Ma are all scheduled to speak to the group.

Those attending not only decide the State League program for the coming year, but there are a wide spectrum of workshops and caucuses to help members better understand and shape the work and action of the League.

Our League is entitled, because of its size, to send 6 delegates. If you are interested in attending (our League pays the registration fee of \$300 for each delegate) please let me know by sending me a message at js1589@berkeley.edu.

Sherry Smith, President

Centennial of Women Getting Vote In California

The big news from the Berkeley Centennial Committee in the past few weeks has been that we've located many descendants of Hester Harland, the staunch suffragist who organized Berkeley's successful suffrage campaign in 1911. These folks have a treasure trove of photos and memorabilia. We hope to include some of this material in the Centennial exhibit.

Nancy Bickel

Celebrating our First 100 Years with Joy

On Sunday, October 30, 2011

Fun-loving, music-making, party-organizing League members:

Please join us to plan a celebration of our League's 100th birthday that we and our fellow Berkeleyans will remember for years to come.

Our celebrations will include the official opening of the exhibit at the Berkeley History Center that will tell the story of how Berkeley campaigned for and helped pass the women's suffrage amendment in 1911. The founding of the Berkeley League—as the California Civic League—will also be featured.

The celebrations could include: singing of suffragist songs, marching with banners and bands to replicate the local campaign and victory parades, family picnics and sing-a-longs, lady-like tea party with tea cakes, or any other celebratory activities your active imaginations can conjure into existence.

Contact Sherry Smith, or Nancy Bickel at nkbickel@lmi.net

March Donations

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Joyce Jackson

Charlotte Lichterman

Louise Rasmussen

To the LWVB Foundation

Helene Strauss

Many thanks for remembering our League.
Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

LWVBAE Annual Community Luncheon

The 12th Annual Community Luncheon will be highlighted by guest speaker Christina Romer, Professor of Economics at UC Berkeley.

When: Thursday, August 18, 2011

Where: Hs Lordships, Berkeley



Professor Romer was appointed by President Barack Obama as his first Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, and she served nearly two years in that capacity (January 2009-September 2010) before returning to Cal to fill the Class of 1957 Garff B. Wilson Professor of Economics chair. She has done extensive

research and work on fiscal and monetary policy from the Great Depression to the present, using notes from meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee and the materials prepared by the staff of the Federal Reserve to show how that body makes its decisions.

Prof. Romer has served as Vice President of the American Economic Association, and was honored with the Berkeley Distinguished Teaching award, the Berkeley campus' most prestigious award for teaching. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Another popular feature of our Annual Luncheons is the presentation of the "Spirit of the League" awards to a notable civic leader and to an organization that helps further goals shared with the League.

The Annual Community Luncheon is a highlight of the League calendar, and you certainly won't want to miss it. By popular acclaim, this year's Luncheon will be held once again in the beautiful setting of Hs Lordships Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina. Invitations will be mailed later this summer; in the meantime, please mark Thursday, August 18 as a red-letter day on your calendar!

Suzanne Chun,
Co-Chair, Luncheon Committee

Smart Voter a Unique Service of the California League's Education Fund

The signature program of the LWVC Education Fund is www.SmartVoter.org. This unique public service provides free Web space to all California candidates at every governmental level, which helps candidates inform voters about their qualifications and positions---and it provides a free Web site for voters, with well-organized information on candidates and ballot measures.

Funding for SmartVoter.org does not come from your member dues. SmartVoter.org relies on financial support from county registrars and city clerks as well as donations from local Leagues and individuals. If you can help continue Smart Voter's important service with a personal contribution, you may make that tax-deductible contribution online at <http://www.cavotes.org/about/donate> (under "special instructions", please write SmartVoter). Or if you prefer, you may send a check (with a note designating the contribution for SmartVoter) to the LWVC Education Fund, 1107 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95814.

With thanks, the Alameda County Smart Voter Team

Call to LWV Bay Area Council

LWVBA Council Saturday, May 21, 2011, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., San Francisco Main Library (at BART Civic Center station).

The Council is composed of the directors of the LWVBA and two delegates from each local League. Other non-voting members may also attend at the per-League cost.

The Council gives guidance to the board on program, methods of operation and budget as submitted by the board. The Council will adopt a budget for the fiscal year.

Registration: \$10 per League (no extra charge for additional attendees.)

Payment MUST be made in advance: please send a \$10 check per League payable to LWVBA to: Christine Wise, 148 Best Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577.

Please make reservations by Friday, May 13, 2011.

Earth Day

The Healthy Planet/Climate Change Team has reserved a table at this year's Berkeley Earth Day, Saturday April 23rd from 12 - 5pm at Civic Center Park, MLK & Allston. If you'd like to join us at the table, please do so and call Regina Beatus at 524-6904. Here's some more information:

Cultural Performers

12 - 1pm Shawl-Anderson Dance Center presents Earth Day Dance

1:30 - 3pm Alice DeMichele Band

3:30 - 5pm The Bad Goods

Activities

Sustainable urban living demos

Test drive the all-electric Chevy Volt

Free electronic waste drop-off

Berkeley Farmer's Market

Climbing Wall

Expanded food court, craft and community booths

Please don't drive.

Take Berkeley BART

Valet bike parking by East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Sponsors

City of Berkeley

Creekcats Environmental Fund, Mechanics Bank, and

Farm Fresh to You

Hope to see you there. It should be fun and educational.

Regina Beatus

Co-chair Healthy Planet/Climate Change Team

Environmental Concerns

Our Monday, May 9, 2011 speaker for Environmental Concerns will be J. Keith Gilles, Dean of the Department: College of Natural Resources.

His topic will be about Forests, "the LUNGS of the earth" and what to expect with ongoing climate change. The meeting is from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The location is to be determined.

Centennial Celebration Vote Totals by County California Woman's Suffrage October 10, 1911

County	Yes	%	No	%	County	Yes	%	No	%
Alameda	10,627	45.36%	12,802	54.64%	Placer	1,133	59.98%	756	40.02%
Alpine	26	61.90%	16	38.10%	Plumas	383	62.89%	226	37.11%
Amador	478	43.18%	629	56.82%	Riverside	1,955	58.87%	1,366	41.13%
Butte	1,829	62.96%	1,076	37.04%	Sacramento	3,220	51.56%	3,025	48.44%
Calaveras	736	60.48%	481	39.52%	San Benito	560	58.27%	401	41.73%
Colusa	438	50.64%	427	49.36%	San Bernardino	2,548	53.06%	2,254	46.94%
Contra Costa	1,569	50.34%	1,548	49.66%	San Diego	3,331	57.48%	2,464	42.52%
Del Norte	305	60.64%	198	39.36%	San Francisco	21,919	38.08%	35,635	61.92%
El Dorado	601	60.71%	389	39.29%	San Joaquin	2,417	54.08%	2,052	45.92%
Fresno	3,192	55.90%	2,518	44.10%	S. Luis Obispo	1,284	55.51%	1,029	44.49%
Glenn	614	62.59%	367	37.41%	San Mateo	1,187	44.47%	1,482	55.53%
Humboldt	1,815	63.11%	1,061	36.89%	Santa Barbara	1,396	53.82%	1,198	46.18%
Imperial	619	66.63%	310	33.37%	Santa Clara	4,762	60.42%	3,120	39.58%
Inyo	400	64.52%	220	35.48%	Santa Cruz	1,517	61.89%	934	38.11%
Kern	1,760	52.27%	1,607	47.73%	Shasta	1,170	66.78%	582	33.22%
Kings	708	57.14%	531	42.86%	Sierra	279	60.52%	182	39.48%
Lake	471	58.00%	341	42.00%	Siskiyou	1,126	60.05%	749	39.95%
Lassen	339	63.36%	196	36.64%	Solano	1,438	55.52%	1,152	44.48%
Los Angeles	27,391	55.20%	22,228	44.80%	Sonoma	2,461	52.01%	2,271	47.99%
Madera	578	60.59%	376	39.41%	Stanislaus	1,556	67.01%	766	32.99%
Marin	1,102	41.55%	1,550	58.45%	Sutter	381	57.55%	281	42.45%
Mariposa	164	52.06%	151	47.94%	Tehama	781	64.12%	437	35.88%
Mendocino	1,285	50.23%	1,273	49.77%	Trinity	343	69.57%	150	30.43%
Merced	798	66.00%	411	34.00%	Tulare	1,935	64.61%	1,060	35.39%
Modoc	423	70.50%	177	29.50%	Tuolumne	561	56.72%	428	43.28%
Monterey	1,186	49.92%	1,190	50.08%	Ventura	816	48.80%	856	51.20%
Napa	1,001	54.58%	833	45.42%	Yolo	859	55.42%	691	44.58%
Nevada	869	55.56%	695	44.44%	Yuba	499	55.69%	397	44.31%
Orange	1,787	49.46%	1,826	50.54%	Totals	124,928	50.72%	121,371	49.28%

Source: California Secretary of State

League Leaders 2010-2011

Board of Directors

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Library Liaison	Claudia Berger
Smart Voter	Sherry Smith
Web Manager/Computer Consultant	Bill Chapman
Women's Issues	Charlotte Lichterman

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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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Calendar — Berkeley addresses unless otherwise noted

April

23	Sat	noon-5:00 pm	Earth Day, Civic Center Park	R. Beatus	524-6904
27	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769
27	Wed	7:00-8:30 pm	Health Care, North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave	L. Wang	848-5765

May

3	Tues	noon-2:00 pm	Conversation - Library Update Albany Library 1247 Marin Avenue, Albany	G. Polak	841-4546
9	Mon	7:30-9:00 pm	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
13-15	Fri-Sun		LWVC Convention, Ventura	S. Smith	548-1769
21	Sat	10:00-noon	LWV Bay Area Council San Francisco Main Library	J. Safir	524-9088
25	Mon	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769
26	Thur	5:00-8:30 pm	Annual Meeting Northbrae Community Church 941 The Alameda	S. Smith	548-1769

June

22	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769
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August

Save the date, August 18, Community Luncheon