



## New Program Proposals for LWVBAE Annual Meeting, LWVBA and LWVUS Conventions

A new study on Berkeley Boards and Commissions and a continued emphasis on action and education on Climate Change and Education will be proposed at our local annual meeting on May 22. Twenty veteran League members recommended the update study and the two issues for emphasis at the January Program Planning meeting. The Board confirmed them at its February meeting.

The study will update our current position on Boards and Commissions. It was proposed by an ad-hoc team, led by Carol Stone, which has been exploring the work of Berkeley’s Boards and Commissions for the past few months. The team concluded that our current position needs to be brought up to date and expanded. The study would look at the work of the Boards and Commissions, how they give information to citizens and the City Council, and how well they do so, including cost effectiveness. Five members of the current ad hoc committee are recruiting additional members for the proposed two year study (see column to right) . Emeryville and Albany members who would like to do a parallel study of their Boards and Commissions would be welcome.

### LWV Bay Area

The members at Program Planning and the Board proposed that LWVBA drop one of its current priorities, regional planning processes, retain one—water-- and add one—climate change. Climate Change, which has been a key issue for the national League, actually encompasses most of LWVBA’s existing policy positions. We wanted to encourage LWVBA to look at the larger picture of the

impact of all its policy elements and their inter-relationships on the changing the climate. We urged the LWVBA pay attention to both mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change in the nine bay area counties. Water should be continued as an emphasis because of the anticipated fall ballot measure on peripheral tunnels and other changes to the Delta water system.

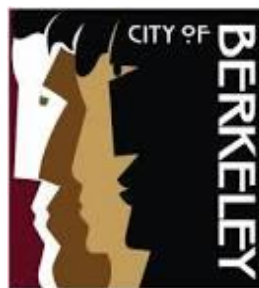
### LWVUS Study and Issues for Emphasis

LWVUS, like LWVBA, only permitted each local league to propose two items—which made for hard choices. A second round of voting was required and even then, the proposal for a new study was very broad. A new study or update was proposed tentatively titled “Attacking Poverty/Reducing Inequality of Wealth and Income.” Watch our website, [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org), and weekly e-blasts for more details.

## Boards and Commissions

### Update Study

*By Carol Stone*



The first local study in a long time was approved at the program planning meeting in January.

We will be doing an update study of Berkeley Boards and Commissions, updating our two previous studies.

Currently there is a small group who have agreed to work on this but we are seeking additional members.

The study will take up to two years but will not meet too often. We will be conducting interviews and observing some commissions. Then we will hold consensus meetings and make recommendations about how we may want to revise our positions.

Please join us; it is a wonderful way to learn how the League uses positions to influence policy and to bring our positions up to date.

For information, contact: [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org) or call the office at 510-843-8824.

## IN THIS ISSUE



### Our League Direction 1

Discussions at the Program Planning meeting recommend our new direction.

*By Nancy Bickel*

### Boards and Commissions 1

A new update study is starting to review efficiency of Berkeley Boards and Commissions. Be a part!

*By Carol Stone*



### Natural Capital 3

The "New Vision for Open Space" as discussed at Bay Area League Day on February 1.

*By Nancy Bickel*

### Fracking in CA: Part II 3

Environmental Concerns April 21 presents a follow-up on fracking, with a geologic perspective.

*By Carol Stone and Diz Swift*



## Also in This Issue

- 2 Sugary Drink Tax in Berkeley?
- 2 Agriculture Study Update
- 3 Update on Voter Services Team
- 4 Denying our Right to Vote
- 4 Crucial 2014 Primary Dates
- 4 Drought in California
- 4 Berkeley Downtown Development and History
- 4 Nonprofits Talking Taxes
- 5 Membership Report
- 5 The Loss of Harold Lecar
- 5 Donations to Our League
- 6 Calendar

## Sugary Drink Tax in Berkeley?

*By Nancy Bickel*

Dr. Vicki Alexander, the recently retired head of the Berkeley Health Department, announced at the January 20 Berkeley MLK Day breakfast that the NAACP will be campaigning against sugary drinks as a major cause of increase in diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Dr. Alexander pointed out that diabetes is a national epidemic – and a Berkeley issue — that will take a terrible toll on all our children—but will have a disproportionate impact on our African American and Latino children.

The City of Berkeley's 2013 Health Status Report points out that 29% of BUSD students are overweight or obese and that 40% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders are overweight. Further that the percentage is higher for African American and Latino students. Also that the Centers for Disease Control predict that a third of Americans, and half of African Americans and Latinos, born in 2000 will develop diabetes within their lifetimes.

Sugary sodas and other heavily sugared drinks are major contributors to the problem, Dr. Alexander pointed out. Several community leaders have announced support of a campaign to tackle the problem by taxing suppliers of packaged sugary drinks one cent per ounce. The Berkeley City Council is currently considering putting such a measure on the 2014 ballot.

## Agriculture Study Update

**CONSENSUS MEETINGS** will be held jointly for LWVBAE, the Piedmont League and the Oakland League. We will be holding two sets of consensus meetings, including a Part A and Part B. Members may go to either set, but should include one session each of Part A and Part B.

### Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

**When:** Part A 9:00a-12:00p  
Part B 12:30-2:45p

**Where:** Cesar Chavez Library, 3301 E 12th St. 2nd fl, Oakland.

### Tuesday, April 1

**When:** Part A 1:00-3:00p

**Where:** LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Ste F, Berkeley

### Thursday, April 3

**When: Part B** 9:30a-12:00p

**Where:** LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Ste F, Berkeley

*LWVBAE members will receive a separate mailing and emailing of background materials and consensus questions in mid-March to prepare for the consensus meetings. For information on the current LWVUS Agriculture position go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-policy>*

## ON THE WEB

For more League news and stories, go to our website at <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/>

# Natural Capital

## Calculating the \$ Value of our Open Space

By Nancy Bickel

The “New Vision for Open Space” at Bay Area League Day on February 1 was the discussion of how scientists and economists have now developed systematic and realistic ways of putting a dollar value, a concrete numerical estimate, on the many different resources we use and rely on. Even more important, decision makers are beginning – though only beginning – to incorporate these estimates of the value of “natural capital” into their decisions.



Keynote speaker Wendy Pulling, Director of Conservation Programs at the Nature Conservancy in San Francisco—and a Berkeley resident—gave some vivid concrete examples of where this new approach has been used. Here is one.

New York City has long drawn its water from upstate natural sources, so pure that NYC did not need a water filtration plant. Some years ago, water managers realized their water was becoming contaminated and they would need to spend \$10 billion to build a huge treatment plant, which would cost millions to operate every year. But they realized that they had a much cheaper alternative—offering incentives and disincentives that would prevent upstream contamination at the source. So they instituted regulations and payments so that, for example, farmers would keep their cows out of creeks and lumber companies would leave strips of trees and plants growing along streams and rivers when they cut forests.

Ms. Pulling’s talk—and all the excellent Bay Area League Day talks—is on YouTube. You can get the link at our website <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news> in the story “Natural Capital”.

### Come to the Action Meeting

Monday, March 31, 3:00-4:15p

LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo, Suite F

The type and quality of action our League takes is determined by you, the members. Come to the Action Meeting to learn what our action teams are doing and what actions are being proposed.

Be a part of the next action meeting and help guide our direction!

## Fracking in California Part II

### April 21 Environmental Concerns

Join us Monday, April 21, 2014, 7:30-9:00p for Environmental Concerns with Dr. Paul Henshaw and Dr. Linda Swift speaking on “A Geologic Perspective on Fracking”. On January 13 we heard members of the Sierra Club speak on fracking, advocating against it. The April talk will provide background, data on how fracking is done, its limitations, and how it is regulated in California.

**When:** April 21, 7:30-9:00p

**Note that due to Passover, this meeting will be on the THIRD Monday of April.**

**Where:** 1174 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley

Dr. Henshaw has over 30 years of industry experience working for Chevron as well as consulting with PetroSkills in Exploration and Production. Dr. Henshaw is currently a visiting professor at UC Berkeley. He holds a BA in Geology from UC Berkeley and an MS and PhD in Oceanography from University of Washington.

Dr. Swift has over 30 years experience in geology and industry, including 23 years with Chevron and work with Latin American petroleum companies. She holds a BA in History, and an MS and PhD in Geology from the University of Washington. She is also co-founder, with Janice Blumenkrantz, of our Climate Change Team.

## Update on Voter Services Team

A core Voter Services Team is organizing to support the primary election: producing “Pros and Cons” on local issues, voter registration events, stocking registration forms, speaking to local organizations and providing information to SmartVoter.org. We are also developing a Team email to let folks know when opportunities such as voter registration events are available. To learn more, check us out in the new membership handbook or at <http://www.lwvbae.org/voter-services-team/>. To join the Team, email Phyllis Gale at [voterservices@gmail.com](mailto:voterservices@gmail.com) or call 510-548-0591. For up-to-the-minute information on Elections, go to our newly updated Elections page on the LWVBAE website: <http://www.lwvbae.org/elections/>.

# Denying our Right to Vote

## State of California Illegally Denying the Right to Vote to Thousands of Voters

By Phyllis Gale

If you haven't seen it in the newspapers, on February 4, 2014 the LWVC, ACLU and other civil rights organizations sued the California Secretary of State for issuing a directive that stripped the right to vote of citizens who are on "post-release

community supervision" or "mandatory supervision". California voters approved Proposition 10 in 1974 and state law has been clear that the only people ineligible to vote are those in state prison and on parole. These two new categories were created

under the Criminal Justice Realignment Act for people recently incarcerated for low-level, non-violent, non-serious crimes and are not part of the state law.

LWVC President, Jenny Waggoner, said "Voting should be part of a successful reintegration into one's community, but the Secretary of State's memo takes us in the wrong direction." The Secretary of State's website has already been updated to include this directive.

You can find the LWVC press release and more information on our website in the story "Denying our Right to Vote" at <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news>.

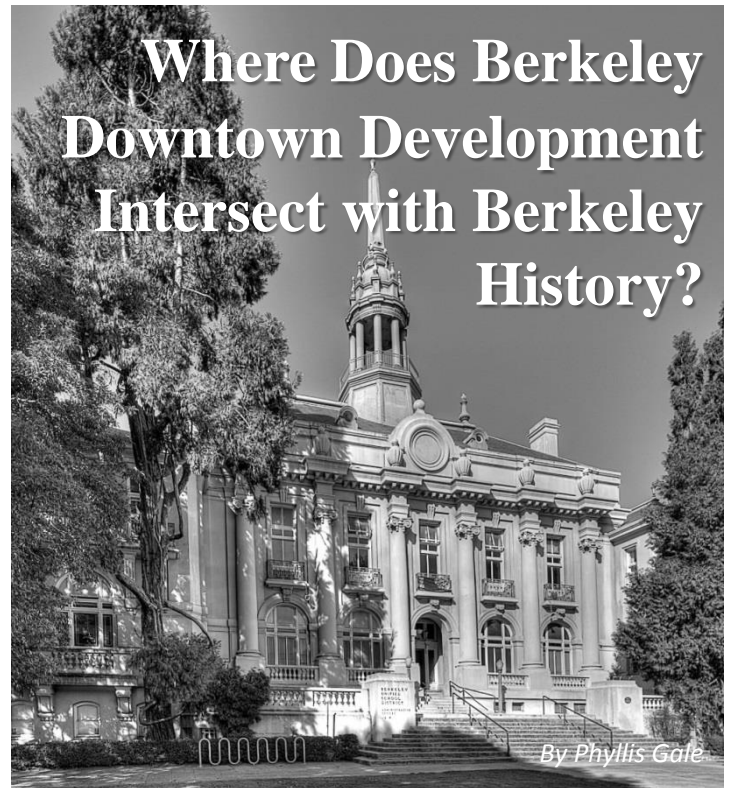


Photo by Stephen Rosen

The March 18th Conversation will feature invited panelists speaking on the potential impact of new large downtown development projects on the cultural and physical character of the historic downtown.

**When:** Tuesday, March 18, 12:00-1:30p

**Where:** Berkeley Historical Society; The Veterans Memorial Building; 1931 Center Street Berkeley.

**Note change in usual venue**

The Berkeley Historical Society is partnered with LWVBAE for this presentation. Watch the LWVBAE weekly email and the web for updates.

## Nonprofits Talking Taxes

A **Nonprofits Talking Taxes** workshop by internationally renowned speaker and author, **Kim Klein** will be held March 1. The workshop will provide training materials and opportunities to discuss, in a humorous and understandable format, what our taxes do for our communities. It will train Leaguers to explain taxes to their communities.

**Where:** Chandni Restaurant, 5748 Mowry School Rd, Newark, CA 94560

**When:** Saturday, March 1, 12:00-3:30p

**Cost:** \$15/person

**Contact:** Syeda Inamdar at 510-206-8158

## Crucial 2014 Primary Dates

Early voting begins	May 5
Voter Information Guide in mail	Apr 24-May 14
Last day to register or update reg'n	May 19
Last day to request Vote by Mail Ballot	May 27
PRIMARY ELECTION	June 3

## Drought in California

The Monday, March 10 Environmental Concerns Speaker Series will address the issue of **the drought in California**. What policies can the LWV support and what are the long term environmental issues we can expect moving forward?

**When:** Monday, March 10, 7:30-9:00p.

**Where:** 1174 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley

**Contact:** Carol Stone 510-549-0959, [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org)



**The League is its members**

Volunteer!

# Membership Report

*Mina Jenner, Dues Coordinator*

In January-February 2014 we welcomed three new members, one member rejoined, and we lost a long-time member.

## **New Members**

Polly Armstrong  
Cynthia Lloyd  
Madelyn Stone

## **Rejoined**

Merrilee Mitchell

## **Death**

Harold Lecar

# The Loss of Harold Lecar

*Jean Safir*



Harold Lecar passed away on Tuesday, February 4th, at his home in Berkeley. He was a dedicated teacher, scientist, and grandfather, with many interests, many talents, many admirers and many friends. He will be well remembered and very greatly missed.

Harold joined the League in 2004 and soon became an active member. He joined study committees to develop new positions from which we can take action, the Climate Change Team to bring his prodigious scientific mind to bear on the big challenges the team addresses, and worked on voter education and registration.

He was professor of biophysics and neurobiology at U.C. Berkeley since 1985. For the previous 22 years, he was a research physicist at the Biophysics Lab of the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke in D. C., doing both theoretical and experimental research.

Harold started working on election problems in 2000, when he watched the Florida election results come in. Again in 2004, he saw state after state mysteriously reversing their vote balance late in the day. Two weeks after that election, he was one of the initial members of Berkeley's Voting Rights Task Force and took on analysis of voting data as his prime responsibility. That was the year he also joined the League, to our great benefit.

Our hearts go out to his widow Helene, who is also a very active League member, and of course to the rest of his family.

# Donations to Our League

**January-February 2014**

*Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary*

## **To the LWVBAE General Fund**

Diane Akers	Debbie and Scott Hald
Jean Allen	<i>in memory of Ann Crowe</i>
Robert Arnold	Bruce Harris and Marilyn Reynolds
Regina Beatus	Miriam Hawley
Jane Bergen	Yvonne Koshland
Laurie Capitelli	Erika Kunkel
Karen Carlson-Olson and Henry Olson	William & Louise Lidicker
Elaine Chandler	Ruby and Robert MacDonald
Ranya Cohen	Madeline Mixer
Tom and Jane Coulter	Laura Murra
<i>in memory of Ann Crowe</i>	Jonathan Ryshpan
Doris Fine	George Trilling
Stephanie Friedman	Phoebe Watts
Anne Good	
Leo Goodman	

## **To the LWVB Foundation**

Diane Akers	Andrea Keaton
Barbara Alesandrini	Yvonne Koshland
Jean Allen	Erika Kunkel
Robert Anderson	Jane Lamph
Ellen Ansel	Susan Levine
Robert Arnold	Jill Martinucci
Regina Beatus	Judy and Roy Nakadegawa
Gilbert Bendix	Barbara Nelson
Jane Bergen	Jim Novosel and Colia Kainan
Karen Carlson-Olson	Weldon and Jeanie Rucker
Elaine Chandler	Marion Shapiro
Joanne de Phillips	Brad Smith
Violet Feinauer	Grace Smith
Stephanie Friedman	Ellen Turiel
Linda Gerson	Phoebe Watts
Ann-Marie Hogan	Lessly Wikle Field
Wilbur and Katherine Jacobs-Tusler	Teresa Wong
Angharad Jones	
Philip Kamlarz	

Many thanks for remembering our League.

***The League is its members***

Come to any of our meetings to learn what is happening and get involved. For meetings see the calendar on the back page.

## Board

President	Nancy Bickel
Secretary	Pat Day
Treasurer	Sarah Miyazaki
Action	Carol Stone
Program	Sherry Smith
Membership	Dean Metzger
Voter Services	Phyllis Gale

**2013-2014**

## Off-board

VOTER/Web Editor	Diz Swift
Climate Change	Regina Beatus
Education Action	Cathy Lynch and Dianne McNenny
Env. Concerns	Gail Schickle, Carol Stone, and Vi Feinauer
Health Care	Li-hsia Wang



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**Calendar** – Locations are the LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, and area code is (510) unless otherwise noted.

[www.lwvbae.org/calendar](http://www.lwvbae.org/calendar)

### March

1	Sat	12:00-3:30p	<b>Nonprofits Talking Taxes</b>	S. Inamdar	206-8158
			Chandni Restaurant, 5748 Mowry School Rd, Newark, CA		
4	Tues	10:00-12:00p	<b>LWVBAE Board Meeting</b>	N. Bickel	526-4055
10	Mon	12:00-1:30p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	548-0591
10	Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			<b>Drought in California</b> , 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
14	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Education Action Team</b>	C. Lynch	527-2173
17	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
18	Tues	12:00-1:30p	<b>Conversation with League</b>	S. Smith	548-1769
			<b>Downtown Development</b> <b>NOTE VENUE CHANGE</b>		
			Veterans Memorial Bldg, 1931 Center St, Berkeley		
26	Weds	1:30-3:00p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904
29	Sat	9:00a-12:00p	<b>Ag Study Consensus: Part A</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
		12:30-2:45p	<b>Ag Study Consensus: Part B</b>		
			Cesar Chavez Library, 3301 E 12th St. 2nd fl., Oakland.		
31	Mon	3:00-4:15p	<b>Action Team Meeting</b>	C. Stone	549-0959

### April

1	Tues	10:00-12:00p	<b>LWVBAE Board Meeting</b>	N. Bickel	526-4055
1	Tues	1:00-3:00p	<b>Ag Study Consensus: Part A</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
3	Thurs	9:30a-12:00p	<b>Ag Study Consensus: Part B</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
4	Fri	6:00p	<b>May-Jun VOTER Deadline</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
11	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Education Action Team</b>	C. Lynch	527-2173
15	Tues	12:00-2:00p	<b>Conversation with League</b>	S. Smith	548-1769
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
21	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
21	Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			<b>Fracking in CA: Part II</b> , 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
23	Weds	1:30-3:00p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

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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.*