

## Initiative and Referendum

### UC Hastings Law Professor Michael Salerno to Give Address November 29

To get our current state study of the California Initiative and Referendum Process off to a good start, the Alameda League invites all League members — as well as I & R Study Committee members— to join in hearing a local authority give his critique of the current system. Professor Michael Salerno of the UC Hastings School of Law will speak on “The Initiative and Referendum Process in California” on **Thursday, November 29 from 7:00 to 9:15 pm** at the College of Alameda Building “F” on the first floor, at Atlantic and Webster Streets in Alameda.



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## Two Holiday Events!



### Environmental Concerns Holiday Potluck and Talk on Bioconservation

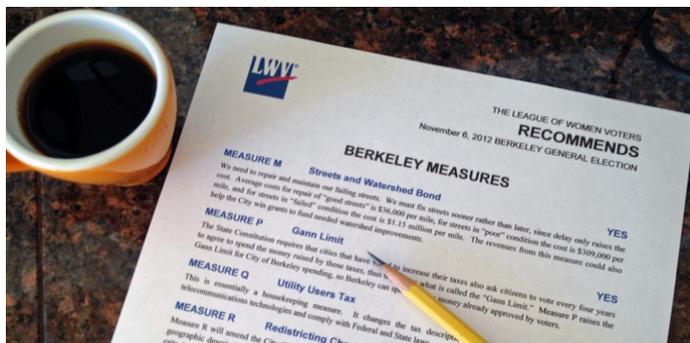
Mon. December 10, 7:00 p.m. POTLUCK (appetizers and desserts), TALK 7:30-9:00 p.m., 1174 Euclid Avenue **See story page 3**

**Open House**, On December 14 (4-8 pm) there will be a “progressive” open house hosted by the organizations in our building at 2530 San Pablo Ave. Come enjoy the food, festivities and meet our neighbors.

**See story page 4**

## The League Makes a Difference

Well, we went gangbusters in our advocacy for the 2012 General Election. All Berkeley measures on which we took a stand, and all but Proposition 34 (Repeal Death Penalty) for California, were voted the way the League recommended. Our very powerful work to inform voters of the LWV recommendations, without doubt, were a big influence – especially in Berkeley.



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**>I&R From Previous Page**

Professor Salerno, the associate director of the Center for State and Local Government Law at Hastings, is a noted expert on the initiative and referendum (I and R) process and is critical of the current state of the Initiative and Referendum process in California. A question and answer period will follow his 30 minute talk. For more on Professor Salerno's expertise see: <http://www.uchastings.edu/faculty-administration/faculty/salerno/index.html>

**Carpools:** We will arrange carpools to the meeting leaving Berkeley about 6:15 pm, so if you would like to attend, please email me ([seastone11@hotmail.com](mailto:seastone11@hotmail.com)) or phone (549-0959) with your address and phone number, whether you would like a ride, or will drive, and how many other people you can transport.

Carol Stone, Program Coordinator

**>League From Previous Page**

LWVBAE League members handed out over 5700 flyers at BART stations, community gathering places and events, and throughout neighborhoods, from mid-September right up until Monday before election day.

Conversations were sometimes the best part. League volunteers reported a genuine respect among voters for our efforts and for the League's work in general. We heard comments like, "I always want to know the League of Women Voters' recommendations", and "thank goodness you are doing this."

Special thanks go to the folks who did much of the work, including Regina Beatus, Nancy Bickel, Jan Blumenkrantz, Merle Fajans, Phyllis Gale, Nancy Parker, Sherry Smith, Rainey Sykes, Li-hsia Wang, Christine Wenrich, and Elise White as well as many others.

Congratulations and thanks to all participants.

Diz Swift, Action Coordinator

**What Issues Should We Study Next Year?**

Is there a policy area where you think the League should be active—but we have never studied it? Or perhaps our position is out-of-date. What local or state issues do you think we should study next year? Join us on Tuesday, January 8, to present your suggestions to your fellow members and to discuss new proposals.

If you feel strongly about an issue, spend some time preparing a brief and persuasive proposal. What is the topic? What is the key question? Could the League make a difference on this issue, or are many other groups working on it already? Are members interested? Would you participate in the study? This last question is particularly important when you propose a local study—since a key question always is: do we have people to lead and join the study committee?

Since the LWV California State convention will be held in San Jose May 17-19, we need to look over our existing positions and decide which ones we should retain. What new study or update should we propose? We will also need to decide which issues will be the "hottest" in the legislature or in public debate, so we can recommend that the LWVC emphasize those issues in legislative lobbying for the next two years. Delegates to the LWVC Convention will vote not only on these 'issues for emphasis,' but also on: retention, update and deletion of positions; proposed studies; and the budget for these activities.

This is your chance to weigh in on important League decisions. The meeting will be at the Albany Library, Edith Stone room, 1247 Marin Ave. from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

Carol Stone, Program Coordinator

## Post-Election Action

Responding to the election results, League members decided at the November 8 Action meeting to monitor several City activities. We plan to follow the redistricting process, planning for watershed improvements and decisions on how to spend new state funds.

**Monitor Redistricting Process:** With passage of Measure R, Berkeley needs to develop a process for redistricting. The League has monitored this process in the past and will renew its efforts. Sherry Smith will lead this effort and seeks other members to join her.

**Watershed Public Works:** Measure M, the Streets and Watershed Bond measure, has passed. Street repair can now be done and will include watershed mitigation where possible. The Council recently passed Berkeley's Watershed Management Plan which puts Berkeley in a strong position to qualify for State flood control grants; monies from Measure M will provide the necessary matching funds. We will follow the process as it moves forward. Diz Swift and Carol Stone will pursue this area.

**Locations and Agendas for Council Meetings:** Public comment on issues brought before the Berkeley City Council is sometimes difficult because the meeting room is too small, or the item is delayed until late in the evening. Nancy Bickel will pursue improving this situation.

**Interview All Councilmembers:** To assess what is of pressing concern to them, we will interview Councilmembers from Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. Nancy Bickel, Diz Swift, and Anne Henderson will pursue this.

**Money for Our Schools:** California Proposition 30 passed and will provide money for schools and other local uses. How this is done will be monitored, in collaboration with the LWV of California, and parent and school groups. Helene Lecar and Janet Strothman will monitor and champion this effort.

Diz Swift, Action Coordinator

## Be a Part of Action!

All League members are encouraged to participate in any of the areas of Action we are pursuing as a League. Simply contact the chair or leader of the effort and let them know.

S. Smith (548-1769), D. Swift (548-4808), C. Stone (549-0959), N. Bickel (684-6302), H. Lecar (549-9719).

In addition to action areas described to the left, you can be part of our Climate Change Team, Health Care Team, or Civics Education Team. See the Calendar (*page 8*) for meeting times.

## Join Us December 10

### Holiday Potluck and Talk on Bioconservation

The December 10 Natural Resources/Environmental Concerns speaker will be Bay Area author Mary Ellen Hannibal. Hannibal's recently published book, *The Spine of the Continent*, is both a history of bioconservation and an update about what we need to do to save natural habitat, focused on the Rocky Mountains but globally relevant. It chronicles iconic landscapes and charismatic critters, along with the idiosyncratic, passionate people working to save them. Publisher's Weekly calls the book "gripping and informative," and says, "This is what science writing should be – fascinating and true." The Sacramento Bee highlights the book as one of four nonfiction books to read this year, and says it "dazzles with subtlety." Hannibal is a recent winner of the Stanford Knight-Risser Award for Environmental Journalism in the West, for an article on the "Path of the Pronghorn", which is featured in the book.

Join us, Mon. December 10, 7:00 p.m. POTLUCK (appetizers and desserts), TALK 7:30-9:00 p.m., 1174 Euclid Avenue (at Crystal Way, just north of Eunice) in North Berkeley. Contacts: Carol Stone 510-549-0959 or Gail Schickele 415-336-5673.

## Park Named for League Member

The Eastshore State Park, which runs along the shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond, has been renamed in honor of Save the Bay co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin, key leader of the successful fight to stop infill of San Francisco Bay.

The 1,854-acre park was established in 2002 and stretches 8.5 miles along the shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. It is not continuous, but consists of five parcels, including the Emeryville crescent, the Brickyard area and Berkeley Meadow in Berkeley, much of the Albany shoreline and much of Point Isabel in Richmond.



LWVBAE members Sylvia McLaughlin and Carol Stone at League Luncheon, Aug 2011.

"It is widely recognized that the existence of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is the result of decades of grassroots environmental activism by San Francisco Bay Area citizens fighting to halt the filling of the bay," according to the staff report prepared for the state Parks and Recreation Commission meeting Friday. "One of the most influential organizations involved in the creation of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is Citizens for Eastshore Parks, co-founded by Sylvia McLaughlin in 1985."

Sylvia is a long time member of the LWVBAE, an active member of the Environmental Concerns group and a recipient of our 2011 "Spirit of the League" award.

Carol Stone, Program Coordinator

## Progressive Holiday Party, Dec 14

Come and celebrate the holidays on December 14 (4-8 pm) at a "progressive" open house hosted by the organizations in our building at 2530 San Pablo Ave. We'll progress from office to office for drinks, savories, pizza and sweets--getting acquainted with our neighbors and sharing the holiday spirit as musicians serenade us. We'll send more news closer to the date.

If you have questions, contact Pat Day at [patday@earthlink.net](mailto:patday@earthlink.net).

## An Alternative to PG&E?

Berkeley and some of its neighboring cities are considering joining together to create a "community choice aggregation" (CCA) district. San Francisco and Marin County have recently adopted this approach. The CCA would hope to find and encourage development of new renewable energy producers so the district could gradually shift to a "greener" energy mix. The East Bay Municipal Utility District would be part of the district and manage its operations. PG&E would provide the distribution system for a fee negotiated with the new CCA district. Consumers could opt-in or opt-out of the CCA. Tom Kelly, of the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, discussed this possibility with Leaguers at the November 13 "Conversation".

## Organizing Ourselves

Pat Day has agreed to take on the newly created position of Administrative Coordinator. She will work with others to make our new office work more effectively. Others who are critical to administration are Jane Barrett (volunteer recruiting and training), Jane Coulter, Samuela Evans and Mina Jenner (membership records) and Louetta Erlin (donor communications). Pat would welcome help in organizing computer and paper files, office supplies and more. Contact her if you have good ideas or time to lend your energies to the effort. Pat's email is [patday@earthlink.net](mailto:patday@earthlink.net).

## Lively Voter Meetings

Program Chair Carol Stone organized a series of lively and well-attended election events, starting off in the summer with debates between supporters and opponents of the West Berkeley Plan changes – Measure T, and the “Sunshine Initiative” – Measure U. About 60 community and League members challenged the speakers with vigorous questions, as reported in our September *Voter*. Equally well attended was the candidates debate at the fall meeting. Candidates for contested districts 2, 3 and 5 expressed their differing views, particularly on the West Berkeley measure, and, surprising everyone, generally agreed in opposing the “Sunshine” initiative, as reported in our October *Voter*.



Karen Nelson and others listen to candidates debating

Members reviewed the pros and cons on the State Propositions at the October “Conversation” at Albany Library and learned, from our own expert Anne Henderson, how the state League decides its positions on these measures. League members presented pros and cons on state propositions to about a dozen different groups at their various September and October meetings. The League members who volunteered and were trained to provide this community service included Mim Hawley, Bill Chapman, Diz Swift, Nancy Bickel, Sherry Smith, Carol Stone, Sarah Miyazaki, Dean Metzger, Angharad Jones, Phyllis Gale, Jean Safir and the indefatigable and well-informed Helene Lecar.

Leaguers spoke at the Civic Engagement and Global Studies Clubs of Berkeley City College, the Berkeley Adult School, two different chapter meetings at the Center for the Blind,

the Zonta Club, Senior Centers, including those for Japanese- and Chinese-Americans, the Jewish Humanist group Kol Hadash, Northbrae and First Congregational Church— all League speakers. Bobbie Spike responded to John Muir teacher Maggie Knutson’s request to speak to her fifth grade class about voting rights. Bobbie reported: “We did a ‘secret ballot’ on Proposition 30 and Measure 1A. Both won overwhelmingly. I gave them a short history of LWV. The teacher was terrific.”

Nancy Bickel, Communications Coordinator

### ***Coming in the February Voter: Our Registration Efforts***

## Updating Outreach to Voters

### **Web and Video: LWVBAE on YouTube**

We expanded our outreach to the public through video and the web. New member Abigail Bok took on the job of SmartVoter Coordinator--posting Berkeley and Albany issues on the SmartVoter.org website.

Berkeley Community Media generously provided staff and studio time to produce election programs which were posted on our new LWVBAE YouTube channel and ran on government channel 33 almost continuously for over a month before the election.

The programs included debates of councilmember candidates from Districts 2, 4, and 5, school board (co-produced with the PTA Council) and 2 minute spots for mayoral candidates. Lessly Wikle Field once again hosted most programs. She recalled that she has been hosting our shows for more than 20 years. Diz Swift, our Action Coordinator, hosted the discussion with candidates for District 5. Nancy Bickel produced the shows with assistance from Diz Swift, Angharad Jones and Phoebe Watts.

Nancy Bickel, Communications Coordinator

## Cap and Trade Has First Auction

On Wednesday, November 14, the state of California launched a major attack on climate change by holding the first auction of greenhouse gas emission credits. The quarterly auctions are expected to generate about \$1 billion in their first year.

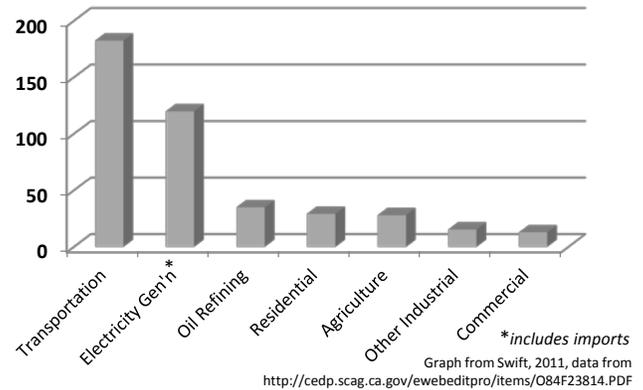
Cap-and-trade puts a price – a cost – on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thereby effectively putting the market to work as a driver of our behavior toward using less carbon-based energy. Why? Simply because any process that emits GHG will get more expensive. The hope is that this powerful market force will, in turn, drive innovation in a very positive direction.

In 2011, cap-and-trade was established to set a declining cap on allowed greenhouse gas emissions. The cap-and-trade plan is a central part of AB 32, the landmark climate change legislation passed in 2006. Under cap-and-trade, the largest carbon emitters, including refineries, power plants, industrial facilities, and transportation fuels, will be required to meet the caps or buy credits.

The program will be phased in. From 2012 through 2014, major electricity generators, industrial facilities and suppliers of carbon dioxide for industry will be regulated. From 2015 through 2017, fuel suppliers and distributors, including suppliers of natural gas, transportation fuels and liquefied petroleum gas, will be regulated.

That transportation fuels will be included in the regulated emissions is a major step forward. As seen in the graph in the next column, transportation accounts for 44% of total emissions. If we don't include transportation fuels we simply are avoiding nearly half the problem. The increased price for fuels – primarily gasoline and diesel – will likely be seen by the consumer at the pump.

Each year, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will determine the total cap on GHG emissions from all covered sources. That number is then divided into "allowances". The cap, and corresponding allowances, is reduced each year sufficient to reach a 15% reduction of GHGs by 2020.



As with most new procedures, cap-and-trade has challengers. Opponents say the system is simply a new tax, unfair to businesses, will cause declining profits and job loss, and put California businesses at a competitive disadvantage. On the day before the first auction, the California Chamber of Commerce sued in Sacramento County Superior Court, challenging the state's authority to raise revenues from sale of the credits.

California is the only U.S. state with any kind of cap-and-trade or GHG emissions tax or fee. What is already a challenge is made more so because we are going it alone -- at least for now. More to come.

Diz Swift, Action Coordinator

### Do You Know How to Have an Efficient Meeting?

Have you ever noticed that some meetings have a lot of energy and talk, but at the end there is no path forward? Come join us for training in how to make your meetings always reach their goal, respect the time of the participants and still allow for fun. Join us for a training session on how to run an efficient meeting, Tuesday, January 15, 4:00-5:30.

## Tour of Energy Biosciences

On November 6, 2012, fifteen members of LWVBAE were warmly received by Director Chris Somerville at the newly opened UC Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI). Formerly called the Helios Project, EBI is a British Petroleum-funded/UC energy research project. The building, its location, and its work have been the subject of much discussion in Berkeley and are of particular interest to members of our Climate Change Team and Natural Resources group.

Located at 2151 Berkeley Way, the building houses a sophisticated biofuels research project – a collaboration among the University of California, Berkeley; the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and BP. Its mission is “to harness the potential of bioenergy, to make discoveries, and commercialize realities out of these, which could benefit the world.”

Resident scientists gave the LWVBAE group an in-depth presentation about the relationship between EBI and BP. The institute’s primary goal is sustainable development. We got an overview of cellulosic biofuels and the status of current energy needs in California. A Q&A followed, then a tour of the five story building. We thank Dr. Somerville and Dr. Taylor for organizing, and we thank the scientists for participating in informing the League about the work of this new project.

Nancy Parker, Climate Change Team

## Save the Date for Water

*Water: California's Gold 2013* will focus on the history, governance and future of California's water at the next Bay Area League Day, Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Look for more information about League Day in the Bay Area Monitor and at [lwwbayarea.org](http://lwwbayarea.org).

## Membership Report

Thank you to those who joined or renewed membership in the League in October. An especially warm welcome to the newcomers.

### **New Members**

William Craig  
Lori Droste  
Maryan Gong  
Deborah Malbec

### **Renewed Members**

Julie Holcomb  
Fred Nachtwey

Mina Jenner, Dues Coordinator

## Affectionate Thanks to Fran Packard

Fran Packard retired in October from her work as Editor of *The Voter* and other League publications. She carried out her editorial work in the same competent and cheerful way she has always done her League work – as LWVBAE president, as LWVC president, as chair of a major study on hazardous materials in California, and so much more. Fran, we all send you our warm and affectionate appreciation.

## Donations to the League

October 2012

### **To the LWVBAE General Fund**

Diane Akers	Nancy Fitzgerald
Ruth Bardakci	Ora and Kurt Huth
Regina Beatus	Patricia Kuhl
Linda Burden	Phila Rogers
Helen Canin	Elsa Tranter
Samuela Evans	

### **To the LWVB Foundation**

William Craig  
Jay and Sarah Miyazaki

Many thanks for remembering our League.

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

## Board

## 2012-2013

President	Sherry Smith
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Action	Diz Swift
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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 active and informed participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**Calendar** – Locations are the LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, unless otherwise noted

### December

1	Sat	9:00-3:00p	<b>LWV Alameda Co. Council</b>	S. Smith	548-1769
10	Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns and Holiday Potluck</b>		
			Bioconservation (Mary Ellen Hannibal)		
			1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley	C. Stone	549-0959
11	Tues	12:00-2:00p	<b>Conversations</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			Marin Land Trust on Williamson Act (Jeff Stump)		
14	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Civics Ed Team</b>	J. Gardner	548-5292
	Fri	4:00-8:00p	<b>Holiday Open House</b>	P. Day	841-8243
			Progressive party – <i>ALL ARE WELCOME</i>		
17	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
18	Tues	1:30-3:30p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

### January

8	Tues	12:00-2:00p	<b>Conversations</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			Program Planning		
			Edith Stone Rm, Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
11	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Civics Ed Team</b>	J. Gardner	548-5292
14	Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
15	Tues	4:00-5:30p	<b>Effective Meetings Training</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
			<i>ALL ARE WELCOME</i>		
17	Thurs	4:30-6:00p	<b>Our New Website</b>	N. Bickel	684-6302
21	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
22	Tues	1:30-3:30p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904
31	Thurs	4:30-6:00p	<b>Action Meeting</b>	D. Swift	548-4808