

Join Us for Our Annual Meeting

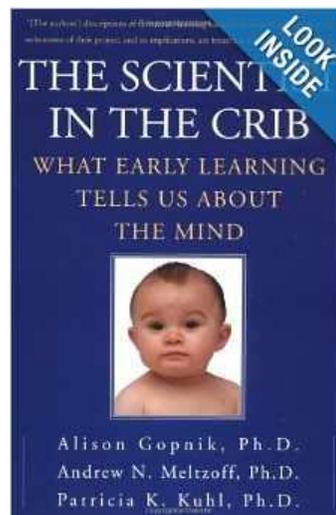


May 22, 5:15-8:30p
Northbrae Community Center, 941 The Alameda

By Nancy Bickel

Professor Alison Gopnik of UC Berkeley will astonish and delight us at 6:30 with a talk on “The Scientist in the Crib: What Research Tells Us about Children’s Minds “. She will *astonish* with all the ingenious ways she and fellow scientists have found to discover and prove what infants and toddlers are thinking long before they can tell us in language; and *delight* because many of us were convinced by our own children that babies are much smarter, much sooner, than earlier child development authorities admitted. Prof. Gopnik is a lively writer and speaker, a leading researcher in developmental psychology and philosophy of the mind, and the author of four books and many journal articles.

What’s the connection with our League program? Both LWVBAE and LWVC are emphasizing Education as an issue; a key element is lobbying to expand funding for high quality early childhood education. The research of Gopnik and



others proves that infants and young children are constantly observing, thinking, and learning. We need to nourish and enrich those eager young minds at home and pre-school.

Come early to greet old friends and meet new ones, then enjoy a tasty buffet supper of herb crusted pan-roasted chicken, vegetables, creamy coleslaw and seasonal dessert prepared by our master chef Rainey Sykes and her crew.

After dinner Dr. Gopnik will speak, followed by our business meeting where we will discuss and vote whether to adopt the following Board recommendations:

- Budget for the coming year—not too different from the current year, with no rise in membership dues.
- Readopt our local policy positions.
- Do an update study of local boards and commissions .
- Continue two issues for public education and action: climate change and education.

Want to Get Involved? Have Some Skills to Share?

Give President Nancy Bickel a call (510-526-4055) or send an email to president@lwvbae.org.

Let’s sit down together and explore the possibilities.

At the Annual Meeting in 2012, the Board requested and the membership agreed that we would experiment with a smaller working board and other management changes for a year or two and, if they seemed effective, we would then change the bylaws to reflect the changes. We find that the smaller board—currently at seven members—with the emphasis on working in teams is efficient. So the Board recommends adoption of these changes to our bylaws.

You will find the Annual Meeting Kit with its Call to Annual Meeting on the yellow pages inside this *VOTER*. Please bring them with you to the meeting on May 22.

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Join us May 22 to see friends, hear Dr. Alison Gopnik, and participate in our business meeting.

By Nancy Bickel

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By Gail Schickele



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Statewide Direct Primary Election

A review of key election issues in the June 3 primary election.

By Nancy Bickel

Robert Reich to Speak 4

Save the date of September 4 for our Community Luncheon with featured speaker Robert Reich.

By Sherry Smith



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Water What happens when we lose this most precious resource?



Join us for Environmental Concerns
Monday, May 12, 7:00-8:30p

By Gail Schickele

The tumultuous and ever-changing climate of drought and deluge are a forewarning about the scarcity of water we face in this century and beyond. Join us for a presentation and discussion about the future of fresh water availability, the inevitable water scarcity for which we're ill-prepared, and what we can do now to mitigate the future limited supply anticipated globally and regionally of this most precious resource.

When: May 12, 7:30-9:00p

Where: 1174 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley

Public Schools Fund and Berkeley Schools

By Sherry Smith

The Conversation with the League on June 17 will feature Erin Rhoades, Executive Director of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, discussing with Josh Daniels, President of the BUSD School Board, the role that the Fund plays in enhancing offerings at the Berkeley schools, as well as what the current trends are in the BUSD schools.

When: Tuesday, June 17, noon to 2:00

Where: Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room

Erosion of Voter Rights Continues

By Phyllis Gale

Leagues of Women Voters have been waiting since the Supreme Court June 2013 decision of *Shelby County v. Holder* for Congress to restore the requirement that the Justice Department review of certain state and local jurisdictions' changes in their voting laws because of past discriminatory behavior. On January 16, 2014, the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 was introduced in Congress with 22 bipartisan co-sponsors. Currently it is sitting in the House Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. It was referred by the House Committee on Judiciary on March 20, 2014 (Congress.gov). Meanwhile, a number of states including Kansas and Arizona continue to enact suppressive voting measures. Follow the status of this bill and other voter registration news at www.lwv.org.

ON THE WEB

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

JUNE 3, 2014

ELECTION

Statewide Direct Primary Election

By Nancy Bickel

Do we want to continue to fund health care in the county by renewing the current half-cent per dollar sales tax? That's the important question asked in County Measure AA. Our Pros and Cons on this measure are posted on our website and will reach members in print soon. LWVBAE and Leagues in Alameda County have voted to support this measure.

Because most state propositions will now appear only on November ballots, only two state measures are on the June 3 ballot. Prop 41, *Bonds for Veterans' Housing and Homeless Prevention*, proposes taking money from previously unsold veterans housing bonds and using it to create rental housing for homeless and low-income vets. The state and thus the public would also take on the responsibility for repaying the bonds, rather than having them repaid, as in the past, by veterans paying mortgages on houses they had bought.

The second state proposition, Prop 42, *Public Records, Open Meetings*, would change who pays when local governments obey the Public Records Act and the Brown Act. Local governments would have to pay the costs themselves. Local governments, like state government, would still be required to make public records available to citizens and to notify the public in a timely manner about public meetings and their agendas and so on, but the costs of doing so would no longer be reimbursed by the state government.

You can find these issues explained in brief in the Easy Voter Guide, or more fully in the State Pros & Cons. Both can be found on our website www.lwvbae.org; just click "elections" at the top of the screen to go to the Elections page. The Easy Voter Guide is also available on its own website in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean, as well as English.

Candidates are on the ballot too. No longer are we voting only for candidates in our own party. Our primaries are now open, so you can vote for any candidate running for an office. The top two vote-getters will face each other in

November. In Alameda County, this may often mean two Democrats.

We will have some competitive non-partisan and partisan races. Eight candidates are running for our Assembly District 15, now that Nancy Skinner is termed out. Five candidates are vying for County Superintendent of Education, as long-time Superintendent Sheila Jordan retires. Two candidates are standing for Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder, as the incumbent Patrick O'Connell leaves office. Leaguers with long memories will be interested to know that Audie Bock, daughter of Felicia Bock, an active League member for many years, is running in the neighboring 10th state senate district..

To take a look at the races in detail, go to SmartVoter.org. Also you can turn to the websites of the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and the Secretary of State for all the basic election info.

Ballot Measures and Election of Judges

By Sherry Smith

May 20 Conversation with the League

The Conversation with the League on May 20 will feature a presentation of the pros and cons of ballot measures and a discussion of the pluses and minuses of electing judges.

When: Tuesday, May 20, noon to 2:00 pm

Where: Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room

The first half of the May Conversation will be devoted to a presentation and discussion of the pros and cons of the two state propositions (Props 41 and 42) and the Alameda County Measure AA (see a brief description of the measures in preceding article on this page).

The balance of the meeting will feature a discussion of the pluses and minuses of electing judges, led by Hon. David C. Lee (Ret.), who served the Alameda County courts system for over 30 years and is an expert on judicial ethics. This year, the terms of office for 22 judges expired in Alameda County, but the voters will not find any of these positions listed on their ballots because there are no contests. Only one person filed for the judicial seat and so, under California law, each is considered a "winner" and therefore does not appear on a ballot. The Conversation will explore the ethical issues faced by judges who must be elected, especially when their place on the bench is challenged, forcing an election race. We will also explore alternatives to judicial elections.

Voter Services Activities

June 3 Primary

By Phyllis Gale

We listened to you and are transforming LWVBAE voter services activities. Voter Services is reaching out to local organizations that are part of and work with ethnic and other groups that are typically under-represented among voters. The groups will in turn reach out to their own members to register voters, get out the vote and provide election information. We have already started to meet with organizations. Please send Phyllis Gale voterservices@lwvbae.org names of promising organizations with contact information (names, email, phone, and address for organization or person).

The plan is for LWVBAE to provide Voter Registration forms and assist in registration as requested, provide Easy Voter Guides, League Pros and Cons, and other information that may be requested. Our own Ruby MacDonald has already reached out to ethnic and other UC Berkeley student groups housed in the Chavez Student Union and delivered 300 registration forms to six groups.

We are using the primary election to make connections, set up our systems, and try out our plans, so we will have a strong efficient system in place come November. Let us hear from you if you have additional suggestions.

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

Easy Voter, Pros/Cons on Web

Easy Voter: Easy Voter is available online at <http://cavotes.org/>. Hard copies are available at the LWVBAE office. The Easy Voter, a collaboration of the LWVC Education Fund and the California State Library, has been providing new voters and busy voters with nonpartisan information for statewide elections in California for the past 20 years.

Pros and Cons on Alameda County Measure AA and on the two state propositions are available on our website, just click the Elections button at the top of the page to find them. LWVC is not issuing them in print, but you can download them at <http://cavotes.org/vote/pros-cons-pdf>. Members will receive short versions of the County and State Pros and Cons in the mail.

Come to LWV Bay Area Convention!

Join us Saturday, May 3, 10:00a-12:00p, at the Sausalito Bay Model. It's free to all our members. Roberta Borgonovo, LWVC Program Director for Water, our top expert on water issues, will review, in her words, a "many-billion dollar water bond expected to go before the voters in November of 2014." The LWVC is examining how to provide objective information on the bond's complex issues that will confront voters in Nov.

The Convention will be only two hours long in a fascinating location. Carpools can be arranged. Contact Nancy at president@lwvbae.org if you'd like to come.

Robert Reich to Speak



By Pat Day, Luncheon Chair

Robert Reich will speak on "Inequality and the New Billionaire Political Bosses" at the League's 15th Annual Community Luncheon on September 4. You won't want to miss his informative and entertaining presentation, so mark your calendars right away!

The Luncheon will be at Hs Lordships on the Berkeley Marina on Thursday, September 4th. The event will start with a no-host social gathering 11:30, and the Luncheon itself gets underway at 12:15 with the awarding of the League's annual "Spirit of the League" honors.

Printed invitations will go into the mail this summer, with all the details and reservation information. In the meantime, tell your friends so they too can reserve September 4 on their calendars. They'll thank you for the opportunity to hear Professor Reich and his provocative presentation, at an event that also benefits the League.

Membership Report

Mina Jenner, Dues Coordinator

In March-April 2014 we welcomed two new members and lost two.

New Members

Lynene Corkin
Mia O'Reilly

Deaths

Margaret Alafi
Patricia Spear

Call for Nominations Spirit of the League Awards

for Individuals and Organizations
Send recommendations, titled "Spirit",
to office@lwvbae.org by May 8th.

LWVBAE 2012-13 Financial Report

By Sarah Miyazaki

Below is a report of our financials for the fiscal year 2012-2013 (July-June). The Professional Fees of \$4,042 were for development of our website.

INCOME	Budget	Actual
Dues	\$18,030	\$16,135
Community Lunch	\$13,500	\$12,893
LWVB Foundation	\$9,000	\$9,000
Contributions	\$7,000	\$8,116
Program Meetings	\$1,200	\$1,585
Transfer from Other Assets	\$16,033	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$500	\$1,196
TOTAL INCOME	\$65,263	\$48,925

EXPENSES	Budget	Actual
Action	\$5,000	\$5,000
Program	\$2,000	\$2,000
PerMemberPayments to LWV, LWVC, LWVBA	\$12,933	\$12,933
Convention Subsidies	\$3,000	\$3,000
Election & Other Community Services	\$5,000	\$5,000
Smart Voter	\$500	\$500
Voter Newsletter	\$5,500	\$4,063
ADMINISTRATION		
Office Rent	\$12,180	\$11,180
Supplies, Copies, Postage	\$3,600	\$1,374
Phone, Computer, Web, Equipment	\$4,600	\$2,554
Professional Fees	\$550	\$4,042
Tax, Insurance and Fees	\$1,300	\$875
Board	\$100	\$116
DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH		
Community Lunch	\$9,000	\$6,378
Other, Brochures, PR	\$0	\$1,235
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$65,263	\$60,250
NET TOTALS		
Net Ordinary Income		(\$11,325)
Change in Value of Investments		\$19,732
Net Income		\$8,407

Donations to Our League

March-April 2014

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Lynn Glaser	Vida Lehmann
Debbie and Scott Hald	Laura Murra
<i>in memory of Ann Crowe</i>	Therese Pipe
Joyce Jackson	Betsy Warnick

To the LWVB Foundation

David and Eva Bradford
Tom and Jane Coulter
Cecily Peterson

Many thanks for remembering our League.

It's LWV Convention Season!

Attending conventions can open your eyes to new directions. Although you may not be a voting delegate, anyone can attend. If you are interested in participating in any of the events described here, please contact Nancy Bickel at president@lwvbae.org.

LWV Bay Area Convention: Saturday, May 3, 10:00a-12:00p, at the Sausalito Bay Model. See box pg 4.

LWV California Council: LWVC California Leadership Council 2014 will be in San Jose May 17-18. Leaguers who would like to improve their leadership skills are welcome to attend. If you'd like to join the leadership of our League, please contact Nancy at president@lwvbae.org to discuss.

LWVUS Convention: At the national League convention in Dallas June 6-10, six LWVBAE members will work actively as delegates and in leading and participating in caucuses to campaign for League priorities.

- Pat Kuhl and Nancy Bickel will lead a caucus on Economic Inequality and its impacts on our democracy. LWVBAE proposed a study of this topic to LWVUS as agreed at our Program Planning. We'll also be supporting member concurrence on the existing League of Women Voters of Kansas' position on a Living Wage.
- Janice Blumenkrantz, Carol Stone and Diz Swift will work with LWV Florida on a Climate Change Caucus and with LWV Delaware to encourage more aggressive action by LWVUS on climate change mitigation and to urge local and state governments to develop and expand substantive climate change action.
- Li-hsia Wang will lead the caucus on single payer health care with members from CO and VT.

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



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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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Editor: Diz Swift
Current and past issues of the *VOTER* are posted on our website www.lwvbae.org/newsletter

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, and area code is (510) unless otherwise noted.

www.lwvbae.org/calendar

May

3	Sat	10:00a-12:00p	LWV Bay Area Convention	S. Smith	548-1769
			Sausalito Bay Model		
9	Fri	1:30-3:30p	Education Action Team	C. Lynch	527-2173
12	Mon	6:00-8:00p	Money in Politics Forum	N. Bickel	526-4055
			Cal State East Bay, Hayward, Multipurpose Room		
12	Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
			Water Scarcity , 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
13	Tues	10:30-12:30p	LWVBAE Board Meeting	N. Bickel	526-4055
19	Mon	1:30-2:30p	Health Care Team	L. Wang	848-5765
20	Tues	12:00-1:30p	Conversation with League	S. Smith	548-1769
			Ballot Measures and Election of Judges		
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
20	Fri	1:30-3:30p	Education Action Team	C. Lynch	527-2173
22	Thurs	5:15-8:30p	LWVBAE Annual Meeting	N. Bickel	526-4055
			Speaker Dr. Alison Gopnik		
			Northbrae Comm’y Ctr, 941 The Alameda		
23	Fri	1:30-3:00p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904

June

3	Tues	7:00a-8:00p	Primary Election		
6	Fri	6:00p	Jul-Aug VOTER Deadline	D. Swift	548-4808
13	Fri	1:30-3:30p	Education Action Team	C. Lynch	527-2173
16	Mon	1:30-2:30p	Health Care Team	L. Wang	848-5765
17	Tues	12:00-2:00p	Conversation with League	S. Smith	548-1769
			Public School Fund and Berkeley Schools		
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
27	Fri	1:30-3:00p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904