

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville



APRIL 2010

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JUVENILE JUSTICE: MUST IT BE A PIPELINE TO PRISON? WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUTH

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

CONVERSATION AT THE LEAGUE

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM
1247 MARIN AVENUE (AT MASONIC), ALBANY

Years ago, after conducting a study on juvenile justice issues, LWVBAE and other Alameda County Leagues adopted support positions which allow us, in the name of LWV, to take action to improve public policy with respect to juvenile justice. Experienced Leaguers have been monitoring agencies and policies involved in these issues. Please read *The Hidden Costs* (below) in preparation for the April 6 Conversation with Leaguers, friends and others who are concerned about juvenile justice.

The Hidden Costs of Cuts in Services to Our Most Vulnerable Youth

The boy with a single, struggling mom, living in East Oakland's danger zone, trying to stay alive, sees a gang as a way out. The young girl, abused as a small child, chooses to be in the thrall of a pimp. Other youngsters have a parent on drugs or in prison. All are left to their own devices – to deal with hunger, poor schooling, mental health issues. These children need the attention and support of caring adults.

(continued on p. 3)

SAVE THE DATE!!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010
5:30 - 8:30 PM

NORTHBRAE COMMUNITY CHURCH
941 THE ALAMEDA, BERKELEY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER,
BUSINESS MEETING AND A GUEST
SPEAKER. DETAILS COMING IN THE
MAY-JUNE VOTER.



LWVBAE FUNDRAISING DRIVE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN YEARS

Towards the end of November, the League's annual fundraising appeal letter went out to some 500 recipients.

At the "mailing party" where we folded, stuffed and labeled envelopes, we talked about the mixed fundraising results other organizations were having in these perilous economic times. And we crossed our fingers.

Clearly, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt and Susan B. Anthony were watching over us, as this year's drive yielded more than \$9,000. Contributions included funds for League advocacy as well as funds directed to our League Foundation's voter-education efforts.

A total of 57 contributors donated \$5,585 to the League, spurred to new heights by a challenge grant from one of the Foundation Board members. Another 48 donors (several people contributed to both entities) gave \$3,555 to the Foundation. We received several nice notes accompanying the checks, including the following:

"Please accept my apologies for the unusually small year-end donation from me. I have been unemployed for over a year now. As a result, I have had to drastically cut back and even drop some of the organizations that I normally support. This necessary cutback is the saddest result of this situation. I look forward to a better 2010."

We are especially grateful that this donor chose to continue to contribute to the League and to the Foundation.

This total, probably a record, is the largest anyone on either Board can remember having ever been raised for our annual fundraising efforts. Our Annual Community Luncheon nets about \$7,000 each year, and in combination with this drive, provides a total of nearly 15% of our annual LWVBAE budget.

To each and every one of you who responded to this appeal, our heartfelt thanks for helping make possible the education and action for which we have been known and trusted for 90 years.

Sherry Smith
LWVB Foundation President

SHOULD OUR LEAGUE CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (IN MARCH), AND/OR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (ALSO IN MARCH) AND/OR THE FOUNDING OF LWVUS (IN FEBRUARY - ITS 90TH WAS LAST MONTH)? IF SO, HOW? SHOULD LWVBAE HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT IT? LET ME KNOW YOUR IDEAS! *GINETTE POLAK* AT VGPOLAK@HOTMAIL.COM OR 510-841-4546.

THE VOTER

Published monthly except January, June & August by

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

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THE VOTER is free to members, \$20/year for non-members. Current and past issues of *THE VOTER* are posted on our website at 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.

VOTER SERVICE: THE JUNE 8, 2010 ELECTION

On the ballot for the state-wide primary election on June 8 will be five state propositions and one local measure (a bond measure for swimming pools in Berkeley).

Our League will distribute *Pros & Cons* publications which will be developed by the State LWV and available online. We will probably produce hardcopy *Pros and Cons* and will publicize the website where the text can be found. As new information comes to light, the content will be updated throughout the two months prior to the election.

The State LWV will offer increased support to local League ballot measure speakers via refocused *In Depth* content and a new "Pro/Con Speakers Network" webspace, an online place where League speakers can exchange information about propositions and presentation tools they have developed. This network will help supply the State League with information for updates to both the *Pro and Cons* and *In Depth* content.

So this is what our local membership needs to do:

1. Write *Pros and Cons* for the local Berkeley measure.
2. Volunteer to speak to local groups about the ballot measures. (You'll get help in preparing for this.)
3. Help distribute printed material to your friends, neighbors and co-workers.

This is an important part of our ongoing efforts to help California voters make informed choices on ballot propositions. Call or email the League office to tell what you'd like to do or to get additional information. Or contact me at 510.525.6614 or phoebe.watts@sbcglobal.net.

Phoebe Watts
Vice President - Election Services

JUVENILE JUSTICE: MUST IT BE A PIPELINE TO PRISON?

(continued from p. 1)

Yet many only receive that attention once they have fallen afoul of the law. While some youngsters are referred to services that help them – without their being detained or in jail – others end up at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center, awaiting a judge’s decision as to their disposition. The young person may be in custody for only a month, but it is a very important month: for the first time in their lives they receive proper educational, health and mental-health assessments. Some say it is the first time that they have ever felt safe.

It is this time – during their detention period – that is a critical moment in the lives of these youngsters: this is the time when positive intervention can start them on the path toward literacy, mental health treatment and a reassessment of their lives. Yet our County Probation Department is being forced to cut back some of the programs in the Center that help these youth the most.

And even good programs in the Center can do little if the youth are simply sent back to their communities without coordinated assistance to help them to stay on track. Cutbacks mean fewer probation officers who can act as case managers. Cutbacks also mean that an increased number of young people will have irregular supervision; many youngsters will receive no supervision at all.

What will happen to these young people? In all probability they will only get into more trouble, they will commit more serious crimes and will recycle back into detention. The more they recycle, the deeper they will be sucked into the pipeline to prison.

It costs upwards of \$150,000 a year to maintain a youngster in a state juvenile prison, and most of them exit worse off than when they entered. For only a small fraction of this sum we can provide the supervision, teaching, help and support to turn that young person’s life into a healthy and constructive one. The State and County share policy and funding responsibilities for these youth.

Join *Pat Kuhi* and me for an update and a Conversation at the Albany Public Library on Tuesday, April 6. Please note that you may bring your lunch, but water is the only beverage allowed on the Library premises.

*Lois Brubeck, Co-Chair
Juvenile Justice*

PROPOSITION 11 NEWS FROM LWVC

Proposition 11 Observer Corps - The State League is recruiting members from the Bay Area to be observers at the public meetings to be held in Sacramento on the implementation of Proposition 11, which was adopted by the voters in 2008, creating a Citizens Redistricting Commission to redraw election district boundaries after the 2010 Census. League members in other areas of California are also being sought as backup to watch the hearings, monitor press coverage and prepare to observe the work of the Commission in 2011. Training by webinar will be provided.

The Observer Corps will act as an impartial watchdog to make sure that the spirit and letter of Proposition 11 are followed, and the Corps will provide information about the process to the League and the public. If you want to sign up for this unique project that truly reflects the spirit of League, contact Chris Carson, LWVC Redistricting Program Director, at carsonlwv@yahoo.com.

Proposition 11 Is Being Threatened - Yes! You read that right! Even before the Citizens Redistricting Commission is created, forces are moving to get rid of it. The LWVC opposes the so-called “FAIR Act” initiative that would undo Proposition 11 by eliminating the Citizens Redistricting Commission and giving the authority to draw State Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization seats back to the Legislature.

Although the official proponent of the initiative is UCLA law professor Daniel Lowenstein, the real force behind the measure is Representative Howard Berman. Donations to qualify the initiative for the ballot have been made by members of Congress from California and former Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. League members and their friends are urged to refuse to sign petitions for this attempt to put redistricting back into the hands of politicians who want to continue to draw their own districts.

Redistricting Commission Moves Forward - More than 30,000 Californians applied to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission before the initial application period closed February 16. Public response at the end was so great – 600 applications in one eight-hour period – that the State Auditor extended the deadline by four days.

Using webinars, workshops and personal outreach, League members throughout California enthusiastically recruited applicants. Now the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) begins the work of sifting through the applications to select pools of the most qualified candidates who represent the diversity of our State. Visit the Auditor’s website at <http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/index.html> to learn more and to watch webcasts of the public meetings of the ARP that began on February 25.

*Jean Safir
Director-at-Large*

ENERGY STIMULUS & PG&E RATEPAYER FUNDS FOR BERKELEY BUILDINGS

Did you know that over half of all Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings? That's why the City of Berkeley, the utility companies and other public agencies are developing programs designed to improve building-energy performance. Many Berkeley buildings were not built with efficiency in mind and they waste a lot of the natural gas used for space and water heating, creating unnecessary greenhouse gases.

In order to help meet Berkeley's climate action goals for reducing greenhouse gases by 33% over the next 10 years and 80% by 2050, the City of Berkeley is using Federal Stimulus Funds to help property owners make their homes and buildings more efficient. Berkeley is also making sure that its residents are able to access and leverage other energy improvement incentive programs. Improving the energy performance of buildings in Berkeley will:

- Create energy efficient building stock and improve the durability, health, safety, and comfort of homes and businesses;
- Reduce utility expenses for residents and businesses;
- Stimulate demand for local green jobs; and
- Reduce the City's overall carbon footprint.

Berkeley's building energy performance improvement strategies are based on verified building improvements performed by qualified building-performance professionals, including energy auditors trained in diagnostic testing and contractors trained in energy performance standards, such as the Building Performance Institute (BPI). Tests will be required pre- and post-retrofit to verify improvements and provide quality assurance. Changes are being proposed to the Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO) to align requirements with these incentive programs.

The following is a description of programs currently available or in development. This list will be updated as information on other programs becomes available to Berkeley residents. Programs indicated with an asterisk * are currently available:

Single Family and Duplex Residences Energy Performance Improvement Programs

1. * **Fully-subsidized energy performance services to qualifying resident owners and tenants:** The City's weatherization program provides energy saving improvements to income-eligible residents. For eligibility and other information, dial the City's Customer Service Center at 311 or visit the City of Berkeley website at www.cityofberkeley.info/
2. * **SmartSolar free site assessments:** Smart Solar is a free, independent service for Berkeley residents and businesses that helps property owners and tenants pursue the best solar solution for your home or business through energy education

and site-specific project advice. <http://www.ebenergy.org/smartsolar/>

3. * **Federal Energy Tax Credits for Energy Star™ materials:** Up to \$1,500 is available in Federal Tax credits for Energy Star™ approved materials. www.EPA.gov/
4. **Partially-subsidized energy performance services in targeted neighborhoods** (available mid-2010): In partnership with Rising Sun Energy Center and PG&E, the City of Berkeley will be offering subsidized direct installation of home energy improvements through the Green Energy Training Services (GETS) program in targeted neighborhoods in South and West Berkeley.
5. **City-wide energy performance improvement rebates for single family and duplex home owners** (available mid-2010): The City of Berkeley will be offering rebates to Berkeley property owners who retrofit their buildings to improve energy performance. Rebates will be available to owners who make improvements recommended by a comprehensive home energy audit, such as sealing air leaks in the floor, attic and heating system and installing insulation.

Residential and Commercial Property owners interested in upcoming energy efficiency programs should subscribe to the City of Berkeley Office of Energy and Sustainable Development webpage for periodic updates: <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/sustainable/>

Billi Romain
Sustainability Coordinator
City of Berkeley Planning Department

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

- Nancy Bickel
- Barbara Dales
- Elisabeth De Vogelaere
- Doris Maslach
- Patricia Pope
- Joan Quay
- Bequest from the Estate of Luanne Rogers

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

- Barbara Dales
- Wendy Paige Markel
- Joan Quay

Many thanks for remembering your League.

Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA

Call to Convention

Mark your calendars now for the LWVBA Convention on Saturday, May 29. We will review positions, elect officers and hear a speaker. All Leagues need to prepare to send delegates. More details next month.

Honors for LWVBA Members

Sandra Threlfall, webmaster for LWVBA, has been selected for the Hall of Fame by the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women. A member of LWV Oakland, she is "prominent in educating and organizing the public to preserve access to the Oakland Waterfront."

Nikki Harris, Co-President of LWVBA, was selected to be one of 12 individuals to become a Ruth S. Shur Fellow for Leadership Training. She will attend a four-day training session in Washington, D. C. and return to work with Leagues in two states.

Monitor Highlights

Published for over 30 years as a project of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund, the Bay Area Monitor provides coverage of transportation, air quality, water quality, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. This excellent publication looks at the problems facing the larger Bay Area. You can find it at <http://www.bayareamonitor.org/>

LWVBA Calendar Through June 30, 2010

April 14, 2010, Wednesday, 12:30 – 2 pm
InterLeague North, Berkeley

May 10, 2010, Monday, 11:30 am – 1 pm
Natural Resources/Water Oakland.

Speaker: David Tsztoo with the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program on the Irvington Tunnel Project. For details on events see the LWV Bay Area calendar at <http://lwvbyarea.org/calendar.html/>

May 29, 2010, Saturday
LWVBA Convention

June 23, 2010, Wednesday, 12:30 – 2 pm
InterLeague North, Berkeley

Jean Safir, LWVBA Liaison
Director-at-Large

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE	
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Healthcare Director	URSULA ROLFE
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BOARD BRIEFS

The Board took the following actions at the Board Meeting on February 24, 2010:

- Approved a request from the Healthcare Committee for a resolution to be presented to the LWVUS convention. The resolution would strongly advocate for bills that legislate for improved "Medicare For All."
- Approved sending a proposal to the LWVUS convention for a two-year study of "The Federal Role in Public Education," as recommended by the program planning meeting on February 2.
- Approved sending a proposal to the annual membership meeting in May that we undertake no new studies next year and that we continue with the same issues for emphasis adopted for the current year.
- Approved sending a recommendation to the LWVBA board that issues for emphasis in action over the next two years should be Transportation and Climate Change, with no new regional studies or updates.

Jean Safir
Director-at-Large

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR LEAGUE!

League products featuring the same Suffragist that is on the cover of *The Voter* are for sale and available at the LWVBAE office. These items include boxes of 8 ivory-colored note cards with envelopes for a \$10 donation, and heavy canvas tote bags, with an inner pocket, for a \$15 donation. Check out these items on the LWVBAE website.

Eloise Bodine
Housing Chair



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



how to join

fill in coupon below and mail with your check in the amount of \$75 (\$40 for each additional household member; \$40 for a student membership) to the order of LWVBAE,

1414 University Avenue, Suite D
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____

Tel. Eve. _____

Email: _____

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. Non-member subscriptions cost \$20/year.

calendar

APRIL

- 2 FRI. 5:00 PM **DEADLINE FOR MAY-JUNE VOTER** A. KISCH, 985.0651
- 6 TUES. 12-2 PM CONVERSATION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE, EDITH STONE ROOM OF ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY (SEE PP. 1, 3) L. BRUBECK, 526-5139
- 8 THURS. 10:30 AM-12 NOON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 12 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 2811 CLAREMONT BOULEVARD (NOT AVENUE) G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826
- 14 WED. 12:30 PM-2:00 PM LWVBA INTERLEAGUE NORTH C. STONE, 549.0959
J. SAFIR, 524-9088
- 19 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE C. LYNCH, 527.2173
- 20 TUES. 3-5 PM ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 21 WED. 1-3 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904
- 22 THURS. **EARTH DAY**
- 28 WED. 3-5 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE D. AKERS, 527.1288

MAY

- 4 TUES. 12-2 PM **No VOTER DEADLINE IN MAY** CONVERSATION ON BALLOT MEASURES, EDITH STONE ROOM OF ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY G. POLAK, 841.4546
- 10 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 2811 CLAREMONT BOULEVARD (NOT AVENUE) G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826
- 13 THURS. 10:30 AM-12 NOON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE C. STONE, 549.0959
J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 17 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE C. LYNCH, 527.2173
- 18 TUES. 3-5 PM ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 5:30-8:30 PM **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**, NORTHBRAE COMMUNITY CHURCH, 941 THE ALAMEDA S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 19 WED. 1-3 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904
- 26 WED. 3-5 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE D. AKERS, 527.1288
- 29 SAT. LWVBA CONVENTION, CASTRO VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3600 NORBRIDGE AVENUE, CASTRO VALLEY J. SAFIR, 524.9088
- 31 MON. **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**

BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED