



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

PRESIDENT: SHERRY SMITH

MAY-JUNE 2005

EDITOR: LEA BARKER

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005 – 4:30 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

“ROGUE REDISTRICTING”: A NATIONAL REDISTRICTING CRISIS?

Common Cause’s Campaign for Fair Redistricting in California

Speaker: Kathay Seng, Executive Director, California Common Cause

5 p.m. Business meeting

6 p.m. Supper

7 p.m. Kathay Seng

Registration deadline for food is Friday, May 20.

The catered buffet supper is \$15. Please send your check made out to LWVBAE to the League office, or call to let us know you will pay at the door. Members may bring their own food instead.

We invite you to let us know if you would like a ride. We will be delighted to arrange one.

The League of Women Voters has long promoted use of a redistricting process that will assure fair representation of all citizens at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Common Cause, a 30-year-old national organization founded by John Gardner, works towards the goal of making government more open, honest, and accountable. The League and Common Cause share a deep concern about the recent threat to their mutual nonpartisan goal of improving the redistricting process in our American democracy.

That threat is the 2003 “rogue redistricting,” when House Majority Leader Tom DeLay put forward a proposal in Texas that has the potential to transform the redistricting process that takes place across the nation following each national census into an “anytime process” dependent only on the whims of the majority party in a state legislature.

Just two years after the decennial redistricting had been completed in Texas, DeLay orchestrated an egregiously partisan and unprecedented scheme to re-draw district lines to guarantee victories in the then upcoming Texas elections, ensuring a majority for his party in both the state legislature and in Congress.

This unprecedented action in Texas rang an alarm bell for all citizens and organizations concerned about ensuring a fair and

IN THIS ISSUE

- p. 2 Civics Ed. Update Study
Donations in March
New Members
- p. 3 President’s Column
- p. 4 Environmental Concerns
Annual Luncheon
- p. 5 Eva Alexis Bansner
LWVC Energy Position Update
Fundraising opportunity
- p. 6 Calendar

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

settled redistricting process where voters choose who best represents their interests and not where partisan legislators choose who they want to represent. If this "rogue redistricting" can happen once, it can be repeated in any state any time one party is in control.

Come hear Kathay Seng, new Executive Director of California Common Cause, talk about her organization's Campaign for Fair Redistricting as it is being waged in California and in 27 other states across the nation. In particular, Kathay will bring us up-to-date with the two bills, ACAX1 3 and SCA 3, making their way through the legislature as this issue goes to press.

—*Jo Ann B. Price, Program VP*

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

<i>Jane Brandes</i>	<i>Elena Burgess</i>
<i>Delores C. Edwards</i>	<i>Harry Heckman</i>
<i>Connie Murphy</i>	<i>Arta Wilbanks</i>

And a "welcome back" to returning member:

Ann Brick

EVA ALEXIS BANSNER FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Hironobu Asano	Donna and Hans Moser
<i>Gilbert Bendix</i>	<i>Karen Nelson</i>
<i>Guy Benveniste</i>	David Pinck
Helen Chandler	Madeline Sone
Elisha Couchman	Marian Staples
Robert Hamnestein	Diane Takugawa
Margaret Hutchinson	Kwok Siong Teh
Thomas Johnston	Ed Waldron
Zachary Kahn	Mary Yabroff
<i>Sylvia McLaughlin</i>	<i>Masako Yamada</i>

CIVICS EDUCATION STUDY UPDATE

At our annual meeting last year, you, the LWVBAE membership, approved a study on the state of civics education in our public schools. First, the study group defined what we want to find out; then we began our research.

We read the California State Standards which gives in detail what should be covered in each grade, and we developed a list of interview questions to take to the teachers, students and administration in all three districts - Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville.

So far, we have interviewed each district superintendent and most of the principals, and we are midway in contacting the teachers and students. We will have all the interviews completed and questionnaires returned before the end of this school year, but because it then takes time to analyze the response and prepare the consensus meetings, we will be asking the membership for an extension of one year at this year's Annual Meeting.

This has been an exciting study to work on with a great team. Stay tuned.

—Study co-chairs *Jinky Gardner* and *Cathy Lynch*

DONATIONS DURING MARCH TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Charlotte & Martin Lichterman</i>	
<i>Kitty & Hugh McLean</i>	<i>Nancy Riddle</i>

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

<i>Jinky Gardner</i>	<i>Joanne Kelly</i>
	<i>Marion Luten</i>

TO THE TRIBUTE FUND

In memory of *Eva A. Bansner*:

<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Winifred McLaughlin</i>
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In memory of *Peggy Anne Davis*:

Mr. & Mrs. John Dang	<i>Winifred McLaughlin</i>
	<i>Sherry Smith</i>

In memory of *Kimi Matsumoto*:
Betty G. Austin

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Some of you have already heard of my heart attack which, among other things, delayed the writing of this column. First, let me alleviate your fears and say that I am back in Berkeley and feeling really good, blessed by good medical care and the expressions of love and affection I have received from family and friends.

I decided I would actually dedicate the column to this, as it has dominated my life over the last couple of weeks, and I thought that my observations might be useful to other women confronted with a similar situation.

Women often "present" with symptoms different from those experienced by men. Whereas men are prone to pain in their central chest, women often (as I did) experience a kind of congestion across the chest and down one or both arms, and attribute it (as I did) to accumulated stress and hustle/bustle (I had been getting ready for a trip to Philadelphia and needed to get a wagonload of things done before departure). And for heaven's sake, I am only 62!

I set those feelings of discomfort aside and flew with Judd to Philadelphia for the wedding of the child of good friends. Two days after arrival, we were filling time before the wedding by going to the Philadelphia Art Museum, and about three hours into our sedate pace on flat ground I felt the upper chest congestion, extending down both arms, complete with warmth in the left arm, tingling in the fingers, and slight swelling in both hands. We sat down and I noticed slight shortness of breath, a bit of dizziness, and something of a sweat. I use all those minimizing qualifiers purposefully, to show how subtle everything can feel— how "un-obvious" an attack can be as you experience it.

It was the combination, though, that told me that now was the time to tell Judd just what I was feeling, to get a reality check amidst my denial of anything really wrong. We went (slowly) to the museum's security staff, and they had a paramedic on staff who called for an ambulance and I was taken to the teaching

hospital for Drexel Med School in downtown Philly.

Blood tests, EKG's and whatall were run (and I kept coming to the head of the queue at each stage of the game, moving right along....) and an angiogram (coronary artery catheterization) was done to diagnose just what was going on with me. They discovered two blocked arteries (one 95%) and proceeded to do angioplasty and the installation of a stent in the one most blocked (the other is not easily accessible and will be treated through medication).

Four days in the hospital, four more days at the home of dear friends, and I flew back to the Bay Area April 10.

The purpose for going into all this detail is to show you that a "heart attack" (actually, myocardial infarction— for me, very minor heart damage) can come on subtly and should you feel peculiar in the ways I've described above, you should get yourself to emergency receiving or into urgent care to eliminate the possibility that you are having a damaging heart episode. We women put off things that are "not convenient now" and unless we are hypochondriacs, we tend to "soldier through" pain or illness, and that can have some bad consequences.

Take care of yourselves, my friends. Heart disease is the Number 1 killer of women. There are many things you can do to lessen our chances of such incidents: don't smoke, carry an appropriate weight for your height, bring your blood pressure down, and exercise regularly and often. And if you have diabetes, follow all your doctor's advice. I actually don't have any of these problems and do pretty much everything I've outlined. But one of the "big ones" that you can't control for is in my background: a family history of heart conditions.

Stay aware, stay healthy, and thank heavens for the blessing of health care coverage. Would that we had a single-payer system of health insurance, to remove that from our list of concerns.

With gratitude, *Sherry Smith*, President

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

California energy efficiency and environmental protection

On March 14, Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Ph.D., spoke about energy efficiency and environmental protection to the EC Committee.

Dr. Rosenfeld was appointed Commissioner of the California Energy Commission in 2000 by Gov. Gray Davis and reappointed in 2005 by Governor Schwarzenegger. A physicist who worked at UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, he formed and led the LBNL Center for Building Science, developing electronic ballasts for fluorescent lamps.

In the early 1970s, the OPEC oil embargo and the 6 percent annual growth rate in California electricity led to the formation of the California Energy Commission, whose power to adopt standards for appliances and new buildings led to the state's more sustainable 2.5 percent electricity growth rate. If the growth rate had continued at 6 percent per year, it would have required the equivalent of a nuclear power plant every 10 miles from San Diego to San Francisco to produce enough electricity for the state.

Instead, the activities of the CEC led to savings for California, in 2004, for example, of about \$12 billion or \$1,000 per family. Those savings were made possible by state and federal regulations, and by technological advancements in the fields of refrigeration and air conditioning.

By avoiding a 50 percent expansion of the California electricity system, Dr. Rosenfeld said, pollution savings equivalent to getting 12 million cars off the road—along with their NOx, CO, and particulate emissions—were achieved.

Frustrations that still need to be addressed include transportation standards, SUVs, and the lack of a gasoline tax. Rosenfeld also said that 30 percent of the world's population, or about two billion people, have no electricity, and use kerosene equivalent to two million barrels oil/day.

—submitted by *Gail Schickele* and *Carol Stone*

The topic of the Environmental Concerns Committee meeting on Monday, May 9, 2005, will be a talk from a representative of the California Coastal Commission.

The state Supreme Court is considering a case that could dismantle the California Coastal Commission based on developers' claims that the Legislature has exceeded its constitutional powers by appointing a majority of the members of the powerful land-use agency.

Behind the legal arguments is a decades-long struggle for power over development along California's 1,100-mile coastline.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Karen Nelson/Guy Benveniste, 150 Montrose Rd., Berkeley.

Montrose is left off Spruce St. past Marin.

Contact person is *Carol Stone*, 549-0959
seastone11@hotmail.com.

HEY, EVERYONE !!!

SAVE THE DAY



Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon
Thursday, 25 August 2005-11:30 a.m. to 1:30
p.m.

Doubletree Hotel on the Berkeley Marina

At this year's Annual Community Luncheon, LWVBAE is celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in grand style.

The luncheon will be held on the eve of the day that U.S. women finally got the right to vote, and there will be some new wrinkles to make the event even more festive. You won't want to miss it!

—*Joyce Jackson*, Chair

EVA ALEXIS BANSNER

The League is greatly saddened by the death of long-time member Eva Alexis Bansner from ovarian cancer. Eva, a planner by profession, and world traveler, was LWVBAE's consultant on land use and planning issues for a number of years; she also was an organizer and host for the Environmental Concerns Committee, which met at her home.

Her interest in the environment and land use planning led her to the Board of LWV Bay Area, where she served for two years as President. While on the Bay Area board she was instrumental in the publication of an issue paper on Transportation Hubs, and actively lobbied for better transportation coordination.

As a result, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission initiated a transportation connectivity working group, and incorporated those concepts into the Regional Transportation Plan. It was her hope that there would be follow-up monitoring of intermodal transportation coordination.

In her response to a Certificate of Appreciation from LWVBAE (see March 2005 *VOTER*), Eva said, "I appreciate all of the efforts of the League to make our government accountable and only wish America could see . . . planning as part of responsible government for sustainability and aesthetic cohesion of communities."

Eva and her husband Horst initiated Berkeley's first co-housing project. In addition to her husband, she leaves her sons Kai and Leif, and numerous relatives, friends, and colleagues. Eva's oral history, in which she is interviewed by Gail Schickele, is available in the LWVBAE office.

As Becky O'Malley said in her April 5 *Berkeley Daily Planet* editorial titled, "Doing Women's Work," "Eva . . . took the welfare of the world to be her job, and she did it well."

Tax deductible donations to continue Eva's (and the League's) work may be made to the League of Women Voters of Berkeley (LWVB) Foundation: Eva Alexis Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities.

—Eloise Bodine

LWVC Energy Position Update Study Local League Involvement: Fall 2005

The update study of the California League of Women Voters' Energy position was voted at the LWVC Convention 2003 to be completed in 2005. A state committee has been pursuing the update study and has produced four informative articles for all League members. They are online at ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/citizened/natres/energy.

The titles are: *Keeping California's Lights On; Flipping the Switch; A World of Its Own: Electric Utility Regulation in CA; and Designing an Energy Portfolio.*

LWVBAE is assembling a committee to work on the additional material researched and analyzed by the state committee. The local committee will meet September through November 2005. First, it will assimilate the material; then, design a presentation of it to members; and finally, it will present the material at consensus meetings in early November.

If energy is an area of concern to you, we urge you to join the committee and participate in getting the information out to other Leaguers. Please note it is only a 2-1/2 month commitment.

Call the office to learn more: 843-8824. Thanks!

ANNUAL LUNCHEON NEWS

An innovation for this year's Annual Community Luncheon on August 25 is a Luncheon Program book containing information about the speaker and the League.

The Luncheon Committee is pleased to announce that the first purchaser of advertising in the program book is our own *Angharad Jones*, who has bought a business-card sized ad reminding us that she is a "voice-over talent."

We hope you will ask your doctor, your dentist, your grocer, your butcher, your candlestick maker to advertise too. The rates are:

- \$800 outside back cover
- \$600 inside cover, front or back
- \$500 regular full page
- \$300 half page
- \$200 third page
- \$125 fourth page ("business card size")



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

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 extent allowed by law.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

MAY

- 3 Tues. 7-9pm City of Berkeley Budget Discussion Workshop
North Berkeley Snr. Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 3 Tues. 7-9pm Civics Education Study, 2339 Edwards St. *Gardner, 548-5292*
- 4 Wed. 7-9pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 9 Mon. 7:30pm Environmental Concerns Committee: CA Coastal Commission
150 Montrose Rd. (*Nelson and Benveniste*) *Stone, 549-0959*
- 17 Tues. 7-9pm Civics Education Study, 2339 Edwards St. *Gardner, 548-5292*
- 19 Thurs. 7:30pm Action Committee, 1419 Grant (*Watts*) *Safir, 524-9088*
- 20-22 Fri. – Sun. LWVC Convention, Garden Grove *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 26 Thurs. 4:30-8pm **LWVBAE Annual Meeting** Spkr: Kathay Seng, Common Cause
Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda *Price, 548-5206*
If you would like a ride there, please phone the office 843-8824

JUNE

- 1 Wed. 7-9pm Transition Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 3 Fri. noon Deadline for the summer *VOTER* *Barker, 532-5773*
- 16 Thurs. 7:30pm Action Committee, 1419 Grant (*Watts*) *Safir, 524-9088*
- 20 Mon. **LWVBAE Office closes** for summer

KEEP THE DATE!

August 25 11:30am–1:30pm Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon, Doubletree, Berkeley Marina. See p. 4 for details, and p. 5 for ways in which you can help in an exciting new fundraising effort associated with this event.

2005 CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville are hereby called to the Annual Meeting, to approve a budget, amend the bylaws, adopt a program of study and action, and elect a new Board to carry out these mandates.

Thursday, May 26, 2005 - 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

AGENDA

- 4:30 Register & Socialize
- 5:00 Business Meeting
- Call to Order Sherry Smith, President
- Introduction of Parliamentarian & Secretary
- Determine Quorum & Adopt Order of Business
- Accept May 27, 2004, Minutes & appoint committee to review 2005 Minutes
- Budget Report and Adoption Luanne Rogers, Treasurer
- Adopt Proposed Program & Local Support Positions
- Jo Ann Price, Program VP
- President's Summary Report of the Year Sherry Smith, President
- Presentation of Awards
- Report and Election of 2005-6 Board
- Ginette Polak, Chair, Nominating Committee
- Direction to the New Board from Members
- 6:00 Buffet Supper*
- 7:00 Speaker: Kathay Seng, Executive Director, California Common Cause
"Rogue Redistricting": A National Redistricting Crisis?"
Common Cause's Campaign for Fair Redistricting in California
- 8:30 Adjourn

*The charge for supper is \$15. Call the office -- 843-8824 -- by May 20 to make reservations for supper or you may bring your own food. We will be happy to provide rides; just let the office know if you need one.

PROGRAM

Recommendations for new studies must be made to the Board no later than two months prior to the Annual Meeting. Both recommended and non-recommended studies shall be submitted to the membership by publication in the annual meeting notice no less than 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Adoption of a Board-recommended study requires a majority vote of members present at an Annual Meeting. If a majority of the members attending the Annual Meeting votes to consider a non-recommended study, a two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

The Board recommends:

- (1) Retention of all current positions.
- (2) Monitor city budget-making process for compliance with League positions and take action where appropriate.
- (3) Monitor State special election , if one is held, and take action where appropriate.
- (4) Continue Civics Education study for one more year, to come to consensus around new Support Positions.

SUMMARY OF LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS

(See complete "Local Support Positions" for details. It is available to members upon request.)

Local Government Structure: Policies that promote effective, efficient, economical and visible local government, representative of and responsive to all citizens.

- A. City Charter & Elections
- B. Council-Manager Form of Government
- C. Open Meetings
- D. Boards, Commissions, Committees – Standing and Ad Hoc

City Finances: Policies that support a tax structure that is flexible, broad-based, equitable, economical, easy to administer, and capable of producing adequate revenue.

- A. City budget
- B. Revenue and taxation

Planning: Planning policies aimed at achieving and maintaining a healthy, safe and livable physical environment for a diverse population. There should be a balance of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses, a variety of densities and housing types, and programs to enlarge the economic base.

- A. Economic development
- B. Transportation
- C. Zoning
- D. Housing
- E. Rent control (Berkeley only)
- F. Infrastructure

Local Government Services: Basic city services and amenities for all residents based on an overall evaluation of needs and available resources.

- A. Recreation
- B. Library
- C. Health and mental health
- D. Services and resources for children and youth

Education: A system of public education which meets the needs of all children, efficiently organized and administered, and supported by adequate funds for operation and facilities.

- A. Elementary through High School
- B. Community College

Social Policy: Promotion of social justice by securing equal rights for all and providing services to meet special needs.

- A. Equal rights
- B. Senior citizens
- C. Juvenile justice

**SUPPORT POSITIONS OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

These positions have been voted on at the Annual Meeting of each of the Leagues of Alameda County. Changing or dropping one of these positions must be approved by a majority (five) of the seven Leagues of Alameda County. Action on any of these positions must be approved by a majority (four) of the Leagues.

- A. Juvenile justice
- B. Children's mental health services
- C. Alameda County Board of Education & Alameda County Office of Education

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Officers

President:	Sherry Smith
Vice President, Action	TBA
Vice President, Administration Services	Diane Akers
Vice President, Election Services	Jinky Gardner
Vice President, Outreach & Development	TBA
Vice President, Program	Jo Ann Price
Secretary	Angharad Jones
Treasurer	Luanne Rogers

Board of Directors – At Large

Lea Barker, Jody Bush, Bill Chapman, Betty Hicks, Kristina Lim, Ursula Rolfe, Sue Sutton

2005-2006 Nominating Committee:

Ruthann Taylor, Chair; Eloise Bodine, Barbara Nelson

Submitted by 2004-2005 Nominating Committee:

Ginette Polak Chair; Jane Barrett, Karen Nelson, Jo Ann Price, Ruthann Taylor