

The Voter



League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville

MAY-JUNE 2010

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CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 5:00 - 8:30 pm

Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Join us at the Annual Meeting and hear a talk by
Jennifer Waggoner,
Communications Director of LWVC, on:

***“Developing a 21st Century League:
How 20th Century Members
Can Make the Transition”***

**ALL THE DETAILS ARE IN THE “CALL TO MEETING KIT”
IN THIS VOTER. PLEASE LOOK THE KIT OVER AND
BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.**

As the first decade of the 21st century comes to an end, and as the League celebrates its 90th birthday, we are not resting on our laurels. State Communications Director Jenny Waggoner is at the forefront of the League's efforts to use the Internet – and the tools being developed for it – to reach out to a new generation of League members. This outreach will bring League information and expertise to citizens, both League members and others, who are searching for unbiased political information in the face of ever more aggressive and pervasive political propaganda.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US FOR SUPPER, THE CHARGE IS \$15 PER PERSON. PLEASE PHONE THE LWVBAE OFFICE AT 510.843.8824 BY FRIDAY, MAY 14, TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AND TO ENABLE US TO PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD. YOU MAY PAY AT THE DOOR WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR THE MEETING, OR YOU MAY MAIL A CHECK TO THE LWVBAE OFFICE BY MAY 14. IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AT NO CHARGE.



JENNIFER WAGGONER

You'll be able to see some of our first big steps in this direction this spring as the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) unveils its new website, CAVOTES.ORG, and as the Pros & Cons for the June Primary election finds its way to mobile devices (smartphones and internet-enabled PDAs). Jenny is also leading the effort to broaden participation

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LWVBAE ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON WILL FEATURE GEORGE LAKOFF ON AUGUST 19 AT H^S LORDSHIPS IN BERKELEY

The 11th LWVBAE Annual Community Luncheon, coming Thursday, August 19, will be highlighted by guest speaker George Lakoff, Professor of Linguistics at UC Berkeley. Professor Lakoff's application of cognitive linguistics to politics, literature, philosophy and mathematics has led him into territory traditionally considered the exclusive purview of political science, and has brought him renown the world over.

George Lakoff has written several books including, most recently, *The Political Mind: Why You Can't Understand 21st-Century Politics with an 18th-Century Brain*, published in 2008. In addition, several books and articles have been published about Professor Lakoff and his engaging ideas. Lakoff's current political efforts are focused on bringing to the November California ballot an initiative proposition which will require that all legislative actions on revenue and budget be determined by a majority vote. A petition to this end is currently in circulation.

Another popular feature of our Annual Luncheons is the presentation of the "Spirit of the League" awards to a notable civic leader and to an organization that collaborates with the League in furthering our shared goals.

The Annual Community Luncheon is a highlight of the League calendar, and you certainly won't want to miss it. By popular acclaim, this year's Luncheon will be held once again in the beautiful setting of H^S Lordships Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina. Invitations will be mailed later this summer; in the meantime, please mark Thursday, August 19, on your calendar!

Suzanne Chun and Sherry Smith
Luncheon Co-Chairs

**DO YOU ENJOY
LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS?**

If so, you're in luck. Photos related to our League have been found in the LWVBAE office. Accordingly, we will need a few volunteers to sort through these pictures and place them in albums so they can be enjoyed by our members and by other interested persons.

If you would like to participate in this project, please call the LWVBAE office at 510.843.8824 and leave me a message, or call me at home at 510.845.8055. Many thanks!

Jane Barrett
Volunteer Coordinator

THE VOTER

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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.

**LWVBAE 2009-2010
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WOMEN'S ISSUES	CHARLOTTE LICHTERMAN

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

(continued from p. 1)

in League training via Internet webinars, as well as the integration of League communications training into all LWVC Leadership Council workshops and the staffing of a room dedicated to communications at this June's LWVUS convention in Atlanta. Thanks to her, you may also stay up-to-date with online Leadership Updates and the LWVC Members Only web site.

In her talk on May 18, Jenny will discuss these and other initiatives in more detail, and will show those of us who came to the League in the 20th century how we can take advantage of these innovations to make ourselves more effective citizens and help build a stronger, more effective League for our children and grandchildren.

Jenny joined the LWVCEF board in 2007 as Communications Director. She currently serves on the Audit Committee and contributes to many other committees. She first joined the League in San Francisco in 2001, and has served it in many roles, including President, Vice President and Budget Chair. She strongly believes in the League's core values, is grateful for the opportunities the League offers, and feels the greatest value for her has been the mentors she has found and their encouragement to mentor others through the League.

Jennifer has worked for many years as a consultant, typically in operations, finance and communications for nonprofits and small businesses. She holds a degree in Government from Claremont McKenna College and a Diploma in Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh.

Bill Chapman
Treasurer

A LITTLE GASTRONOMIC ENCOURAGEMENT

In case some arm-twisting is needed to convince you that it will be worth your while to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 18, please take a peek at the dinner menu:

Chicken Marbella will be prepared by gourmet chef *Rainey Sykes*, ably assisted by sous-chef *Tom Coulter*. (The *Coulters'* kitchen will be the scene of the crime.) In case you're wondering, Chicken Marbella is chicken marinated in prunes, garlic, capers, green olives and oregano, which is then baked with white wine and brown sugar.

The chicken will be served over steamed rice and accompanied by asparagus with mock Hollandaise sauce, fresh bread and a tossed green salad. Dessert will consist of *Jane Coulter's* home-made brownies and *Suzanne Chun's* home-made cookies.

Is your mouth watering? No? We're both pretty much ready for dinner right now.

Rainey Sykes
Alice Kisch

FRAN PACKARD TO BE VOTER EDITOR

Starting July 1, 2010, long-time League member and Berkeley resident *Fran Packard* will become the Editor of the LWVBAE *Voter*. *Fran* tells us that she is happy to serve as our *Voter* Editor because she believes that the League's mission "to promote informed participation in government" is vital to the well-being of our democracy.

Fran Packard moved to Berkeley from Massachusetts in 1973. The following year she joined the League of Women Voters of Berkeley (before Albany and Emeryville were added on) after a neighbor invited her to attend the LWVB Fall Coffee.

From the beginning, *Fran* was an active Leaguer: In 1982-1984 she served as President of the Berkeley League, and in 1992 she began a two-year term as President of the Bay Area League. *Fran* was President of the California State League from 1995 to 1997.

We enthusiastically welcome *Fran* to *The Voter*, and we are delighted that she has accepted the leadership of our monthly publication. We wish her much enjoyment in her new position!

Alice Kisch, Editor

**IF YOU WISH TO VOTE IN THE JUNE 8, 2010
PRIMARY ELECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST
BE REGISTERED TO VOTE BY MONDAY, MAY 24,
2010. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GO
TO [HTTP://WWW.CAVOTES.ORG/VOTE/REGISTER](http://www.cavotes.org/vote/register)**

LWVBA REPORT

CALL TO CONVENTION: The Convention of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will take place on Saturday, May 29, 10:30 am – 1 pm, at the Castro Valley Public Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley. From the Castro Valley BART station walk 3 blocks along Norbridge Avenue to the Library.

The agenda for the Convention includes: (1) the adoption of positions and priorities for 2010-2012, (2) the election of officers, (3) reports from local Leagues, and (4) a presentation by a speaker from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The number of Convention delegates accorded each League is determined by the size of the membership. Delegates will receive their Convention kits in the weeks preceding the Convention. Please join us!

THE BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY PRESENTATIONS from January 30, 2010 are on the Internet and can be seen at www.lwvbayarea.org; scroll half-way down the page, look for "Document Library" and click on the link for "Bay Area League Day Reports."

Jean Safir, LWVBA Liaison
LWVBAE Director-at-Large

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Chair Gail Schickele summarizes the three winter meetings of the LWVBAE Environmental Concerns committee in the report that follows. The meeting topics, all on climate control, ranged from the results of the Copenhagen international conference, to the effect of zero emissions standards for local public transit, to state legislation to combat global warming and its potential economic impact on small businesses.

January 2010

At the first Environmental Concerns meeting of the year on January 11, the Sierra Club's Andy Katz reported on the International Climate Negotiations in Copenhagen which took place December 7-18, 2009. Mr. Katz was part of a Sierra Club delegation to the Copenhagen conference.

Katz observed that despite the fact that some Europeans and developing nations said that the negotiations didn't require enough of the United States or China and other major greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters, he believes that the Copenhagen Accord is a breakthrough in that the United States joined with China, India and Australia on a statement of "the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius." Katz also stated that "deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science".

Although the language on global temperature was revised from the original (reduction of emissions by 50% by 2050, with 80% reductions in developed countries by 2050), the goal of a global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius is ultimately more stringent than a 50% reduction, according to Michael Levi, Director of the Program on Energy Security and Climate Change. Information is available on Mr. Katz's blog (<http://andykatz.blogspot.com/>).

Developed countries set a goal to raise \$30 billion over the next three years and \$100 billion per year before 2020 to help poor countries fight climate change. The principal beneficiaries of this assistance will be the least developed countries. The developing countries themselves will monitor emissions and compile data domestically with provisions for international consultations and analysis. The industrialized world insisted on transparency and international monitoring, but China was resistant to this plan.

The accord says reducing emissions from deforestation is "crucial," and new funds are to be provided to countries for conserving forests. Nations such as Indonesia and Brazil, which lead the world in deforestation, could benefit, although rich nations that need carbon credits to cancel their own emissions also may benefit.

The bottom line, according to Andy Katz, is that the accord is a vehicle for the U.S. and other countries to 'step up to the plate.' Indeed, following the conclusion of the climate change talks in Copenhagen, 55 countries, which together account for 78 percent of global emissions from energy use, submitted national pledges to cut and limit greenhouse gases by 2020

to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mr. Katz praised Lisa Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, who declared that greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare of the American people, and that emissions from on-road vehicles contribute to that threat. He applauded the policies of the Obama Administration as being "science-based."

A United Nations March 31, 2010 press release summarizing the Copenhagen conference can be seen at http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20100331_pr_cop_report_v2.pdf

February 2010

Jaimie Levin, Alameda-Contra Costa (AC) Transit's Director of Alternative Fuels Policy and Marketing, was our guest at the February 8 Environmental Concerns meeting. "The future of public transit is in the pursuit of zero emissions, and we're worldwide leaders," Levin declared, citing AC Transit targets as lower than air district requirements for particulate emissions.

AC Transit had been the first transit agency in the state to join the California Climate Action Registry in 2005. According to the Registry, transportation is responsible for over 40% of the state's GHG emissions, and the group strongly urges industries to monitor their greenhouse gas emissions. The state Registry has certified AC Transit as a "Climate Action Leader" for three years in a row.

In pursuing the goal of a completely zero-emission fleet, AC Transit has begun developing a gasoline hybrid-electric fleet of 30-foot-long neighborhood buses, and is part of one of the most comprehensive hydrogen fuel cell demonstration projects in the country. With more than double the fuel economy of diesel buses, AC Transit's three very quiet, all-electric fuel cell buses carry thousands of passengers daily throughout East Bay communities, showcasing the environmental benefits of its hybrid-electric fuel cell transit systems, among the most advanced in the world. The transit agency will have 12 more of the vehicles coming within the year.

AC Transit's fuel cell fleet has been road-testing since 2006 through its grant funded Hyroad program. The agency also has a hydrogen fueling station and a solar power system at its East Oakland facility, with another fueling station and solar system due to be commissioned by the end of the year.

AC Transit was recently awarded \$6.4 million in federal economic stimulus funds to build a solar energy system at its Emeryville facility that will provide electrical power to create hydrogen fuel for AC Transit zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell buses. "Building a solar array that will power an electrolysis unit to run our hydrogen station will truly make this fuel 100 percent renewable," Levin said. "Our next round in 2011-2012 will be diesel hybrids. It's not where we want to be, but it is responsible to the state goals," Levin noted.

March 2010

The March 8 Environmental Concerns meeting hosted Jasmin Ansar, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) climate economist, who spoke on the economic impact on small businesses of AB 32 (Assembly Bill 32; California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) as well as on the UCS Climate 2030 Blueprint. Responding to the rumor that small businesses will be hard hit by the AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act, which requires the State to reduce its global warming pollution to 1990 levels by 2020, UCS commissioned The Brattle Group (<http://www.brattle.com/>) to develop an estimate of AB 32's likely effect on energy prices in California and the resulting year-to-year impact on small businesses between 2010 and 2020.

The Brattle Group analysis shows that AB 32 would cause small increases in the price of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels. The financial impact of these price increases are contingent on the ratio of a business's energy expenditures to total revenues. That ratio is affected by a business's ability to respond to higher energy prices by conserving energy, investing in energy-saving equipment, or raising its prices. On average, California's 700,000+ small businesses currently spend 1.4 percent of their revenues on energy, the study said, whereas energy costs will increase to 1.7 percent of revenues under AB 32.

This projection was made without consideration of the potential benefit to small businesses of incentives, rebates, and other programs that would help lower their energy use. By investing in energy efficiency, most small businesses could lower their energy costs significantly, the study said. The full Brattle Report may be found at www.ucsusa.org/small_business..

UCS's Climate 2030 Blueprint report analyzes the economic and technological feasibility of meeting stringent targets for reducing global warming emissions, with a cap set at 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and 56 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Meeting this cap means the U.S. would limit total emissions – the crucial measure for the climate – to 180,000 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂eq) from 2000 to 2030.

To reach the 2020 and 2030 cap and carbon budget targets, the Blueprint proposes a comprehensive policy approach (the "Blueprint policies") that combines an economy-wide cap-and-trade program with complementary policies. This approach finds cost-effective ways to reduce fossil fuel emissions throughout our economy – including industry, buildings, electricity and transportation – and to store carbon through agricultural activities and forestry. Climate 2030 Blueprint shows that deep emissions cuts may be achieved while saving U.S. consumers and businesses \$465 billion in 2030.

The UCS Blueprint for Climate Change may be accessed at http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Climate-2030-Blueprint_executive-summary.pdf/

*Gail Schickele, Co-Chair
Environmental Concerns*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE**

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NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome
To Rejoining Members

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Many thanks for remembering your League.

*Louetta Erlin
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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,

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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

MAY

- 4 TUES. 12-2 PM 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
C. STONE, 549.0959
- 13 THURS. 10:30 AM-12 NOON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 17 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE C. LYNCH, 527.2173
3:30-5:00 PM ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769
5:00-8:30 PM ANNUAL MEETING (SEE PP. 1, 3) S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 18 TUES. 1-3 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904
- 19 WED. 7:30-9 PM CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. GARDNER, 548-5292
- 20 THURS. 3-5 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE D. AKERS, 527.1288
- 24 MON. 10:30 AM-1:00 PM LWVBA CONVENTION, CASTRO VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3600 NORBRIDGE AVENUE, CASTRO VALLEY (SEE P. 3) J. SAFIR, 524.9088
- 26 WED.
- 29 SAT.
- 31 MON. **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**

JUNE

- 1 TUES. 12-2 PM CONVERSATION AT THE LEAGUE EDITH STONE ROOM OF ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY G. POLAK, 841-4546
- 4 FRI. 5:00 PM DEADLINE FOR SUMMER VOTER A. KISCH, 985.0651
- 10 THURS. 10:30 AM-12 NOON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 11-15 FRI.-TUES. LWVUS 2010 CONVENTION, ATLANTA, GA ACTION COMMITTEE WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 15 TUES. CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904
- 16 WED. CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. GARDNER, 548-5292
- 17 THURS. HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE C. LYNCH, 527.2173
- 21 MON.

AUGUST

- 19 THURS. 1-3 PM ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON (SEE P. 2)

BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED