

# The Voter



League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville

## SUMMER 2010

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Goodbye Cheryl Nichols,  
Our Office Manager!!!  
Ranked Choice Voting in Berkeley  
in November!
- 3 Environmental Concerns April/May  
2010 Report
- 4 Our Incredible 2009/2010 Office  
Volunteer Team  
Board Briefs  
April-May Donations  
With Thanks ...
- 5-9 ANNUAL BOARD REPORTS
  - 5 ACTION  
CIVICS ED ACTION
  - 6 CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM  
CONVERSATIONS AT THE LEAGUE
  - 7 EDUCATION  
ELECTION SERVICES
  - 8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS  
HEALTHCARE
  - 9 HEALTHCARE (*continued*)  
MEMBERSHIP
- 6 New Members
- 10 Annual Meeting in Brief  
Smart Voter Coordinator
- 11 Annual Community Luncheon  
(*continued*)  
Do You Enjoy Photographs?  
More Ways to Support Our League!
- 12 Calendar



GEORGE LAKOFF

## LWVBAE'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON WILL FEATURE

**GEORGE LAKOFF, PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY**

## SPEAKING ON "FRAMING AND VOTING"

**FRANCES TOWNES, ARTHUR ROSENFELD AND LBL'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DIVISION  
WILL RECEIVE "SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE" AWARDS**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010**

**11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**H<sup>S</sup> LORDSHIPS ON THE BERKELEY MARINA**

**\$75 DONATION - INVITATIONS TO BE MAILED IN MID-JULY**

The League's Eleventh Annual Community Luncheon will be headlined by George Lakoff, Professor of Linguistics at UC Berkeley, who will speak on "Framing and Voting."

World-renowned for his application of linguistics to politics, literature, philosophy and mathematics, Professor Lakoff was recently involved with the effort to qualify an initiative for the November ballot that would change California's Constitution to allow a majority in the State Legislature to pass a budget or raise revenue. For Lakoff, who has been a UC professor since 1972, the development of thought has been the process of developing better metaphors: the application of one domain of knowledge to another domain of knowledge offers new perceptions and understandings. Professor Lakoff's lectures are enormously popular, and he has authored many critically acclaimed books and articles.

Another high point of the August 19 Luncheon will be the honoring of UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus of Physics Arthur Rosenfeld with the "Spirit of the League" award. Professor Rosenfeld's accomplishments are many, among which: ten years on the 5-member California Energy Commission; recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award, the oldest and one of the most prestigious science and technology awards given by the U.S. government (Arthur Rosenfeld was Enrico Fermi's last graduate

(*continued on p. 11*)

## GOODBYE CHERYL NICHOLS, OUR OFFICE MANAGER!!!

Wednesday, June 30, was Cheryl Nichol's last day in the LWVBAE office. Cheryl started as Office Manager in November 2006; but due to our declining budget, we were no longer able to fund the office manager position. Our having an office manager was the envy of many California Leagues!

Cheryl's job was comprised of very diverse tasks. She was responsible for working with Jane Barrett in providing support to office volunteers and in coordinating the volunteers who prepare the Voters for mailing each month. She sleuthed the correct addresses when members' mail was returned undelivered, and she often cleaned the office. In addition, she followed up on phone-log items and checked LWVBAE email messages, forwarding them appropriately.

She also participated in the purchasing of new office desks and chairs and in the revival of the phone tree for informing those without email of special events and our ongoing Conversations At The League. Cheryl was always cheerful and helpful, and was able to juggle competing tasks and requests from multiple Board members.

Cheryl will be missed. We all wish her well in her future endeavors, and we hope that she will be able to find work that will enable her to best utilize her talents and abilities.

*Diane Akers*  
Vice President for Administration

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN BERKELEY IN NOVEMBER!

As we have been reporting, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) was passed by the Berkeley voters in 2004 under the title Instant Runoff Voting and has at last come to pass. All of the needed approvals for software and hardware, from the Federal level on down through the Secretary of State, and the needed technical approval of the City Council through legal agreements with the Registrar of Voters, have been completed and everything is in place for RCV's first use in November's municipal election. The cities of Oakland and San Leandro will join us in this initial use of RCV.

**One important, additional step needs to be taken: We must educate the voters about the process.**

There are 100 precincts in Berkeley, and LWVBAE has committed itself to help the Registrar of Voters recruit poll workers for this first RCV election. The poll workers will be at the polls to assist voters

### THE VOTER

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*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.*

who may need help in casting their votes with an unfamiliar method of voting.

We also need League members who will go to neighborhood groups, churches and synagogues, senior citizen organizations, and other civic groups who ask us to help inform their members about RCV and how the voting is done.

This is a simple process to explain. The Registrar of Voters, with the help of people from civic organizations like the League, is preparing educational materials for use by speakers. We need to tell groups that we can do this for them, and we need to encourage them to ask us to come to their meetings and make a brief presentation prior to the November election.

This is your chance to help with one of the League's core activities: **Voter Education**. Our League was instrumental in the passage of the Berkeley initiative in 2004, and now we can "complete the loop" by providing the information voters need in order to cast their votes confidently.

Please call the LWVBAE office at 843-8824 and volunteer to help. Tell us whether you would like to be a special RCV-educated poll worker or whether you would like to be part of our RCV speakers' bureau – or both! You will be provided with all the information you need.

*Sherry Smith*  
Vice President for Action

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS APRIL/MAY 2010 REPORT

The Helios Project was the subject of Environmental Concerns' April 12 meeting and was presented by Jennifer McDougall, principal planner with UC Berkeley's Capital Projects department. In January 2010 the UC Board of Regents approved revised plans to build a new home for the Helios Energy Research Facility. The downtown site, vacated by the State Department of Health Services in 2006, is bounded by Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue on the east and west and Hearst Avenue and Berkeley Way on the north and south.

The new five-story, 112,800-square-foot structure will house research that will focus on carbon-neutral biofuels and would be conducted chiefly under the auspices of the BP-funded Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) and the UC Berkeley Bioengineering Program. The brainchild of former Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory director Steven Chu — now head of the U.S. Department of Energy — the Helios program was initially slated to be built in Strawberry Canyon for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley and University of Illinois-Champaign scientists working on solar energy, biofuels and other ways to curb global climate change.

McDougall said the site would include a community health campus with uses to engage the city. There will be surface parking on Shattuck Avenue but no underground parking on the site, although she said that it is possible that a parking facility will be added. "To put parking underground is terribly expensive when there's nobody to pay for it," she remarked. "It wasn't so much pressure from the city as it was a financial consideration." The building is slated for completion in 2013. UC Berkeley builds to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Standard, which rates 50-plus points out of a possible 110 on an internationally-recognized green building certification system.

On May 10, Councilmember Jesse Arreguín, City of Berkeley District 4, discussed the "greening" of Berkeley, including its climate action plan that outlines climate action strategy. "There are ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and make Berkeley a leader in environmental issues," he said. The climate action plan says energy consumption in buildings is second to emissions in transportation.

"The City of Berkeley needs to do more for existing buildings [and] should explore a mandatory green city policy," he said. The Green Pathway proposal, sponsored by Mayor Tom Bates and Councilmembers Laurie Capitelli and Gordon Wozniak, requires all new buildings in the downtown area to meet green building requirements, including LEED Gold certification. In exchange for a reduced entitlement process, the Voluntary Green Pathway requires affordable housing and prevailing wage provisions.

"There are different perspectives about reducing GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions," he said. Concerns

exist about how much to increase building height to locate housing closer to transit, and about changing character of the community, he said. Arreguín has written an alternative plan to the new Downtown Area Plan submitted by Mayor Bates. "We've allowed for developing on a more human scale," Arreguín said. "The new buildings have a lower carbon footprint. Berkeley is one of the most historically intact downtowns due to planning policies that maintain quality of life. [The plan] protects our historic character and preserves the character of our community. With that are our land use policies to preserve character. I think we can accomplish more density and preserve character."

Arreguín supports an overall plan that promotes sustainability in transportation and affordable housing. "We need more affordable housing for people of all ages and income levels," he said. "It would be reasonable in my opinion to have affordable housing with no net loss of parking." "We don't support the proposed plan and have submitted an initiative to the city clerk of an alternative city plan [that] won't allow 180 foot buildings; the highest would be 120 feet and would also require 20 percent affordable housing. There are few places in downtown for people to have affordable housing so if developers pay a fee [to offset affordable housing requirements] we'll see no affordable housing in downtown meaning no economic diversity," he cautioned.

Councilmember Arreguín recognizes a need to protect and expand open space and increase the number of trees being planted because many new construction projects have removed many trees but have not replaced them. "We need to protect public open spaces," he said. Arreguín supports more transit-oriented development. "We need more incentives for people to take transit; one way is ECOPASSES to residents just as the City of Berkeley does for its employees (as does the university), which has been a great incentive."

Bus rapid transit proposal at AC Transit said portions on Telegraph Avenue may have dedicated bus lanes. Concerns by merchants of impacts led him to recommend as part of the EIR process that a study be done to include the increase in travel time and impact on reducing parking and traffic in surrounding areas. "There's more we can do to promote water conservation and recycling, he said, adding, "Berkeley's diversion rate is not as high as it should be."

Jesse Arreguín hopes to expand recycling to multi-family buildings and to promote material reduction. "Rebuilding Berkeley has done a lot to reduce the amount going to landfills," he said. "We need to align with our goal of achieving zero waste." Addressing his concerns on earthquake safety, he's working to adopt a policy for soft story buildings. On the Helios Project he said, "I'm glad the project is not in Strawberry Canyon; this is the right location and it's the right scale at the Department of Health Services site."

*Gail Schickele and Carol Stone*  
Co-Directors, Environmental Concerns

## OUR INCREDIBLE 2009/2010 OFFICE VOLUNTEER TEAM

The contingent of office volunteers helps to keep our League going. They answer the phone, get the mail, process checks and receipts and do special projects. This year 24 League members provided more than 450 hours in the office. **One volunteer, Juanita Peterson, worked 131 hours, almost 30% of the total hours this year!** We could not function without the help of these members.

*Jane Barrett* coordinates and trains the office volunteer staff. During the year *Jane* follows up with all new members to recruit them to help out in the office. This past year *Jane* created *A Primer for Office Volunteers at LWVBAE* to be used with orientation of new volunteer staff.

In 2009-2010 LWVBAE office volunteers were:

<i>Jane Barrett</i>	<i>Karen Nelson</i>
<i>Eloise Bodine</i>	<i>Nancy Parker</i>
<i>Regina Beatus</i>	<i>Juanita Peterson</i>
<i>Jane Coulter</i>	<i>Ginette Polak</i>
<i>Bill Chapman</i>	<i>Charlotte Rea</i>
<i>Suzanne Chun</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Pat Day</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Louetta Erlin</i>	<i>Janet Strothman</i>
<i>Vi Feinauer</i>	<i>Rainey Sykes</i>
<i>Jinky Gardner</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>
<i>Mim Hawley</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>Alice Kisch</i>	<i>Rose Williams</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Teresa Wong</i>
<i>Barbara Nelson</i>	

With the loss of the Office Manager position, we will need our office volunteers even more than ever. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact *Jane Barrett* at 510.845.8055.

*Diane Akers*  
Vice President for Administration

## BOARD BRIEFS

The Board took the following actions at Board Meetings on March 24, April 28 and May 26, 2010:

### March 24

- Approved the Budget for the coming year, as submitted by the Budget Committee;
- Approved delaying any action on the Sunshine Ordinance until it qualifies for the ballot; and
- Approved a request from the Healthcare Committee that we send a letter supporting SB 810 (the California Universal Health Care Act) to its author, California State Senator Mark Leno.

### April 28

- Approved a donation of \$150 to the *Easy Voter Guide* Project, which is coordinated by the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of California.

### May 26

- Approved a donation of \$100 to the Bay Area Monitor in memory of Nikki Harris, President of the Bay Area League, who passed away recently.

*Angharad Jones*  
Recording Secretary

## APRIL-MAY DONATIONS

### TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Phyllis Gaines*  
Chuck and Helen Henderson  
Harry and Kathleen Hickman  
*Evelyn Light*  
*Kitty and Hugh McLean*  
*Allie Norton*  
*Meredith Stout*  
*Linda Swift*  
*Lassie and Lloyd Ulman*  
Lenora Young

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Jean Allen*  
*Ann-Marie Hogan*  
Horizons Foundation  
*Kitty and Hugh McLean*  
*Alice Mead*  
*Juanita Peterson*  
*Hillary Jaffe Reinis*  
*Claudine Torfs*

Many thanks for remembering your League.

*Louetta Erlin*  
Donations Secretary

## WITH THANKS ...

After four years as your *Voter* Editor, it's time to step down and make way for *Fran Packard*, who assumes the Editorship on July 1. *Fran* is a long-time Bay Area resident and League member, and a 3-time League President (State, Bay Area and LWVBAE), so your *Voter* will be in very good hands. Please now remember to send *Voter* copy and/or any *Voter*-related correspondence to *Fran* at [franpack@comcast.net](mailto:franpack@comcast.net).

I especially wish to thank Editorial Board members *Jane Brandes*, *Bill Chapman*, *Mim Hawley*, *Jean Safir* and *Sherry Smith* for their careful reading of each issue; *Carolina* and *Daniel Cheng* of PDQ Print Copy Mail for their courteous, professional attention; and my dear friend *Evelyn Light*, Proofreader Extraordinaire, whose remarkable knowledge of grammar and of LWVBAE history have been invaluable.

I will now be able to sit back and leisurely read each *Voter* without having to worry about stray typos or misaligned columns. What a luxury! Being *Voter* Editor has been interesting and fun, and I will remember how League-ignorant I was and how much I needed to learn and did learn, thanks to all of you.

Ciao for now, and Godspeed.

*Alice Kisch*

## ANNUAL BOARD REPORTS TO THE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009-2010

### ACTION *(Sherry Smith)*

Climate change and health care reform were once again two major areas of focus for the Action Committee this year. In addition to our work locally and nationally in promoting national health care reform legislation, we encouraged adoption of single payer (Medicare For All) at the State level.

We continued to monitor the drafting of a Sunshine Ordinance for Berkeley. The LWVBAE Board voted not to circulate petitions in an effort by a citizens' committee to put this draft ordinance on the November 2010 ballot. There are differing opinions over whether the balance of more open government vis-à-vis extra costs to the City budget of increasing staff and large potential enforcement costs tilts too far in possible expense. Should this proposal garner enough signatures, our League will involve itself with voter education on the Initiative, including at least one public meeting where the pros and cons will be examined in a panel presentation.

We have also formed a Board Committee to recommend to the Board whether the Board should support, oppose, remain neutral or suggest changes to Berkeley's Downtown Area Plan, a revised version of which is being studied by the City Council. One of the options being considered by the Committee is to remain neutral and sponsor educational panels on the issue.

We have heard regularly from LWVBAE member *Anne Henderson*, who has served on the LWVC Board. *Anne* consults with LWVC on California budgetary matters and on what is happening in Sacramento as the Legislature and Governor wrestle with the ongoing budgetary struggles with continuingly discouraging revenue news.

Several of our Committee members represent LWVBAE on a committee that has been assembled by Dave Macdonald, Alameda County Registrar of Voters, to assist with implementation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV, formerly known as Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV) when that voting system is used in the coming November election in the cities of Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. Please see the article on Ranked Choice Voting on p. 2 of this *Voter*.

In early June LWVBAE sent four delegates to the LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta: *Helene Lecar*, *Priscilla Myrick*, *Li-hsia Wang* and *Sherry Smith*.

### CIVICS ED ACTION *(Jinky Gardner/Bill Chapman)*

The year began creatively. As a way of communicating the importance of our Constitution in a medium that today's students use, committee member *Bill Chapman* "translated" James Madison's notes from the Constitutional Convention into a twitter stream. *Bill* posted daily entries from May 25 to September 17, the day the Constitution was signed. Hopefully, students and teachers reading the stream gained a deeper understanding of the personalities and debates that produced our nation's political framework.

In March, committee members *Bill Chapman*, *Barbara Alesandrini* and *Janet Strothman* moderated the monthly League Conversation. The subject was the effectiveness of History and Government texts in preparing students to be active, informed citizens. We reported that texts and classes do not stimulate critical thinking or interest in civic affairs, and looked at possible ways teachers might excite students about taking on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

We did have a chance to move a few steps in that direction. At a lunchtime event organized by the Leadership class at Berkeley High, *Bill Chapman* and *Jinky Gardner* provided voter registration forms for those students wanting to register, who would be 18 years old by Primary Election day on June 8.

On May 4, 5 and 6, in partnership with Chris Young, Berkeley High's new Student Activities Coordinator, several League members (*Haruko Nagaishi*, *Phoebe Watts*, *Bill Chapman*, *Ruthann Taylor*, *Aida Brenneis*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Connie Stroud*, *Helene Lecar*, *Janet Strothman*, *Jinky Gardner*, *Tom and Jane Coulter*, *Merle Fajans*, *Elsa Tranter*, *Sherry Smith*, *Ranya Cohen*, *Rose Williams* and *Almalee Henderson*) joined with students from Berkeley City College's Civic Engagement Club (*Adena Ishii*, *Christiane Feerick*, *Jules Moore*, *Caleb Westberg* and *Edward Brown*) to supervise the student government election at Berkeley High. Thank you all so much! Things went smoothly on very short notice.

Finally, *Helene Lecar* arranged with the Berkeley Main Library for the League to fill all its display cases with election-related materials for the two weeks prior to the June primary. *Helene* got Berkeley High students to prepare materials to fill two cases facing Kittredge Street and one case upstairs. League materials filled the remaining three cases. We hope you enjoyed them if you visited the Library during this period. If not, you'll have another chance this coming fall when we'll do it again prior to November's general election.

That wraps up our year. Our thanks to everyone on the committee. We won't meet in June or July, but will be raring to go again beginning in late August. Come join us at our next meeting on Thursday, August 26, 7:30 to 9 pm, at the League office.

## ANNUAL BOARD REPORTS

(continued from p. 5)

### CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM

(Regina Beatus)

This past year, Jan Blumenkrantz and Regina Beatus participated in the "Low Carbon Diet" workshops and facilitator training at the Ecology Center. In December we facilitated a meeting on lowering your carbon footprint at Conversations At The League. Participants discussed their action plans related to their personal life style and household. Many new ideas were shared on energy conservation and water use.

We have been observing the City of Berkeley Energy Commission meetings whenever possible. The City has been awarded many grants related to energy efficiency and conservation for which the Berkeley Energy Commission has applied. Our committee has been trying to become more informed about the proposed Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO). The Energy Commission recently presented a revised draft of RECO for public comment.

Regarding the City of Berkeley proposed plastic bag reduction ordinance, we submitted a letter to the Mayor and Berkeley City Council members in support of the measure with League approval. Although the voting on the Berkeley ordinance has been postponed, a much larger victory was just won on the State level with the passing of California State Assembly Bill AB 1998 to ban single-use of plastic shopping bags by retailers. All our efforts in cities across the State contributed to this win. This bill will now move to the State Senate.

Our Climate Change Committee is concerned about the assault on California AB 32 and on climate change generally. AB 32 is California's clean energy and air pollution law, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, which is in the implementation stage. Our committee member Gail Schickele has contacted the State League to see what efforts are being undertaken and what can be done to assure passage of AB 32.

The attack on the clear science of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming is a national effort, and appears to be taking place state by state. There has been action at the national level. The League has sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation that would overturn EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare.

Recently, our committee has been discussing the possibility of becoming more active in letter-writing in order to respond to editorials with confusing coverage and misinformation about climate change. Letters under the League name, with Board approval,

would be the most effective. Should the League become more active in responding to editorials? This would get the League name out to the public and help educate the public on climate change.

At the national level, we will continue to monitor the changes to the Senate climate energy bill which is now the American Energy Act. There is pressure by the oil, car and coal industries to roll back the Clean Air Act and take away EPA's power to regulate greenhouse gases. We continue to pay attention and support energy legislation on the federal level.

We are looking at the last big taboo, which is population control and climate change. A sub-committee has been formed to research and address this issue as it relates to global warming.

### NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome  
To Our Newest Members

*Katrina Peterson-Hallam  
Ada Spanier  
Kim Zvik*

### CONVERSATIONS AT THE LEAGUE

(Ginette Polak)

Conversations At The League attracted approximately two dozen League members each month. We discussed topics within the public policy issues our League had voted to emphasize at its May 2009 Annual Meeting.

Leaguers who participate in our local Education and Action Committees led a Conversation on:

- National and State health care/insurance reform,
- Climate change, and
- Civics education.

League members who watchdog ongoing governmental issues shared their expertise on:

- Berkeley's proposed Sunshine Ordinance,
- California governance and finance reform,
- Alameda County juvenile justice issues, and
- California's budget impasse and LWVC's role.

We also used the Conversation format to determine which issues our League recommended to LWVUS for study next year, and for sharing opinions about the Measures which appeared on California's June 2010 Primary Election ballot.

As one Conversation attendee commented, "This Conversation was the perfect example of what the League does best: civilized discourse."

Suggestions for discussion topics for next year are most welcome!

**EDUCATION** (*Helene Lecar*)

The major education stories this year focused on the big picture, and it has been ugly. Under the provisions of California's Prop 98, education K-14 receives almost 40% of General Fund revenues, but the legislature has been unable to create a cuts-plus-new-revenues budget acceptable to two-thirds of its members. The issue of education funding looms large because it consumes such a large slice of the budget pie and strikes home in every community.

In the meantime, administrators and school boards up and down the State have been scrambling to keep up with the fiscal uncertainty, the record cuts and the delays that have postponed funding from one fiscal year to another. To compensate in some small way, the State has combined a number of State-mandated categorical programs into four large block grants, which school districts can apply flexibly, to best serve the needs of their students.

In response, districts have resorted to a wide variety of painful reductions in service, eliminating programs outright – no music, art, athletics, adult education, summer school – increasing class size, laying off bus drivers, librarians and counselors, as well as teachers, and shortening the school year through weekly furloughs or early school closures in order to keep the layoffs to a minimum.

California's already low standing among the states – in per-pupil spending, in the ratio of students to counselors, librarians, and other essential support staff – plummeted to nearly the lowest rank.

Across the nation, many other states have also been struggling with massive budget deficits of their own, with 34 states cutting K-12 spending in 2009-10, and 36 reducing allocations for higher education. The federal government provided the weakened economy with a \$787 billion stimulus package in 2009, and California received almost \$8 billion of the \$115 billion allotted to the nation's K-12 systems. That infusion softened the severity of the 2009 cuts, but it was all one-time money, and the State could not meet the requirements for competing in the later federal allocation of \$4.3 billion for Race to the Top grants.

Bad as they are, the existing education cuts will only increase in the next few years if the State government is unable to enact significant new revenue measures. As we go to print, the legislature is addressing the Governor's May Revise, generally increasing his allocations for education, but considering the suspension of Prop 98 guarantees altogether for 2009-10 (the fiscal year which will end June 30) and 2010-11.

At the same time, public anxiety about the state of the schools has spilled over into action. A protest march to Sacramento this spring attracted thousands of participants from kindergarteners and their parents to graduate students. In May, a coalition including school districts, the California School Boards Association and chief school administrators,

the ACLU and unions sued the State in Alameda County court, charging that the education budgets of the last three years have violated the State's constitution. In *Robles-Wong et al. v. State of California*, the plaintiffs ask the court to compel the State to align its school finance system with its educational requirements.

For the time being, without new revenues, the State is still limping along with a structural deficit guaranteeing a fiscal shortfall every year. A proposition will likely qualify for the November ballot to reduce the two-thirds vote required to pass a budget. If the voters approve, it may bring some stability to the budget calendar in future years, but in the meantime, we can only look forward to the same crises recurring every year, and another crop of California's children cheated of the education they will need to prosper in their own adult lives.

**ELECTION SERVICES** (*Phoebe Watts*)

Over the past year Election Services was involved in the following efforts:

- In October 2009 LWVBAE sponsored a forum at Emeryville City Hall presenting candidates for the Emeryville City Council and for the Emery Unified School District Board of Directors. *Jane Coulter* was the moderator, with *Ranya Cohen* and *Phoebe Watts* assisting.

- The State League wrote *Pros & Cons* for the five Measures which appeared on the June 2010 primary election ballot and distributed them electronically. LWVBAE printed this document, including *Pros & Cons* on Berkeley Measure C, and distributed the document throughout the community. We also distributed *Vote With The League* and a flyer with directions to the *Easy Voter Guide*, which was also available electronically. *Sherry Smith* oversaw the *Smart Voter* website and *Bill Chapman* posted election information on the LWVBAE website. League members spoke about the Measures to five community groups.

- We continued to distribute voter registration cards to libraries, post offices, senior centers and other public places. *Claudia Berger*, *Constance Fraser*, *Jean Safir* and *Ruthann Taylor* are among those who perform this service throughout the year.

- In September 2009 LWVBAE had a table at the Solano Stroll, which we will also do in September of this year.

The past year was relatively quiet, election-wise, but this fall there will be a general election, with many propositions on the ballot. Albany and Berkeley will have local elections, and Berkeley voters will use Ranked Choice Voting for the first time. There will be a lot of Election Service opportunities and needs – so join in!

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

(Gail Schickele/Carol Stone)

Environmental Concerns hosted speakers on second Mondays, September through May.

September - Robert Lewis, Golden Gate Audubon Society on *The Effects of Climate Change on the Birds of the San Francisco Bay Region*. October - ABAG Deputy Executive Director Ezra Rapport on *ABAG's 25-Year Forecast for the Bay Area: Projections and Priorities 2009: Building Momentum*. November - Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, addressed *How the State of California is Protecting the Environment*.

December - a slide show by author and award-winning journalist James G. Workman, a 'Drought Doctor' who has advised businesses, aid agencies, civic associations, environmentalists and government departments on water scarcity and climate change adaptation. Workman discussed his book *The Heart of Dryness: How the Last Bushmen Can Help Us Endure the Coming Age of Permanent Drought* and how it relates to the water impacts of global warming in the Bay Area.

In January 2010 we received a first-hand report on the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference by Andy Katz, Sierra Club California Executive Committee. February featured AC Transit's Director of Alternative Fuels and Marketing Jaimie Levin who discussed the news and Green Technologies by the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District. March - Climate Economist Jasmin Ansar discussed *The Economic Impact of AB 32 on Small Businesses* and *The Union of Concerned Scientists' Blueprint for Climate Change*.

April - an overview of The Helios Project at UC Berkeley by Jennifer McDougall, principal planner with UCB's Capital Projects department. The new five-story Helios Energy Research Facility will focus on carbon-neutral biofuels. May - Jesse Arreguin, District 4, Berkeley City Council, addressed the Greening of Berkeley, including the "green pathway" being discussed as part of a new Downtown Area Plan.

In other education and advocacy, committee co-chairs Carol Stone and/or Gail Schickele participated in meetings with the Climate Change Team, several members of whom participated in environmental book reading groups (*Hot, Flat and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman; *Plan B 4.0* by Lester Brown); and *American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau* by Bill McKibben, Ed. Schickele and Stone attended a luncheon presentation by East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) Andy Katz regarding its activities and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta plan and related \$11-billion bond issue on the November 2010 ballot.

Gil Bendix and Schickele helped plan and organize the LWV Bay Area Natural Resources/Water Committee forum on climate change. The forum, which drew

about 200 people, looked at how California can plan for its population boom in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way, with a specific emphasis on the State's new Smart Growth law, Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg). Committee members Stone, Nancy Parker and Wendy Markel have been involved in environmental aspects of the Berkeley Downtown Area Plan (DAP); and Schickele gave a presentation on California Water to the Berkeley City College Civic Engagement Group.

Special thanks to Violet Feinauer for helping with the mailings every month to those without email, and to Wendy Markel for the generous use of her home for meetings.

## HEALTHCARE

(Cathy Lynch/Li-hsia Wang/Ursula Rolfe)

With renewed determination, our Committee started out in June 2009 to present all options regarding healthcare reform. Our purpose was to reach as many people as possible to educate them on the upcoming federal struggle over healthcare. As E. J. Dionne Jr. optimistically said in his April 6, 2009 article in the San Francisco Chronicle, "This is the year Congress will finally give every American access to health insurance ... [but] getting there won't be pretty."

The Committee considered all the options, and still believed that the single-payer (Medicare for All) plan was the best for most people. In October, Cathy Lynch, Li-hsia Wang and Ursula Rolfe led a discussion at a Conversation At The League in which we reviewed the various plans being offered and compared them to Medicare for All. The lively Conversation was very well attended.

Nancy Pakter, a new member of our Committee, offered her lovely home on Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley for our House Party, which was held on November 1. The catering was provided by our own Rainey Sykes and was Super Delicious. We showed the video *California: One Care-Full Care, For All, For Less*, after which there was much discussion. Many of us came away hopeful that we had done a good job in getting out our message.

We ended 2009 by reevaluating the best methods for spreading awareness of Medicare for All. It was agreed by our Committee members that we should approach small business groups, book clubs, church groups and others, and offer to make presentations about Medicare for All at their meetings. We could use the California One Care video followed by a discussion and Q&A.

The New Year brought discouraging results in the passage of an inadequate federal health plan that unfortunately will not give us the "quality, affordable health care available to all residents" that the League advocates. Since passage of the federal bill, the Committee has been working on the direction that

healthcare will take in California, where SB 810, the single-payer healthcare bill authored by State Senator Mark Leno, has passed the Senate and is presently awaiting action in the Assembly. *Li-hsia Wang* has drafted a letter to Assemblyman Bill Monning, the chair of the California Assembly Health committee, urging him to advance action on SB810 in order for it to reach the Governor's desk this year.

To promote our own education and seek opportunities for networking with other Leagues and organizations advocating for single-payer healthcare, our Committee members attended several types of events over the past year: Health care forums sponsored by Leagues in Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties; a Sacramento rally for SB 810 that was organized by health professional students (CaHPSA) as part of their Lobby Day; and a full-day workshop, "Framing Our Message" (George Lakoff-style), organized by Single Payer Now, a San Francisco-based organization.

*Li-hsia* attended the LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta in June. She has been working with HCR4US (Health Care Reform 4 US), a group of League members from all over the country, for improved healthcare through a single-payer insurance plan (Improved Medicare for All). This group is proposing a resolution to the national League to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for Improved Medicare for All. This resolution has been endorsed by LWVBAE.

The Healthcare Committee has elected *Li-hsia Wang* LWVBAE Healthcare Director for 2010-2011.

**MEMBERSHIP** (*Jane Coulter*)

Over the past year, our Membership Committee of *Suzanne Chun, Bill Chapman, Pat Day, Jinky Gardner* and *Rainey Sykes* have reached out to members with email and telephone invitations, information and reminders. Office Manager *Cheryl Nichols* organized a Telephone Tree for contacting members without email. We hope you have all enjoyed hearing from us and being invited to participate in the work and camaraderie of the League.

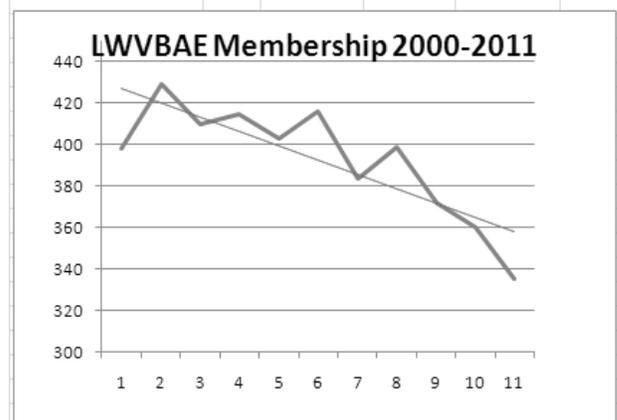
The Committee organized a successful Fall Member Meeting and Spring Annual Meeting. We outdid ourselves at the Annual Meeting with a League-catered dinner organized by *Rainey Sykes*. Not only did we feed sixty members and earn some income for the League, but we had a lot of fun doing it. League members *Claudia Berger, Cecile Briar, Nancy Parker* and *Jean Safir* pitched in to help.

For the past dozen years no Membership Report has been complete without mentioning our Membership Secretary, *Mina Jenner*. *Mina* organizes the membership renewal letters, reminders and final notices that help us to keep you all enrolled in the League. And her monthly Membership Reports to the Board keep Board members aware of membership changes.

The Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville League has been working hard and doing more with fewer members this year. (See chart below.) The Membership Committee is addressing the issue of declining membership which is occurring at all levels of League. New members need to be encouraged to get involved as soon as they join, and we need to attract a wider spectrum of our local population and demonstrate what can be achieved by working with the League. Joining with other local Leagues to carry out programs and provide election services will also help us to be more visible in the community. We need your ideas and help to strengthen the League!

**MEMBERSHIP TRENDS**

LWVBAE Membership at the start of	Change from prev yr		change from 2000-01	
	Members	%	Members	%
FY 2000-01	398			
FY 2001-02	429	7.79%	31	7.79%
FY 2002-03	410	-4.43%	-19	3.02%
FY 2003-04	415	1.22%	5	4.27%
FY 2004-05	403	-2.89%	-12	1.26%
FY 2005-06	416	3.23%	13	4.52%
FY 2006-07	384	-7.69%	-32	-3.52%
FY 2007-08	399	3.91%	15	0.25%
FY 2008-09	372	-6.77%	-27	-6.53%
FY 2009-10	360	-3.23%	-12	-9.55%
FY 2010-11	335	-6.94%	-25	-15.83%



# ANNUAL MEETING IN BRIEF

The Annual Membership Meeting was held May 18, 2010 at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley. Some 60 members attended, and the program was highlighted by a presentation by Jennifer Waggoner, Communications Director of LWVC, on "Developing a 21st Century League: How 20th Century Members Can Make the Transition."

A wonderful feature of the evening was the excellent homemade dinner prepared by Rainey Sykes and her crew, which included Jane Coulter, Suzanne Chun and Pat Day. Thanks are also due to Bill Chapman, Nancy Parker and Cecile Briar, who registered the attendees.

## Business Meeting

The business meeting was presided over by Jane Coulter, Vice President for Membership. Parliamentarian was Ginette Polak and Secretary was Angharad Jones. Nancy Bickel, Jean Safir and Helene Lecar were appointed to a committee to review the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2010.

- The item of note in the proposed budget for 2010-2011 was the elimination of the position of paid office manager. At the recommendation of the Budget Committee, the budget for 2010-2011 was unanimously approved.
- Program and Local Support Positions: The Board recommended that all current positions be retained, while restating the Civics Position to bring it into stylistic conformity with our other positions; that we begin no new local study; and that the following be emphasized for education and action: climate change, health care, civics education, and ranked choice voting. In addition, the following two ad hoc committees continue: Berkeley Downtown Area Plan and Berkeley Sunshine Ordinance. The recommendations of the Board were approved unanimously.
- The following officers and directors were elected, to take office July 1, 2010:

PRESIDENT:	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY:	<i>Angharad Jones</i>
TREASURER:	<i>Bill Chapman</i>
VP ADMINISTRATION:	<i>Diane Akers</i>
VP MEMBERSHIP:	<i>Jane Coulter</i>
VP PROGRAM:	<i>Ginette Polak</i>

<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	
VOTER EDITOR:	<i>Fran Packard</i>
VOTER REGISTRATION:	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:	<i>Gail Schickele</i>
	<i>Carol Stone</i>
	<i>(co-directors)</i>

HEALTHCARE:	<i>Li-hsia Wang</i>
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:	<i>Jane Barrett</i>
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:	<i>Mim Hawley</i>
	<i>Jinky Gardner</i>

- The following members were awarded Certificates of Appreciation:

*Ann Crowe* — for her active contributions to LWVBAE for more than 40 years, serving during that time as President, holding many key positions on and off the Board, and being particularly active in public education at all levels

*Alice Kisch* — breaking our tradition of honoring only non-Board members, *Alice* was presented with the award as she leaves her position as *Voter Editor*, for her sterling work in transforming our newsletter into an award-winning publication

*Cheryl Nichols* — our Office Manager, for her multi-year service in that position, embodying the friendly voice and face of the League

*Juanita Peterson* — for her longtime commitment to our League, notably as the Monday volunteer at the office.

*Sherry Smith*  
Vice President for Action

## SMART VOTER COORDINATOR: OPPORTUNITY TO DO IMPORTANT LEAGUE WORK AT HOME

Our League is seeking a *Smart Voter* coordinator to work with local candidates who will be encouraged to participate in one of the League's best voter services, [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).

Your current local *Smart Voter* coordinator is *Sherry Smith*, who is about to become President of LWVBAE and needs to give up some other League responsibilities.

The job is done from your own computer and is "seasonal" in that all the tasks take place within a limited timeframe surrounding elections: producing form letters that urge participation by the candidates; approving the copy that candidates submit (this is done electronically – there are a few rules that we check for); and periodically monitoring any additions or corrections they want to make in the copy they submit. If you have a laptop computer, you can even do this remotely when you are out of town.

The tasks do not require special computer expertise. You don't have to be a computer whiz (I certainly am not). All forms are provided for you. You will be trained by the League's Smart Voter staff and volunteers, and instructions are easy to follow. Any questions or problems that arise during the course of an election round are answered promptly by County or State coordinators, as appropriate. So you have a safety net at all times.

If you are interested, please give me a call at 548-1769 or send me an email at [js1589@berkeley.edu](mailto:js1589@berkeley.edu), and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. I'd like to get this position filled as soon as possible, hopefully well in advance of the November election.

*Sherry Smith*  
LWVBAE Smart Voter Coordinator

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON**

*(continued from p. 1)*

student); and co-founder of UC's Institute for Energy and Environment, now known as the Environmental Energy Technology Division (EETD) of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. EETD will also receive the organizational "Spirit of the League" award.

Also receiving an individual "Spirit of the League" award will be long-time League member and community activist *Frances Townes*. Among *Townes'* many civic contributions was the founding of the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless and her service on the Community Advisory Panel for KQED Public Broadcasting.

Books, Inc. (1760 Fourth Street, Berkeley) has generously agreed to contribute a portion of the proceeds from their Luncheon book sales to our League.

George Lakoff joins the list of distinguished former Community Luncheon speakers that includes KQED Radio "Forum" host Michael Krasny; World Affairs Council President and CEO Jane Wales; UC Professor and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich; Member of Congress Jackie Speier; Boalt Hall School of Law Dean Christopher Edley, Jr.; and State Treasurer and former Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

All who have attended our Luncheons in past years will receive an invitation, and you are urged to bring friends and acquaintances to this gala event. The Luncheon is an ideal way to show guests what the League accomplishes in our communities, and is the major means by which we raise funds to support our many activities and programs.

The Luncheon is always a wonderful summer enhancement, so watch for your invitation and do join us on August 19!

*Suzanne Chun  
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

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

**BOARD 2010-2011**

- President . . . . . SHERRY SMITH
- Recording Secretary. . . . . ANGHARAD JONES
- Treasurer . . . . . BILL CHAPMAN
- Vice President-Administration. . . DIANE AKERS
- Vice President-Membership. . . . JANE COULTER
- Vice President-Program. . . . . GINETTE POLAK
- VOTER Editor . . . . . FRAN PACKARD
- Voter Registration . . . . . PHOEBE WATTS
- Environmental Concerns . . . . . GAIL SCHICKELE  
(CO-DIRECTORS, ONE VOTE) . . . . . CAROL STONE
- Healthcare Director . . . . . LI-HSIA WANG
- Volunteer Coordinator. . . . . JANE BARRETT
- Directors-at-Large . . . . . MIM HAWLEY  
JINKY GARDNER

**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.

**OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIOS  
LWVBAE 2010-2011**

- ALBANY ACTION . . . . . JEWEL OKAWACHI
- CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE . . . . . JINKY GARDNER
- CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE . . . . . REGINA BEATUS
- COMMUNITY COLLEGES LIAISON . . . . . HELENE LECAR
- COMMUNITY LUNCHEON COMMITTEE . . . . . SUZANNE CHUN
- DATABASE COORDINATOR . . . . . JANE COULTER
- DONATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT . . . . . LOUETTA ERLIN
- DUES COORDINATOR . . . . . MINA JENNER
- HOUSING ISSUES . . . . . JEAN SAFIR
- JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES . . . . . LOIS BRUBECK
- LWV BAY AREA LIAISON . . . . . JEAN SAFIR
- LIBRARY LIAISON . . . . . CLAUDIA BERGER
- SMART VOTER COORDINATOR . . . . . SHERRY SMITH
- SPEAKERS' BUREAU . . . . . CATHY LYNCH
- WEB MANAGER/COMPUTER . . . . . BILL CHAPMAN  
CONSULTANT
- WOMEN'S ISSUES . . . . . CHARLOTTE LICHTERMAN



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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,

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**

**JULY**

- 5 MON. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 MON. 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**  
LWVBA NATURAL WATER RESOURCES (NWR) C. STONE, 549.0959  
CTE MEETING, EBMUD, 375 11TH STREET, OAKLAND (**TENTATIVE**)
- 19 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE L. WANG, 848.5765
- 28 WED. 1:30-3:00 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904  
(**TENTATIVE**)
- 3:00-5:00 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769

**AUGUST**

- 6 FRI. 5:00 PM **DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER VOTER** F. PACKARD, 845.3037
- 9 MON. 11:30 AM-1:00 PM LWVBA NATURAL WATER RESOURCES (NWR) C. STONE, 549.0959  
CTE MEETING, EBMUD, 375 11TH ST., OAKLAND
- 12 THURS. 10:30 AM-12 PM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 16 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE L. WANG, 848.5765
- 19 THURS. 11:30 AM-1:30 PM **ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON** (SEE PP. 1, 11)  
H<sup>5</sup> LORDSHIPS ON THE BERKELEY MARINA S. CHUN, 843.7855
- 25 WED. 3:00-5:00 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769
- 26 THURS. 7:30-9:00 PM CIVICS ED ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. GARDNER, 548-5292

**SEPTEMBER**

- 3 FRI. 5:00 PM **DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER VOTER** F. PACKARD, 845.3037
- 6 MON. \_\_\_\_\_ **LABOR DAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**
- 9 THURS. 10:30AM-12PM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE J. COULTER, 524.0525
- 13 MON. 11:30 AM-1:00 PM LWVBA NWR CTE PRESENTS "NOVEMBER 2010 WATER BOND: PROS & CONS", EBMUD, 375 11TH STREET, OAKLAND C. STONE, 549.0959  
7:30 PM-9:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, TOPIC AND LOCATION TBA C. STONE, 549.0959  
G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826
- 15 WED. 1:30-3:30 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE R. BEATUS, 524.6904
- 20 MON. 1:30-3:30 PM HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE L. WANG, 848.5765
- 22 WED. 3:00-5:00 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE S. SMITH, 548.1769

**BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**