



# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

November 2005

Editors: Chapman, Smith & Brandes

## ELECTION SERVICES DOES IT AGAIN!

Despite a very short time line resulting from the late notice given by Gov. Schwarzenegger in calling a special election for November 8, LWVBAE's election services team has done it yet again.

By the time this Voter reaches your mailbox in late October or early November, members of your League will have:

- prepared, printed and distributed **PROS and CONS** for Albany's Measure A and Emeryville's Measure C
- moderated the Candidate Forum where three contestants vying for Emeryville's two City Council seats met the community and each other
- presented the state **PROS and CONS** to many community groups in our three cities, where we were asked to aid interested citizens in their struggle to understand the eight complex measures on which we've been called to vote

Many thanks to *Jinky Gardner* (Election Services VP), *Phoebe Watts* and *Betty Hicks*, who organized this effort; and to those of you who volunteered your time and energy for this, the most basic and important of League functions.

When you go to the polls on November 8, please remember the positions the League has taken on the ballot measures you'll see:

### Oppose

- Proposition 73
- Proposition 75
- Proposition 77
- Proposition 74
- Proposition 76
- Proposition 78

### Support

- Proposition 79
- Albany Measure A

And, as you prepare to vote, don't forget <http://www.smartvoter.org>.

*Bill Chapman, Voter Editing Team*

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### ELECTIONS - PUBLIC FINANCING

The State Legislature is considering Assembly Bill 583, to institute Public Funding of Elections. A formal hearing is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, in northern California. The League will present information sessions in December. The next VOTER will carry details and dates. In the meantime, check [info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=ab\\_583&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen](http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_583&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen) for the latest information.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The night before I wrote this column, I had the pleasure of moderating a Candidate Forum for the three people who are running for two City Council seats in Emeryville.

This task gave me, and the other League members assisting with running the Forum, the chance to see the interior of the refurbished Emeryville Town Hall, originally built in 1903. This building withstood the earthquake of 1906, but was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta quake. It needed extensive repair and had to be seismically retrofitted to withstand future shakes.

The Council Chamber, where the forum was held, has been beautifully restored. This quaint gem of a building stands alongside the 21st-century structure that was built to accommodate a city administration that will continue to grow as this city of some 7,000 expands. If you haven't seen it, go take a look. It's at 1333 Park, across from the Pixar campus.

The forum was cablecast live on Emeryville's public access channel 27, and recorded on DVD for additional viewing before the November 8 election. These events are among the League's best services to our communities, and are very much appreciated by candidates and citizens. We are one of the few organizations with the credibility to put on a truly unbiased, neutral presentation in a setting that is designed to generate light, not heat.

*Phoebe Watts* is both our candidate forum coordinator and our Smart Voter liaison this year. She assists the candidates in putting their information on the League's popular Web site, [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org). If you have yet to use Smart Voter, I urge you to do so soon. Special thanks to *Phoebe* for handling that, and to the Forum crew that included *Jinky Gardner* and *Eloise Bodine*.

We emphasized the third city in our LWVBAE name at that forum, and look for other opportunities to spread our word and expand our Emeryville membership.

*Sherry Smith*, President

### Board Briefs--October 5, 2005

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Scrip returns will enhance League income by approximately \$5,000.
- Voter registration forms distribution has brought in a second payment of \$1,040.
- The LWVB Foundation will further review the Memorandum of Understanding for the *Bansner Fund* at its next meeting.

#### PROGRAM NOTES

- The Energy Study group has held its first meeting.
- National program planning will begin in February.
- A League 'educational presentation' is being developed for the University YWCA in December.

#### CIVICS EDUCATION STUDY

- The student survey is nearly complete. 1,019 student questionnaires have been tabulated and categorized.
- These, as well as Teachers', Superintendents' and Principals' questionnaires, will be analyzed for conclusions and recommendations. The State Standards will be used in the process.

*Jody Bush*, Acting Secretary

### DONATIONS DURING SEPTEMBER TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Aida Brenneis</i>	<i>Mary Ann Frankel</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Sylvia McLaughlin</i>
<i>Elizabeth Schaaf</i>	<i>Rosalind Singer</i>
<i>Elizabeth Wolgast</i>	

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

<i>Nancy Bickel</i>	<i>Mary Friedman</i>
<i>Elaine Grossberg</i>	

Prepared by *Lenora Young*

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THE LEAGUE?

### ENERGY UPDATE STUDY

The current League position on California's energy policy has not been updated since 1980! This was long before deregulation of our electricity system and the familiar problems of sky-high cost and unreliability that followed.

In 2003, delegates to the LWVC voted to undertake a study to update the League's position on energy in California. The State League, in the intervening years, has prepared a very thorough set of background materials for the local Leagues' use, and the BAE has formed an Energy Update Study Committee to review this background material plus any other sources of information Committee members choose.

The purpose of the Update Study is to educate members on the nature of the California electricity system and provide information about some of the critical public policy issues facing decision-makers. Following membership Consensus meetings throughout the State, the LWVC will have positions to enable us to speak to current issues.

If you have an interest in California's electricity system or would like to know more about specific aspects of its problems, join the Energy Update Committee. Call *Roselyn Rosenfeld*, 527-1060 for details about the Nov. 16 meeting (160 Southampton Ave., Berkeley).

The Study Guide, provided by the LWVC, and other related information, is available at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org), for members with internet access. *Roselyn Rosenfeld*, Committee Chair

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING IDEAS

Having trouble deciding what to get for someone special on your holiday shopping list? E-scrip cards or coupons make an excellent gift, and the League receives 5-8% of the amount you spend. Participating merchants include: Eddie Bauer, Macy's, Whole Foods Marketplace, Office Max, Big 5 Sporting Goods and American Airlines. If you would like to order from one of these merchants, or find out what other stores are available, please contact *Ruthann Taylor*

(527-0673 or [cetaylor7@comcast.net](mailto:cetaylor7@comcast.net)).

Andronico's scrip purchases also help support the League. *Ruthann Taylor*, Scrip Coordinator

### PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A BEQUEST TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Many of us are considering our wills -- either making one, or, as Bob and I are, updating one we signed many years ago. In doing so, we will consider making bequests to one or more of the organizations whose work we support and admire. It's an opportunity for a more substantial donation than is possible for most of us now, while we're minding our assets to ensure that they'll last as long as we need them.

As League members, we know the value of its educational work, especially publications such as the **Pros and Cons**, and the other voter service activities that create a wider and wider circle of well-informed voters. Providing for a bequest to the LWVB Foundation, which funds these activities, is a good way to help ensure that projects like these will continue. For this reason, I hope that you'll consider making a bequest to the League's Foundation, as Bob and I have done. Please join us in making a positive contribution to the future of the League, and to our communities.

*Mim Hawley*, LWVB Foundation Treasurer

### POLL ON ACTION COMM. MEETING TIME

In recent years, Action Committee meetings have begun at 7:30 p.m. Thinking daytime meetings might encourage greater attendance, the committee is considering a change, especially during winter months.

Help us make a decision. Contact *Sherry Smith* (548-1769 or [js1589@berkeley.edu](mailto:js1589@berkeley.edu)). In your message, state whether you prefer the current evening schedule or would find daytime meetings better. If you "vote" for daytime, please indicate whether mid-day, (i.e., 1:00 p.m.) or later in the afternoon (i.e., 4:00 p.m.) would be preferable.

*Sherry Smith*, President

## UPDATE FROM LWV OF THE BAY AREA – CEQA REFORM

Our meeting on CEQA Reform on September 24 was well attended and featured an update on the status of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Many of us remember when CEQA was enacted in 1970 and became an important process for documenting the environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and feasible mitigation of significant impacts of both public and private projects. The process required public comment and required that the public agency respond to comments prior to approval of projects. (See the [www.opr.ca.gov](http://www.opr.ca.gov) for requirements).

Over the past 35 years, as a result of the CEQA process, better decisions have been made by public agencies and citizens who were empowered to affect the decision - particularly neighborhood groups who previously were given no opportunity for input on projects or whose comments were simply ignored. Panelists at our meeting generally agreed it was a good law, but it had its flaws and could stand some improvement. Issues cited were that EIRs miss the larger regional impacts because their focus is project-specific, and an EIR can be challenged in court by NIMBYs (in some cases to gain leverage for union wages) or when a public agency simply “shuts its ears” to the facts. For this reason, EIRs have become very lengthy and technical documents, primarily to avoid lawsuits.

Proposals for improvement of CEQA include a practice of doing a more complete initial study, analyzing the feasibility of alternatives, the use of Specific Plans (larger area than a single project) and Master EIRs first (this has been used in the City of San Jose); then have only a “focused” environmental review to determine if the project complies with the plan. Legislation is pending that would provide some of these reforms - SB 832, Perata is being used as a spot bill for reform language in the next session, and SB 1024 would provide the funding for needed planning as part of a statewide infrastructure bond measure for the Nov. 2006 ballot. The improved legislation should include a clear summary of the environmental impact in plain English, clear definitions of what is a significant impact, and retention of a participation process regarding projects at the local level, regardless of the abbreviated EIR review process.

P.S. – As a result of our resolution at the State Convention in May, LWV California has sent a letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger on the issue of CEQA Reform. You can check it out at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org).

Linda Craig, President LWVBA, [President@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:President@lwvba-ca.org)

### LWV BAY AREA CALENDAR

#### Thursday, October 27, 2005, 8 am-4 pm

“Affordable Housing: Myths and Reality”, Association of Bay Area Governments General Assembly at Marriott City Center, Oakland, see [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov)

#### Friday, October 28, 2005, Noon – 1:30

Natural Resources/Water Committee. EBMUD Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland. For more info contact [natural\\_resources@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:natural_resources@lwvba-ca.org)

#### Thursday, November 10, 2005, 12:15 – 2pm

IN Committee South. Westminster House, 457 Kingsley, Palo Alto. Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogrand: [iwinogrand@aol.com](mailto:iwinogrand@aol.com) or (510) 482-4439

#### Friday, January 27, 2006

Bay Area League Day: State of the Bay – Restoration and Access, at Unitarian Church, Oakland

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

**Monday, November 14, 2005**

Environmental Concerns will offer a presentation on Hetch Hetchy by LWVC water co-director Roberta Borgonovo, former president of LWVSF, which supported the \$1.6 billion bond approved in November 2002 to restore the Hetch Hetchy system. Borgonovo, representative to the California Urban Water Conservation Council and to the CALFED Bay-Delta Water Use Efficiency Sub Committee, has been active in engaging the SF PUC to meet future water demands on Hetch Hetchy. She favors maximizing conservation, recycling, sustainable groundwater use, and other non-structural alternatives that do not increase diversions of the Tuolumne River water or other streams that are part of the Bay-Delta ecosystem or local watersheds. The meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Horst Bansner, 1340 Arch Street at Rose in Berkeley.

Contact: *Gail Schickele*, 415-922-5826 or *Carol Stone*, 510-549-0959.

### ALBANY WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

On September 12, Environmental Concerns hosted a presentation on proposed Albany waterfront development by Howard McNenny of the Albany Waterfront Coalition (AWC). Comments and alternatives to development were offered by Robert Cheasty, co-chair (emeritus) of Citizens for the Albany Shoreline (CAS) and president of the Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP).

The Albany waterfront, once the site of a gunpowder manufacturing operation and then a city dump, is now Golden Gate Fields (GGF), and is adjacent to Eastshore State Park. The GGF property (about 160 acres) is owned by Magna Entertainment Corp., backer of losing gambling initiatives Props 68 and 71 to allow casino gambling at California racetracks. Magna is expected to submit a development plan in 2005 that will include a mixed-use retail and entertainment complex designed by Los Angeles developer Rick Caruso.

The Albany Waterfront Coalition is a self-funded group of Albany citizens with no connection to track owners. The proposed development includes retail, restaurants and a hotel. It seeks to preserve Albany's control of the waterfront, present funding of Albany schools, and area wetlands and habitat. The plan claims to work with or without the racetrack, but recognizes that the racetrack will stay in Albany for the foreseeable future, as the GGF owners have repeatedly confirmed. "This is a doable plan and is self-financing," McNenny said.

A goal of CAS is to incorporate the GGF property into the Eastshore State Park when the track closes, due to low attendance and competition from Magna's track and mall development in Dixon. CAS strongly opposes track-casino-retail development and seeks support of open space and the shoreline park. CAS opposes a waterfront shopping mall as development would prevent state park expansion. CAS, CESP and the Sierra Club have developed a Citizens Waterfront Plan for the redevelopment of GGF that preserves 85% of the land for open space use. The Citizens Plan increases income to the City of Albany while preserving revenue to the Albany Unified School District and the Albany Library.

For more information: Albany Waterfront Coalition, Howard McNenny at (510) 527-8476 or [www.albanywaterfrontcoalition.org](http://www.albanywaterfrontcoalition.org); Citizens for the Albany Shoreline, Robert Cheasty, 510-525-1000 or [www.albanyshoreline.org](http://www.albanyshoreline.org); Citizens for East Shore Parks, [www.eastshorepark.org](http://www.eastshorepark.org); Golden Gate Fields, (510) 559-7300, [www.goldengatefields.com](http://www.goldengatefields.com).

*Gail Schickele*, Co-Chair

### Anne Kael Wallach, 1912-2005

Anne Wallach passed away on Monday, October 3, 2005, surrounded by loved ones. Her many years of dedicated service to her family, friends, students and community will be warmly remembered by all of us.

As a member of the League of Women Voters for many years and as a retired English teacher, Anne's special interest in the League was improving public education in Berkeley. She monitored school board meetings to urge board members to serve the needs of students and their families at the highest levels. She organized and led the League project that conducted mock elections in junior and senior high schools, so that students might learn how to be responsible, informed voters. One of her favorite activities was tutoring students in reading and writing, and she continued this volunteer work up to several months before she passed away. Anne chaired the League's education committee for many years, bringing in speakers, organizing activities and in many other ways showed the rest of us how to be an effective League activist. Her sweetness, her sense of humor, her intelligence and professional competence -- all these characteristics won her the admiration and respect of all who knew her.

Check [www.wallachs.org/anne](http://www.wallachs.org/anne) for the date and location of Anne's memorial service once it is scheduled.

*Mim Hawley and Jean Safir*



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**  
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## CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

### IT'S EASY TO JOIN The LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip this coupon and mail it with your check for \$58 Annual Dues made out to:  
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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.**

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 4 Fri. noon Deadline for Dec-Jan VOTER *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 8 Tues. 7am-8pm Election Day *J. Gardner, 548-5292*
- 14 Mon. 7:30-9:30 Environmental Concerns *C. Stone, 549-0959*
- 16 Wed. 9:30am Energy Update Study *R. Rosenfeld, 527-1060*  
160 Southampton Ave., Berkeley
- 17 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee *P. Watts, 525-6614*

### DECEMBER

- 7 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 12 Mon. 7:30-9:30 Environmental Concerns *C. Stone, 549-0959*
- 15 Thurs. TBA Action Committee *P. Watts, 525-6614*