

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

P.O. Box 1645
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www.LWVAlameda.org

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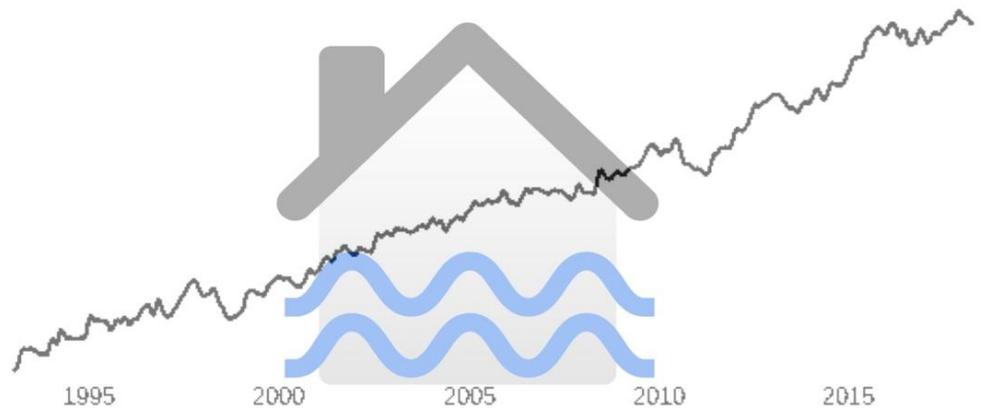
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League of Women Voters of Alameda

Sea Level Rise Community Forum



Sea level rise is steadily increasing, putting us &
our property at risk. What can we do about it?
Panel Discussion – Q&A – Free Event

★Thursday, May 30th from 6:30 to 8:30pm
★Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle,
3195 Mecartney Road, Alameda

Info: LWVAlameda.org/calendar

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- FRI. MAY 3**
5:30pm-7:00pm
- FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL.** Spin! Pizza, 2670 5th St. Alameda. RSVP: by 5pm on Thu. (the day prior) to A. McKereghan at anne@youreastbayagent.com or (510) 407-0175.
- TUE. MAY 14**
2:00pm-4:00pm
- CITY OF ALAMEDA: FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOPS.** Independence Plaza Community Room, 703 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda. Learn about your rights and responsibilities relating to rent increases and terminations of tenancy.
- THU. MAY 16**
7:00pm-9:00pm
- LWVA BOARD MEETING.** Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A (2nd floor), 2070 Clinton Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. MAY 20**
3:00pm-4:30pm
- MONTHLY BOOK CLUB (on 3rd Monday due to Memorial Day).** "An American Bride in Kabul" by Phyllis Chesler. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- THU. MAY 30 -
SUN. JUN 2**
- LWVC STATE CONVENTION.** The Westin Pasadena, 191 N Los Robles Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101. Details at <https://www.lwvalameda.org/league-news.html/#lwvc>.
- THU. MAY 30**
6:30pm-8:30pm
- SEA LEVEL RISE COMMUNITY FORUM.** Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle, 3125 Mecartney Rd, Alameda, CA 94502.
- FRI. JUN 7**
5:30pm-7:00pm
- FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL.** TBD, RSVP: by 5pm on Thursday (the day prior) to Anne McKereghan via email at anne@youreastbayagent.com, or call (510) 407-0175.
- SAT. JUN 22**
11:30am-2:30pm
- LWVA ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON.** Pasta Pelican, 2455 Mariner Square Dr, Alameda, CA 94501. All members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda are invited to Annual Meeting to approve a budget, approve issues of emphasis for action, and elect a new Board.
- MON. JUN 24**
3:00pm-4:30pm
- MONTHLY BOOK CLUB.** "Bad Blood" by John Carreyrou. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- SAT. AUG 3**
- LWVA BOARD RETREAT.** TBD.
- SAT. AUG 17**
10:00am-1:00pm
- LWV BAY AREA: VOTING RIGHTS 1920 TO EQUAL RIGHTS 2020 – A WORKSHOP.** TBD. We'll learn about the history of the ERA and its future.

Action Committee - Felice Zensius & Karen Butter

Schools and Communities First

We did it! Our League collected over 1,000 signatures to qualify the 'The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act' for the November 2020 ballot. This ballot measure (not yet numbered) restores over \$11 billion a year for our schools and local communities by closing a Prop 13 Corporate loophole. It does not raise taxes on homeowners, renters or small businesses. It helps small businesses by eliminating the burdensome business personal property tax while also leveling the playing field for new businesses. It mandates full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California's schools and local communities. Since we are more than 1 ½ years away from the election, there are no immediate actions to be taken. On the web, search for Schools and Communities First, or go to LWVC.org and then to 'Our Work' for more details.

State Legislation

The LWVC supports dozens of bills having to do with Campaign Financing, Climate Change, Education, Housing, Immigration, Voting Rights and Water, to name a few. Local chapters follow these measures as their interest dictates. We can agree with the State League by writing a letter or making a phone call or saying nothing at all. We cannot disagree.

To follow these issues, go to bill status at www.lwvc.org and our website at www.lwvalameda.org.

You can also find the status of any individual bill by going to www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

State Advocacy

The League of Women Voters of California encourages informed and active participation in government. They review bills before the California legislature as well as ballot initiatives. The State is looking for volunteers to act as Legislative Analysts reviewing bills and drafting letters. So if you've been involved in an area where legislation is being written you might like this work. For more information, go to LWVC.org and search for State Advocacy, where you will find Job/Volunteer Opportunities on the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Interview with Congresswoman Barbara Lee

On 25 April, League representatives from Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, Albany, and Alameda met with Congresswoman Barbara Lee to discuss issues of concern from the League. It was a very cordial meeting, reaching similar solutions to the issues. Here are some of the highlights, courtesy of Felice Zensius:

- **Redistricting** - We discussed local governments establishing independent redistricting commissions. She supports our California Citizens Redistricting Commission that has resolved many of our State gerrymandering problems and she would generally favor any extensions, but would have to see the bill.
- **Water Resources** - We talked about the ongoing conflicts between North and South, rural and urban, coast vs. inland. She is co-sponsoring HR 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, and she supports the Green New Deal. Her major concern is lead in the water, especially at the schools.
- **Public Education** - We spoke of closing persistent achievement gaps, and programs using multiple approaches. The recently released report "Getting Down to Facts II" sites early childhood education as a priority. Governor Newsom has stated his commitment to universal preschool and early childhood education. Congresswoman Lee is sponsoring H.R.1692, the Each Woman Act of 2019, which gives equal access to abortion coverage in health insurance. It has 104 co-sponsors and we should follow it.

- **High School Student Voter Registration** - She asked about what the Leagues are doing about getting high school students to register to vote. I let her know about our Voter Service Chair's work in the high schools and have since given her a contact in her office to discuss our League's work in this area. I also mentioned our Youth Outreach Chair's work establishing a partnership with the College of Alameda to enhance the value of civics and getting students registered and voting.

Annual Meeting & Luncheon 2019

Saturday, 22 June
11:30am - 2:30pm

Pasta Pelican
2455 Mariner Square Drive
Alameda, CA 94501



Calling all LWVA members to Annual Meeting!

We will approve a budget, approve issues of emphasis for action, and elect a new Board. All

members who join before 22 May are eligible to vote. **Please note that members may attend the meeting, which starts at 12:45pm, without signing up for the lunch.**

For those who do want to sign up for the lunch, the cost is \$35 with tax and tip. **Due date for payment is 19 June.** This cutoff date is necessary so that we know how many people to plan for. You may either buy your luncheon ticket online at <https://www.lwvalameda.org/annual-meeting-luncheon-2019.html>, or mail a check payable to the LWVA to P.O. Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501.

Meeting kits will be mailed mid-May. Contact Ruth at dixonmueller@yahoo.com if you do not receive yours in the mail by 7 June. Please review the kit before the meeting. It provides information about what the LWVA committees have been doing this year, what local and county positions the League supports, and who is nominated for Board positions for 2019-2020. Within your kit, you will also find reservation and payment information for the luncheon. Remember to bring your kit to the meeting!

Membership Committee – Doris Gee

The League welcomes the following new members: Jenn Helfin-Wit, Terry Wit, Michelle Lerandeanu, and Rehana Lerandeanu. Jenn is on the City of Alameda Historical Advisory Board, and Michelle comes to us with an interest in health matters and politics.

We are getting ready to issue a new directory at the 22 June annual meeting. Membership will be contacting you to update your address and email information during the first week of May. If you have any changes, please respond no later than 10 May. (Negative replies are not required.) We have assigned everyone a League buddy who will be contacting you to join us on any of the events or to connect with the League.

Longtime members who have moved recently include Juelle-Ann Boyer to Lodi, California, and Mariam and Stan Schiffman to Ashland, Oregon.

As of 27 April, we have 156 members. Do you know of a student who is over the age of 16, attending school

full time? They can join for free. The League has waived all student membership fees. As a result, the number of student-members across the country has increased by 150%.

To become a member or renew your membership, please write to us at LWV of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501, or go to our website at <https://www.lwvalameda.org> and pay online. Membership fees are \$70 for individuals and \$97 for family.

The membership committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 9am, and we welcome all interested members to come. For more information, email dorisgee48@gmail.com.

LWVA Remembers

We sadly announce the passing of three members: Joan Narahara (a past president of the League of Women Voters of Alameda), Eileen Bitten, and Patti Heimberger.

Joan Narahara passed away on 13 March, at age 86. Joan was a second generation Alamedan who attended Porter Grammar School before being interned in Topaz, Utah, during WWII, and graduated from Alameda High School with honors. She received her bachelor's degree in microbiology and certificates in medical technology and exfoliative cytology from UC Berkeley/UCSF, followed by two years at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore doing cancer research. Joan returned to work for Alameda County as a lab technician, cytologist and microbiologist, retiring after 40 years.

Joan was a patron of the arts, education and environment, supporting the San Francisco Symphony and Opera for over 40 years, as well as her alma mater, the National Wildlife Federation and World Wildlife Fund. Her love of travel took her all around the United States, most of Europe, the Middle East, South America, Japan, Australia and China. She was an avid reader and lover of fine music, and loved to discuss books she had read and great musical performances she had attended, with her friends.

No matter how busy Joan was with her work and family, she always had time for active participation in her community and the organizations with which she was affiliated. Joan first joined the League when we were a unit of the Oakland LWV and was a part of the founding of our League (LWVA). Not one to start something and not follow through, she was a former president, vice president and longtime board member. Joan was also active with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for many years. She served on the Alameda City Council Planning Board for two terms as president and Vice President. We will all miss her kindness, generosity (who could forget that huge tray of the freshest sushi she brought to every Holiday Party), and fine mind. Few organizations have been as lucky as our Alameda LWV to have such a great, longtime member. She taught us all, by example, how adversity could be overcome with hard work and determination. How many of us have spent part of our formative years in a concentration camp and come out to return to her community and be such a successful scholar, contributor and friend?

Patti Heimburger passed away on 3 April from an unexpected heart condition. She was 75 and had just returned from one of her many adventure trips, this one to India.

Patti was born in Long Beach, California, and was a first-generation Californian, along with her sister Carolyn and brother Hans. After graduating from Wilson High School in Long Beach in 1961, she headed to Greenbrier College in West Virginia. Patti's interest in drawing and painting—a lifelong passion—began in her early years of college.

Not long after marrying Leo M. Breithaupt, Jr., also from Long Beach, he moved to the Seattle area, where she worked for Blue Cross, took up boating and skin diving, and enjoyed her beloved dog, Kimo. Patti and Leo were married for nine years. Some years after their divorce, she decided to attend UC Santa Barbara. She completed her Bachelors' degree in Studio Art in 1986. Patti's training and degree from UCSB gave her just the push she needed to move to the Bay area to focus on a serious career in art, with part-time work for financial support. The community of artists in Oakland, along with galleries who showed and sold her work, as well as the Open Studio program, provided encouragement and great satisfaction.

As Patti's involvement in the Oakland and Alameda community deepened, through the AAUW, Rhythmix Cultural Center, Oakland Symphony, Alameda Hospital Foundation, Altarena Playhouse, Friends of the Alameda Library, Super Stars Literacy, East Bay Community Foundation, Oakland Museum, Girls Inc., and many educational and environmental organizations, her life became more fulfilling each year. She was active in the AAUW-Alameda Tech Trek scholarship program, College of Alameda scholarship program, Peralta Community College fundraisers, and other local activities. Patti served as President of the Alameda chapter of AAUW.

Patti's sister took her to Paris for several weeks in the mid-1980s and to Greece and Turkey a few years later. Those immersions in culture and history sparked an interest in adventurous world travel, which Patti delved into with enthusiasm during the last 15 years of her life. Her travels took her to Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, South Africa, Israel and Jordan several times, Italy several times, Spain, Portugal and India. At the time of her passing, Patti was looking forward to a summer trip to Sicily. All of her travel broadened her horizons, resulted in new friendships around the world, and widened the network of projects she supported. Alameda was Patti's beloved community, but the world was part of her family as well, as she supported the African Library Project, helped fund the building of a school in Sierra Leone, supported global relief organizations, and others.

Patti was the genealogist in the family, especially following the six ancestors arriving on the Mayflower. She was a member of the John Howland Society and Daughters of the American Revolution. She spent ten years developing a manuscript about that branch of her family.

Patti is survived by her sister Carolyn Gannon and brother-in-law Terry Gannon of Woodside, her brother Hans J. Heimburger of Long Beach, as well as cousins Phil Brattain of Belmont, Frances Garber and her husband Gary Garber of Virginia, Shuler Arent and his wife Sharon of South Carolina, and Shirley Dyer of Virginia. Patti also felt especially close to the Garbers' grown children Amber, Nikola and Asa and their children. Patti will be missed by her family and her wonderful and large network of friends. Her message to us all might be "make the world beautiful and be good to all." In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to AAUW-Alameda, Rhythmix Cultural Center, or an organization of your choice.

Eileen Bitten passed away on 12 April, after a long battle with cancer. She was 73 years old. She will be reunited with her beloved husband, Robert C Bitten, also of Alameda; her parents Thomas P and Eileen McPeak Kenney of San Francisco; and her sister, Mary Ann Weintraub of Los Angeles. She is survived by her daughter Jane Dorsey of Glendora (husband Kevin Dorsey) CA and her brother Michael Kenney (wife Marissa Kenney) of Phoenix AZ. and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Known for her generous spirit and putting others at ease, Mrs. Bitten served her community for the past nine years, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She was a Dame in the Order of Malta and worked tirelessly in the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate at San Quentin Penitentiary. She cherished her role as Docent of

the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, relishing the time spent studying and traveling to extend her knowledge of that subject. She also served a term as President of the Harbor Bay Isle Homeowners Association.

A graduate of UCLA, class of 1967, Mrs. Bitten spent 40 years in the field of Human Resources, including 20 years as Manager of Civil Service Employment of Contra Costa County. She also served a term as President of the International Personal Managers Association. She was a pioneer in the areas of Equal Opportunities for women and the innovative creator of many employee self-improvement programs. She received the prestigious IPMA Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also recently named as a recipient of the Alemany Achievement Award for her continuous service to the Dominican Order.