

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City



**V O T E R**

Voting

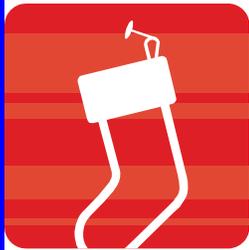
Democracy

Civic Engagement

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



**CELEBRATE WITH THE LEAGUE**



**MONDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>  
6 PM POTLUCK DINNER  
CAROLYN HEDGECOCK'S HOME  
4677 STERLING CT. FREMONT**

**RSVP to Sets Amann and let us know what you will bring  
to share**



**[setsamann@pacbell.net](mailto:setsamann@pacbell.net)**

**489-8096**

**Dinner will be followed by our annual program  
planning meeting. See inside for details.**



## President's Message



In an update to League leaders LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara said,

"The impact of election 2010 goes far deeper than which party controls the House or the Senate," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. "The tens of millions of dollars in secret money spent in this election are a recipe for scandal. Voters

were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads but didn't know who paid for many of them. Pay-to-play politics won't change until we know who the special interests are who are pouring money into our elections," she said.

"This election demonstrated the critical need to improve our governmental structures," said MacNamara. "Because of the failure of Congress to act, there are no disclosure requirements governing the huge amounts of money that the Supreme Court recently turned loose in American politics. Voters will be hard pressed to know if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests."

"The incivility and tone of the 2010 campaign reached a disturbingly new low in American politics," added MacNamara. "Not only was this evident in the advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse."

Our League found this incivility true in audience members at several of our forums. Candidates continued to be responsive to League rules and seemed to really appreciate our efforts to put together good forums. Action committee members decided that we need to look into more training for moderators for future events to help handle difficult situations.

Almost every email I received about League in the last month was about the elections. Following the election Sets Amann will start on updating the information in guide to government and Miriam will make a list of newly elected or re-elected officials to interview. If you can assist either Sets or Miriam please let them know.

Finally, Barbara Friedrich needs some help in organizing the Holiday Party that is coupled with our yearly Program Planning meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Carolyn Hedgecock's home. So you those of you who can only help out once a year or so, here are 3 golden opportunities!!

### Board Briefs:

Decided to apply funds from VIB income to offset costs of forums.

Discussed several ideas for future programs in January, February and March.

Decided to set up small committee led by Barbara Friedrich to review our bylaws.

Decided to seek two additional directors-at-large for the board to serve until June.

### A Note from Ken Ballard

*Finally ran out of rope on the medications and have been enrolled in hospice. I am at home and comfortable, but would not like visitors at this time. Please resign my position, especially Measure A but please keep me on the mailing list. My years of association with the LWV has been a social and intellectual delight. I have several binders of information regarding Measure A; please call me if someone would like to pick these up for future use. Thanks for the many hours of working with you. Your friendship and intellectual conversations have been a pleasure.*

## Voter Service

League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, & Union City received an invitation from Fremont Adult School to speak on November 2, 2010 Election, part of their Civics Curriculum. Andrea Schacter, Eleanor Pickron, and Sets Amann volunteered to do the presentation. Easy Voters provided us with a lesson plan, student handout and video YouTube on the "Importance of Voting." We integrated the use of technology to make an audio and visual presentation more comprehensible to the English Language Learners.

Eleanor presented a brief history of Voting Rights of women by showing the YouTube video of "Women's Suffrage." Andrea followed by talking to the students of the importance of voting by showing the YouTube video of the "Importance of Voting." Sets presented the November 2, 2010 election materials with the visual assistance from Eleanor. This presentation made us aware of how important it is to integrate the use of technology in future presentations.

Here is the feedback from Fremont Adult Ed, English Learner Civic Curriculum Developer.

Hi Sets, Andrea, and Eleanor,

I just wanted to thank you for coming to Fremont Adult School today. I received very good feedback from the teachers and students about your presentation. Some students have already turned in their evaluations; one student asked if she could even volunteer for your organization!

Your presentation helped prepare our students for the Government/Voting unit that they are studying.

Thanks again,  
Rochelle Oral  
El Civics Curriculum Developer, Fremont Adult School

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING:

At our December meeting, following a delicious potluck and the singing of some favorite holiday songs, we will have our annual program-planning meeting. We will be joining all California Leagues in making our state program wishes known to the League of Women Voters of California. Do you have an idea that you think calls for a new study? Do we need to update one of the LWVC old positions? What are our advocacy and community education priorities?

We hope you will be thinking about this and ready to discuss at the meeting. At that time we will have material available to assist us from the LWVC.



The LWV Holiday Party:

Pot Luck

WE need:

2/3 ( 2 to 3 people ) appetizers

2/3 green salads ( mixed, ceasar, spinach, etc. )

3/4 side dishes

3 desserts

1 bread & butter

2 wine, soft drinks, bottled water

Meat ( Sets will provide ham )

RSVP to Sets Amann ( email: [set-samann@pacbell.net](mailto:set-samann@pacbell.net) or 510-489-8096

If I get too many of the same items, I may ask you to bring something else.

Beside Miriam, is there anyone who can play piano? ( Entertainment – sing alongs )

Thanks,  
Sets

## Campaign Finance

In the business world, spending billions of dollars to seize control is known as a **hostile takeover**.

That's precisely what's happening to our democracy today.

The only difference is that when companies attempt hostile takeovers of other businesses, they can't do it anonymously. But in elections today, **a corporation or union can spend unlimited amounts to elect or defeat a candidate, without having to disclose who they are.**

But the Senate can change that.

### Tell your Senators to pass the DISCLOSE Act into law before the end of the year!

Our Senators have a choice to make:

...between Wall Street and Main Street.  
 ...between secrecy and sunshine.  
 ...between special interest-owned elections and voter-owned elections.  
 ...between hedge fund billionaires and everyday citizens like you and me.

So let's ask them: Whose side are they on?

Transparency in American elections is crucial to a healthy democracy. Without it, citizens have no way of knowing which special interests are trying to influence our decisions as we cast our votes for those who will represent us.

### Tell your Senators to pass the DISCLOSE Act into law before the end of the year!

Their answer will tell us whose side they're really on.

Sincerely,

Bob Edgar  
 and the rest of the team at Common Cause

## Interim Executive Director Vacancy

The state League is working to transition smoothly to a new Executive Director. Our Executive Director since 2004, Jill Kaiser Newcom, has found another job, and her last day will be Friday, December 3.

The LWVC/EF plans to hire an interim executive director to serve until a permanent hire is made. This will be a part-time position. We are looking for a seasoned executive, with experience in interim situations, who is not a candidate for the permanent position. After researching the options, we have decided to search for an interim ED by utilizing our contacts, rather than using a consultant or search firm.

On Monday, an official vacancy will be posted to our Web sites and promoted in the LWVC News email newsletter. At our LWVC November 13-14 board meeting, we will discuss the permanent executive director hiring process and other transition work. We appreciate your input and questions about any part of this transition, particularly for consideration at this upcoming meeting. Contact us at [transition@lwvc.org](mailto:transition@lwvc.org).

### Lost on our website???

Check out our new feature "Site Map" at the top portion of each page. Click on it to find an alphabetical list of places you can go. Click on the link in the right column and **ZOOM** - you're there!

Your friendly webmaster



## **BART to San Jose, Step by Step**

By Leslie Stewart

### **From the Bay Area Monitor**

Today, the Fremont station is the southernmost end of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. However, construction through Fremont's Central Park and under Lake Elizabeth this summer is evidence that by 2014, BART will extend even farther south to a new station at Warm Springs. Four years later it will reach the northern edges of San Jose. "We are finally moving forward," said Linton Johnson, chief communications officer for BART. "I can hardly wait till we open it!"

The 5.4 mile Warm Springs Extension, including stations at Irvington and Warm Springs, was first adopted by the BART board of directors in 1992. However, funds were not available for construction. Also, the proposed aerial structure across Central Park and Lake Elizabeth met with strong local opposition. Over the next decade, the extension was included in local and regional funding plans and BART completed environmental plans to qualify for federal funds. In 2003, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was adopted which included a subway under the park and lake, and making the Irvington station optional, dependent on funding from Fremont. By 2006 funding had been secured for the extension, estimated to cost \$890 million. Approximately 10 percent of the funding will come directly from BART; the remainder is from local and regional transportation taxes, and state transportation funds.

In 2007, BART implemented a strategy to split construction into two large contracts. It was hoped that this would keep costs down by matching contractors' expertise to the specialized needs of subway and above-ground design and construction. The subway tunneling in downtown Fremont is the first of the two contracts. "This is the biggest construction contract that BART is doing right now," said Johnson. It includes a mile-long subway under Central Park and Lake Elizabeth and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to just north of Paseo Parkway. The eastern lobe of the lake has been dammed and drained for construc-

tion; the lake will be refilled and restored once the tunnel is complete. Relocation of park facilities, tunnel construction, and restoration are estimated to take 43 months.

In September 2010 BART issued a request for proposals for the second contract, to design and build the tracks and Warm Springs station. This station will include intermodal transit connections and 2,000 parking spaces. Construction by the successful bidder is expected to begin by June 2011. BART has also begun discussions with Fremont on the optional Irvington station. "We'll leave room for it," Johnson commented, "but the city has to have development plans proving sufficient ridership to get the funding to build it."

Warm Springs is only an interim endpoint for BART as it extends into Silicon Valley from the east. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has an agreement with BART to design and construct the next 16-mile phase of the extension, dubbed BART Silicon Valley, which will eventually travel through downtown San Jose and then north to Santa Clara. Phase 1 of this project, the Berryessa Extension, will run 10 miles from Warm Springs to the Berryessa area of north San Jose, with a station in Milpitas and Berryessa. Brandi Childress, media spokesperson for VTA, explained, "Building the project in phases better positions VTA to secure the federal funding needed to bring BART to San Jose." The Berryessa Extension received federal environmental clearance in June 2010. Engineering is underway and full construction is scheduled to start in 2012; passenger service is expected to start in 2018.

### **BART Tour Was Enjoyable and Informative**

The Fremont, Newark, and Union City League and the members of the Bay Area League Transportation Committee toured the Big Dig in Fremont. Most of the line will be above ground but it will go underground under Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. The underground tunnel is being constructed now. A dog park and a parking lot in Central Park were relocated because of the construction.

## DISCLOSE Act Coalition Press Event November 18, 2010

### League of Women Voters Remarks

Good morning, I am Elisabeth MacNamara, the national president of the League of Women Voters.

I stand here today representing a nonpartisan organization of citizen activists and volunteers for a government that is open and transparent and that works on behalf of all Americans.

We support passage of the disclose act because secret spending in elections undermines the basic pillars of our democracy. Secret cash has no place in America's electoral process.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. Enhanced disclosure is the most basic step toward protecting the role of voters and ensuring that they can make informed decisions.

Voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising. They should be told if it is a corporation, union, trade association or nonprofit advocacy group making unlimited political expenditures and influencing elections.

In its ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for big-money special interests in our elections, but the court also made clear that disclosure of this spending could be required by congress.

Disclosure will require CEOs to stand by their ads, and expose special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents special interests from pumping secret money into our elections.

How can individual voters compete with organizations that not only have vested interests in Washington, but millions of dollars to spend in secret to make sure those interests are protected? They can't, and dis-

closure is the best voter protection plan we can offer right now.

We can and must preserve the integrity of our electoral process by increasing transparency and letting the sunlight shine in. Disclosure is the key to allowing voters to make their own decisions and this bill accomplishes that fundamental purpose.

This is not only common sense—it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy.

In the recent elections, we were all over whelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads, but didn't know who paid for many of them.

The voters lose out when they can't find out if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests.

Secrecy also exposes our elected officials to corruption and extortion. Here's how it works. A lobbyist visits a member of congress and says, "If you don't do what I ask, we'll spend a million dollars in secret to know you off in the next election". What is a member of congress to do? How are the voters served by such a corrupt system? They aren't.

We say one again that sunlight is the best disinfectant. The League will continue to fight for enhanced disclosure because our democracy belongs to all voters.

The League and citizens across the country ask our elected leaders to take action now to protect future elections by passing the disclose act.

Thank you.



**Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join.

To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LWVFNUC and mail it with this form to:

**LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP, P. O. Box 3218, Fremont, CA 94539**

Individual Membership—\$60

Household—\$90

Donate to LWVFNUC \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

TransferFrom \_\_\_\_\_

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWV Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information or for confidential dues assistance, please contact: Andrea Schacter—schacter@pacbell.net.

**Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Diversity Policy**

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

**LWVFNUC Voter**

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

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Treasurer: Peter Starr  
Editor: Miriam Keller

The LWVFNUC office address is  
3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA

**NOTABLE PEOPLE IN HISTORY****THE MEN BEHIND THE WOMEN****Parker Pillsbury**

**Parker Pillsbury** (September 22, 1809 – July 7, 1898) was an American minister and advocate for abolition and women's rights.

Pillsbury's dislike of slavery led him into active writing and lecturing for the abolitionist movement and other progressive social reform issues. He became a lecturing agent for the New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and American antislavery societies, and held these posts for over two decades. He edited the Concord (N.H.) *Herald of Freedom* in 1840, and again in 1845 and 1846. In 1854, he served as an emissary from the American Anti-Slavery Society to Great Britain.

Pillsbury lectured widely on abolition and social reform, often in the company of fellow abolitionist Stephen Symonds Foster. He earned a reputation for successfully dealing with hostile crowds through nonresistance tactics. His support for nonresistance led to service on the executive committee of the New Hampshire Non-Resistance Society. Consequently, Pillsbury was not an active supporter of the Union war effort. However, he did applaud Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and defended the actions of John Brown after the raid on Harpers Ferry.

In 1865, Pillsbury broke with longtime associate William Lloyd Garrison over the need for continued activity by the American Anti-Slavery Society. He edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* in 1866.

Pillsbury helped to draft the constitution of the feminist American Equal Rights Association in 1865, and served as vice-president of the New Hampshire Woman Suffrage Association. With feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Pillsbury served as co-editor for the women's rights newsletter *The Revolution*, founded in 1868.

Pillsbury completed his abolition memoirs, *Acts of the Anti-Slavery Apostles*, in 1883.  
—Submitted by Vesta Wilson

*The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Presents  
Bay Area League Day 2011*

## **“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Taking it to the Next Level”**

Saturday, January 29, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, California

*Featuring keynote speaker:*

Dan Reicher, Director of Energy and Climate Initiatives at Google

*And three panel discussions addressing:*

### What Government Is Doing

California Energy Commission Programming  
Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Former California Energy Commissioner

Port Sustainability (Deconstruction, Cold Ironing, and Asphalt Reuse)  
Richard Sinkoff, Manager of Environmental Planning, Port of Oakland

Municipal Waste Reduction Programming  
John Stufflebean, Environmental Services Department Director, City of San Jose

### What Science Is Doing

Water Recycling  
Lori Steere, Water Recycling Program, East Bay Municipal Utilities District

Hydrogen and Other Alternative Fuels for Transit  
Jaimie Levin, Director of Alternative Fuels Policy, AC Transit

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

### What We Can Do

Community Service, Recycling, and Secondary School Students  
Nate Ivy, Service Learning Waste Reduction Program of Alameda County

Analyzing and Upgrading Home Energy Use  
Karen Kho, StopWaste.Org (Waste Management and Source Reduction/Recycling for Alameda County)



### REGISTRATION FORM

The price of this year's Bay Area League Day is \$30 (\$20 without lunch) in advance or \$35 (\$25 without lunch) at the door. A light breakfast will be served to all who attend. To register, please write check payable to "LWVBA" and mail with this form to 1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Local League: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is also available online through January 24 via PayPal at [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).  
For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an e-mail to [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org).

### CALENDAR

Thurs., Dec. 2	Action Committee	12:30 pm potluck	Kay Emanuele' s home
Thurs., Dec. 9	Education Committee	TBD	Call or e-mail Miriam
Mon., Dec. 13	Party & Program Planning	6:00 pm	Carolyn Hedgecock ' s home