

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



V O T E R

Voting

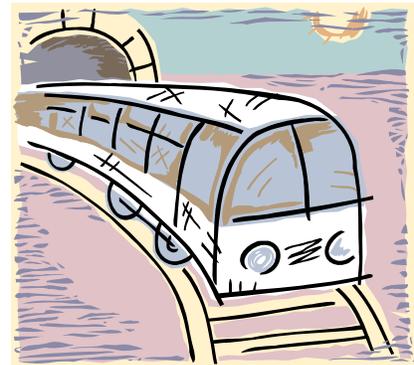
Democracy

Civic Engagement

BART



TUNNEL



TOUR

Thursday, November 11 at 11:00 AM

Join League members in a " fence line tour " of the BART tunnel to Warm Springs Construction at Lake Elizabeth.

Group size is limited.

Lunch afterwards?

For reservations email bfriedri@pacbell.net or call 510-471-7249

Vote!

November 2nd

Vote!

President's Message



We are planning a field trip to view B.A.R.T.'s *Big Dig* in lieu of a formal November meeting. This is scheduled for November 11th. The phrase *Big Dig* is mine, not theirs. It should be a fun event and so close to home. The field trip is called a fence line tour. We will walk along the fence line of the construction, look some special view cut outs, and be able to

ask any questions we want. I hope they are prepared for some League-like questions! Please wear comfortable shoes! You will need to tell us if you are coming so we can give them a count. We will meet at the construction site on Stevenson. Parking is available right next to their temporary offices and also in the parking lot. We will start the tour at 11 and plan on going out to lunch afterwards.

On December 13th we will have our Holiday party combined with Program Planning. Barbara Freidrich will need some help with setting up the meeting. Please contact her if you can assist. This year it will feature planning for state policies. The LWVC convention in May will be in Ventura.

Finally, another note of thanks to all of you who helped on the Voter Information Book, the 13 forums and the speaking engagements. Over 25% of our members helped out in one way or another.

ALEX STARR

P.S.

Well, I walked the walk, so to speak this morning in the rain along the fence line at the B.A.R.T. dig. All of that pathway is paved. Since the dig goes through Central Park the path is wide and pretty much flat. A wheel chair could navigate it easily. The walk might

be a bit long so those who do not walk much, but you could always go as far as you wish and turn around and go back and wait for the tour to finish.

Amazingly, the concrete is already down in many portions of the dig. I can see where the third rail will go. Everything is BIG - the iron pipes, the depth of the dig, the size of the machinery, etc. It was a lot of fun. It will be even better with a guide who can describe what is going on.

Board Briefs

Discussed applying the fees gained from the VIB to expenses incurred in forums.

Discussed setting up committee to review the bylaws.

Declined an opportunity to host Smart Voter reception.



Videos Available

Couldn't make it to our League Candidate Forums? You are in luck. All the Forums are on our League web site, www.lwvfnuc.org. This is a first for us. We used to have the forums rebroadcast on the Comcast Community Access Channel. That is no longer available to us. So we have been experimenting with our web site and with You Tube. We have Marilyn Singer and Peter Starr to thank for this plus many others.



Program committee report.

Following two recent well-attended programs about the propositions-state and local, the next two programs will be a change of pace.

BART has offered to give us a tour of the tunnel under construction at Lake Elizabeth, complete with the answers to our questions.

The tour is Thursday, November 11 at 11 am and will take about an hour. It will not involve a need for boots or hard hats.

Following the tour, we invite you to join us for lunch at a nearby restaurant (to be decided).

Reservations for the tour are a must since the number is limited. Please respond to the program chair at bfriedri@pacbell.net or call (510) 471-7249.

Further information on the lunch will be available soon on the website

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, December 13th will be our League's annual Holiday Party. This is always an opportunity to get together for a fun evening. It does take a little planning however. This is an opportunity for those of you who are not able to make a long time commitment to an office or committee but who would like to help on a one-time event. There are three parts to the evening. The first is planning the potluck dinner (you don't have to cook it, just plan it!!). The second is arranging for the post dinner entertainment. It's amazing the talent in this group. Thirdly, this is the night we supply information to the California League of Women Voters about our recommendations as to their future program emphasis. If you help on this it will mean a little homework, but no meetings.

The LWVC sends us a questionnaire and we need to reply to it as a result of this meeting.

The committee's job is to do this in an understandable and enjoyable way.

PLEASE-if you can help with any of this, please call or email Barbara Friedrich at bfriedri@pacbell.net or (510) 471-7249. Thank you.

Delaine Eastin 's Talk on Sept. 24

Several members attended a lunch and talk sponsored by the Eden Area League that highlighted the Federal Role in Education. The speaker was Delaine Eastin. As always she was inspiring and demonstrated her passion for education.

Some of the highlights came from responses to audience questions. These included the following points:

How to pay for education?

- A simple majority to pass the budget in the state legislature would help.
- Parcel tax for schools should require 55% to pass.
- Proposition 13 should be amended to reflect a reassessment with change of ownership in commercial & industrial properties.

What about Charter Schools?

- Only 18% showed improvement. They should be regulated better and held accountable.

How can good teachers be retained and bad ones dismissed?

- There should be a dynamic system of evaluation for teachers.
- Weak teachers should be given assistance and if no improvement, should be let go.

What should be Federal role?

- Standards for excellence for all schools should be combined with some funding.

Other information shared with the audience

Rand Corporation findings include:

- Higher per pupil expenditure coupled with a required PreKindergarten, smaller class size, lower teacher turnover and sufficient resources can make a difference in student achievement.
- Weigh an investment in education versus the expense of sending youth to jail. Investment wins.

Children are a message we send forward in time. "

Recommended reading: *The Scientist and the Crib* by Alison Gopnik, and *Art and Physics* by Leonard Shlain.

Alex Starr

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 construction; 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.

Funding Approved

At the end of Sept., the California Transportation Commission (CTC) announced that \$19.6 million in state funding will be allocated to enhance the future BART Silicon Valley corridor with construction of two railroad grade separation projects at Warren Avenue and Kato Road in Fremont. The two grade separation projects are expected to provide transportation infrastructure improvements for Fremont residents and the future BART Silicon Valley extension, enhancing pedestrian safety, reducing vehicle congestion, and easing regional traffic flow. Work on these projects is scheduled to begin in mid to late 2011. The funding allocation will be drawn from the 2010 Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account, a program that was included in Prop 1B bond of 2006.

Introduction to the Work of the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force

By Ellen Z. Berg and Ralph Kuiper

On December 5, 2009, the bilateral Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, one of the cornerstone treaties intended to reduce and control the use of nuclear weapons, will expire. The Treaty entered into force in 1994 after being negotiated for much of the 1980s. The options for the signatories – the United States and Russia – are to allow the Treaty to expire, to extend it for five years so negotiations can continue or to adopt a new agreement this year. Preliminary negotiations have already begun, with new reduction targets set by Presidents Obama and Medvedev this past summer.

The world order has changed considerably since the Treaty was negotiated. In this changed world, there are more nuclear nations, and acts of terrorism have raised fears that nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction will fall into the hands of non-state actors. Concerns about weapons proliferation, mishandling of fissile materials and the wide distribution of conventional arms have raised concerns about global security.

In response, the Obama administration has adopted the view put forward by the bipartisan quartet of George Schultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn, and is committed to pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons. First steps include submitting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification this winter, as a precursor to playing a strong leadership role in the Non-Proliferation Treaty discussions in May of 2010.

With this backdrop the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) decided it was appropriate to form a task force to review its 1983 Position on Arms Control for "relevance, usefulness, and practical application." Despite all that has happened in the last 26 years, the Task Force finds the principles and language of the Position to be broadly applicable today. However, it anticipates suggesting some revisions once its deliberations are complete.

The LWVUS Arms Control Task Force is comprised of six at-large members: Ellen Z. Berg (Seattle, WA), Ralph Kuiper (Los Altos, CA), Ann Lakhdhir (Westport, CT), Lois Requist (Benicia, CA), W. Michael Slattery (Maribel, WI) and Donald J. Turner (Norcross, GA). The Task Force is advised by three LWVUS Board Members: Stephanie Johnson (chair, Arkansas), Judy Duffy (Minnesota), and Elisabeth MacNamara (Georgia). The Task Force has collaborated and discussed issues through a series of teleconferences and emails.

The Task Force identified and reviewed a number of issues and has written information papers that can inform the members and the Board to help in arriving at potential updates to the Position. The articles will be posted on the LWVUS website to inform and engage the members on arms control. The following is an initial list of articles that may be augmented or updated over the next few months:

1. The Arms Control Backstory and the LWVUS Position,
2. Geopolitical Factors Relevant to the Position,
3. Summary of the Relevant Treaties and the Need for Urgency,
4. Disarmament and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,
5. Weapons Proliferation to States and Non-State Actors,
6. Missile Defense Systems,
7. The Emerging Issue of Conventional Weapons.
8. Chemical and Biological Weapons



Presently, deliberations of the Task Force have identified areas of concern for relevance, usefulness and practical application that are explored in more depth in the articles. These areas of concern include:

1. What is the appropriate U.S. leadership role in multilateral agreements, diplomacy and verification?
2. How are international policy statements, agreements and negotiations involving two or more countries, which are being constructed, address constraints or compliance issues?
3. What is the situation regarding states, which hold or are developing nuclear weapons outside of international law? Such states include India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea and Iran.
4. What is the situation of non-state actors or terrorist organizations regarding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?
5. What is the status of international collaboration between stakeholders, intelligence agencies, embassies, UN organizations and others seeking to stem the proliferation of weapons to non-state actors?
6. What is the status of detection and verification technology designed to monitor the development and testing of weapons of mass destruction?
7. What is the status of accountability measures for nuclear weapons and fissile materials; for biological and chemical weapons?
8. What is the status of missile defense systems in U.S. defenses?
9. What are the economic and social conditions concerning the proliferation of conventional weapons and the resulting violence?

Ultimately, it is felt that the time is ripe for the United States and the world to be free of nuclear weapons and move forward with safeguards against their proliferation. Also, it is hoped that the information developed by the Task Force can help individual members be better informed citizens on this important subject and be well prepared to contribute to the public discourse that is certain to become more intense over the coming months.

League members Ellen Z. Berg (Seattle, WA) and Ralph Kuiper (Los Altos, CA) are members of the LWWUS Arms Control Task Force.

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Arms Control Task Force

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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 \$ _____

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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—

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.



James and Lucretia Mott

NOTABLE PEOPLE IN HISTORY

THE MEN BEHIND THE WOMEN

James Mott (1788—1868)

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.

James Mott was a Quaker leader, teacher, and merchant as well as an activist for anti-slavery and women's rights. He married Lucretia Coffin. They had six children. When his family became members of the Hicksite Quakers, who were against slavery, James switched his business endeavors to woollen textiles which were free of slave labor.

James was an active abolitionist, and assisted his wife with many events and conventions, to establishment of free produce stores which resulted in the Philadelphia Free Produce Society. In 1883, he co-founded the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society with Lucretia.

LWVFNUC Voter

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Mott's sister, Abigail Lydia Mott, and brother-in-law, Lindley Murray Moore, were instrumental in founding the Rochester Anti-Slavery Society in 1838.

James chaired the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848 on July 19 and 20 in which his wife was a speaker. His brother, Richard Mott, was elected as an Opposition Party candidate in the Thirty-fourth and re-elected as a Republican in the Thirty-fifth Congresses. (March 4, 1855—March 3, 1859)

In 1864, James helped start Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. He died of pneumonia in Brooklyn, NY in 1868

Submitted by Vesta Wilson

LEAGUE CALLS ON MEDIA TO STOP SECRET POLITICAL ADVERTISING

Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy

The League of Women Voters called on television and radio stations to refuse political advertising paid for with secret money. The League also called for political candidates to repudiate campaign advertising in their races that comes from front groups and organizations that fail to disclose their big donors.

“ We are seeing huge sums of money from secret sources going into campaign advertising, much of it the negative advertising that poisons the airways, ” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national president of the League of Women Voters.

“ Millions upon millions upon millions of dollars are being spent secretly in this election and it threatens to drown out the voices of individual voters. Because of changes in the law brought about by recent Supreme Court decisions, there are no disclosure requirements that let the voters know who is paying for the ads, ” she said. “ Voters need to know who is paying—it is a vital part of their decision-making process in deciding whether to believe the ads, ” she said.

“ That why we are calling on media outlets and political candidates to act responsibly. The media should refuse these secretly-funded ads and candidates should repudiate the ads—a even if they help the candidate get elected, ” she said. “ Protecting our democracy and the vital role of informed voters is more important than any one election, ” MacNamara argued.

The League of Women Voters has been calling attention to secret money being spent on political advertising for months, but the U.S. Senate has refused to act to require disclosure, even though the House of Representatives passed a strong disclosure bill which was supported by the League.

Now we are seeing the largest campaign expenditures in history even as organizations accept hundreds of thousands of dollars from secret sources. Essentially, these organizations are functioning as Political Action Committees but without having to follow the laws requiring disclosure of their donors.

CALENDAR

Tues., Nov. 2	Election Day		See www.smartvoter.org
Thurs., Nov. 4	Action Committee	12:30 pm Brown Bag Lunch	Kay Emanuele ' s home
Mon., Nov. 8	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive
Thurs., Nov. 11	BART Tunnel Tour	11:00 am Lunch after tour	Meet at Bart Construction Module Stevenson and Guardino
Thurs., Nov. 18	Education Committee	9:30 am	Miriam Keller' s home
Thurs., Nov. 25	Thanksgiving		

Save The Date—December 13th Holiday Party and Program Planning