

# Voter



LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK

September 2009

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

## JOIN US

Thursday  
September 17, 2009  
6 pm

### A New Constitution for California

Xandra Kayden  
LWVC 2nd Vice President

House of Joy  
Chinese Restaurant  
818 N. Pacific Avenue  
Glendale CA 91203

Each person orders his/  
her own dinner.

<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

## Co-President's Message

### ReForming California/ ReForming Our Communities

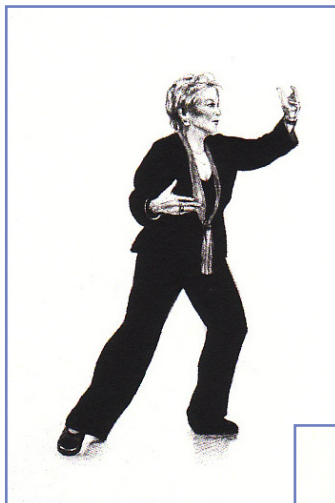
**“May you live in interesting times.”**

Allegedly an ancient curse; certainly a description of life in our state today. Californians across the political spectrum are deeply dissatisfied with the way our government is functioning. Intense discussion of what can be done occupies the public sphere and enlivens private conversations.

Are there reforms needed to fix the mess? Which reforms? Or is the mess too big to fix? Do we need to go back to Square One and start over again? Throughout this year, our League will be addressing important areas of public policy in our state and community. And we're starting at the top with the biggest question of all. Should California have a new Constitution? This month we'll have a dynamic speaker from the League who will outline for us the big issues involved. Revise some part? Start over? How do we do it? What part can the League play? Join us for dinner and a stimulating conversation on the possibility of return to first governing principles.

Chris Carson, Co-President

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BUBANK  
PRESENTS NOTECARDS  
DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR OUR LEAGUE**



LWV Glendale/Burbank is pleased to announce notecards designed especially for us are now available.

Local artist Robin Palanker features five local women. All proceeds benefit LWV Glendale/Burbank



Set includes 10 cards, on 80 lb. paper two each of 5 figures LWVG/B logo on the back

\$13.00 per set, 2 sets for \$25.00 includes tax and handling



The supply is limited. To order, send the tearoff below with your check.



PLEASE mail check payable to:  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK, PO Box 21010, Glendale CA 91221-5110

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ sets of notecards.



## NEW FUNDRAISING IDEA FOR OUR LEAGUE

by Co-President Joan Hardie

**T**here is a wonderful new fundraising opportunity for league members. We have developed a set of personalized note cards with the LWV Glendale/Burbank logo and packaged them for sale. They come in sets of 10 with envelopes and sell for \$13 each, or 2 sets for \$25. The idea of note cards came up when I attended the state convention in Long Beach. I went to the Marketplace with intention to buy a few things. I thought as Co-President I'd need some gift items to give to our guest speakers. However the Marketplace had very little to offer, and I purchased a few of the same old things such as the LWV poppy pins and LWV baseball hat. My disappointment got me thinking. Why don't we create something for our League to sell? If we had our own item to sell, not only can we make some money for our league, but we also have a more personal token of appreciation to give to our guest speakers.



The creator of the images on the note cards was my artist friend, Robin Palanker. Robin has had several jobs in graphic arts, but for the last 25 years has been making a living as an artist. Recently she had a one person show where she drew portraits of friends. The name of her show was "Goddesses I Know," the portraits were of women and they were done on clay coated wooden panels using mixed media. She did a total of 66

portraits. She told me she gave very little instruction to her models, maybe just a few helpful hints on what to wear and what not to wear. I was one of her models, and it's true, she gave very little instruction. We agreed upon a day and time and I showed up at her studio, and even though I didn't want to be nervous, I was. I've known Robin for years, and I've always admired her work but to pose for her felt very weird. She made me feel very comfortable, I wore blue jeans and a tan rayon blouse and I was thankful she didn't comment on my outfit.

When I approached Robin with my idea for the project she was genuinely honored and gave me the blessing to use her images. The most difficult part of the project was narrowing down the images. With the help of the Board and additional help from Carole Dougherty's artist eye, we narrowed it down to five images; there are two of each image per packet of stationery. I think the women we choose are a good representation of women leaguers who are real women, accomplished and compelling. We hope you like the cards, and of course we hope you will purchase a set or two (or more). They will make a great gift item.

## GLENDALE SAFE & HEALTHY STREETS

by Joan Hardie

**T**he LWVG/B summer social was not only an opportunity to get together on a beautiful summer evening, but also to learn about Glendale's efforts to create opportunities for improved projects to promote bicycling and walking. Colin Bogart from the Los Angeles County Bicycle

The PLACE Grant Program stands for policies for livable, active communities and environments, it is a funding opportunity sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. You may be wondering, what does that mean, "Livable, active communities and environments," and how

**Along with the three parks along this [bike] corridor, ten schools, three libraries and the future [Glendale] Adult Recreation Center are all within walking distance.**

Coalition (LACBC) was our speaker. He spoke to us about a funding project known as the PLACE Grant Program and informed us that in the spring of 2008 the LACBC was awarded one of five PLACE Grants. After developing a relationship with the City of Glendale, the collaboration between the two entities aims to create Glendale's first "Safe and Healthy Streets Plan."

can a bicyclist be safe on streets, especially with all the car accidents that we hear about? This collaboration between the City of Glendale and the Bicycle Coalition will look at the existing policies from current City planning documents including the Bikeway Master Plan, Urban Hikeway Plan, and portions of the Recreation, Circulation and Open Space & Conservation Elements of the General

**Healthy Streets continued on page 4**

## Healthy Streets continued from page 3



Mary Dickson was inspired enough by the programs Colin Bogart spoke about at the LWVG/B Summer Social that she brought out her bike, pumped up the tires and started riding again.

Plan. They will create Glendale's first "Safe and Healthy Streets Plan" a policy document with new policies to make Glendale a safer and friendlier city for bicyclists and pedestrians.

In order to incorporate these new policies, Glendale needed an actual physical project to apply the policies. The City of Burbank has a nice bicycle and pedestrian path that is separate from the street. Glendale's project is incorporated into the streets of an

existing neighborhood. The proposed physical project extends along the corridor of Riverdale Drive and Maple street from San Fernando Road and Pacific Community center on the west, past Maple Park in the middle, and ultimately to Carr Park on the east. There is a website with maps and pictures of this project at, "<http://www.la-bike.org/glendale>". Along with the three parks along this corridor, ten schools, three libraries and the future Adult Recreation Center are all within

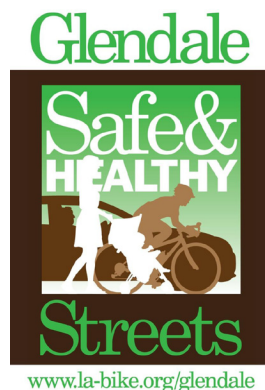
walking distance. There will be efforts to improve the intersections and PLACE enhancements will be considered to make the route more aesthetically pleasing as well as safer and friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Some of the PLACE enhancements will be zebra stripe crosswalk which is a highly visible crosswalk, more bike racks, more street trees, roundabouts, dual curb ramps and sharrows. Sharrows is a relatively new road sign that is meant to be a reminder to both drivers and bikers. For drivers, the sharrows alerts car drivers that bikers may be present. For bikers, the sharrows has a direction arrow painted into the symbol as a reminder to ride in the right direction and on the correct side of the road. Our speaker talked to us about the complete street concept. Complete

street is a street designed to accommodate all users; cars, transit, pedestrians, cyclists, children, the elderly and wheelchairs.

Listening to Colin speak, I found myself getting excited about this project. What wasn't there to like? A project in my city that was not only going to beautify an area but also promote outdoor activity made wonderful sense.

Our fellow league members Mary Dickson and her husband Pat came and they rode their bikes. Recently, the Dickson's have been making efforts to ride bikes not only as a form of exercise but also to cut down on using their car to help out the environment. Yet another perk to choosing to ride or walk, save our air as well as save money, the more I think about it, the benefits are endless.



**Volunteers Needed  
for  
Bicyclist & Pedestrian  
Count**

**Wednesday Sept. 16, 2009**  
7:00  9:00 a.m.  
5:00  7:00 p.m.

**Saturday Sept. 19, 2009**  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To volunteer, contact Colin Bogart at [colin@la-bike.org](mailto:colin@la-bike.org) or (818) 334-9731  
For more information go to [www.la-bike.org/glendale](http://www.la-bike.org/glendale)  
Volunteers are asked to attend a one-hour instructional meeting  
on Sept. 12 at 10:00 am or Sept. 15 at 7:00 pm.

As the health care debate continues, the League of Women Voters is contributing impartial information for its members to make informed decisions. The following articles were written by Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board Member and LWVKS). McMillen is Chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

## QUICK FACTS ON Health Care Costs

- ✓ Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- ✓ By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- ✓ Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- ✓ Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.
- ✓ Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 – 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- ✓ Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- ✓ Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- ✓ Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- ✓ Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from “A Reporter’s Toolkit: Health Care Costs” (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at [http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost\\_of\\_health\\_care/health\\_care\\_costs\\_toolkit.asp#keyfacts](http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts).

*Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS) is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.*



**AT-RISK AMERICANS:**

# The Uninsured and the Underinsured

By Janis McMillen

**D**ata from multiple sources agree that in 2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 percent of the total U.S. population) lacked any kind of health insurance coverage. When these numbers are adjusted for age (excluding those 65 years and older), the uninsured percentage of the population rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is estimated that 25 million adults under age 65 were underinsured during 2007, despite having insurance all year. In total, 42 percent of *all* adults (86.7 million) were either uninsured or underinsured during 2007.

## Putting a face on persons who were uninsured or underinsured during 2007 and 2008<sup>1</sup>

- **Age:** One of three people under age 65 were uninsured for some or all of 2007 and 2008; of the total uninsured population, 60.1 million were adults (between 19 and 64 years of age)
- **Duration:** Among the underinsured/uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured for nine or more months and one-quarter were uninsured the entire 24 months
- **Employment status:** 80 percent of individuals who were uninsured were in working families and only 16 percent were not in the labor force (due to disabilities, chronic illness, or serving as family caregivers)
- **Income:** Nearly 60 percent were in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family of four); 52 percent with incomes between 100 to 200 percent of FPL went without health insurance in 2007/2008
- **Racial and Ethnic origin:** 55 percent of Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of other racial or ethnic minorities had no health insurance in 2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of whites. While racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured, whites accounted for 49.8 percent of the uninsured
- **Age breakdown:** The likelihood of being uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent of those 19 – 24 years old, 36.3 percent of those 25 – 44 years old, 32.5 percent of those 45 – 54 years old and 21.2 percent of those 55 – 64

years old were uninsured over this two-year time period. The 55- to 64-year-old age group consumes more health care on average than younger adults.

For all ethnic and racial groups, lower-income families and individuals were more likely to be uninsured than lower-income whites. This disparity continues even as incomes rise in all groups.

There is a marked increase in the number of adults having difficulty paying medical bills – the most visible consequence of the weakening in insurance coverage. In 2007, 41 percent of adults (72 million people) reported problems paying medical bills, faced bill collectors or were in debt for medical care, up from 34 percent or 58 million in 2005. The majority had insurance at the time these bills were incurred<sup>2</sup> – well in advance of the economic downturn.

<sup>1</sup> All statistics above and below are from <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/americans-at-risk-findings.html>

<sup>2</sup> The statistics in this paragraph are from <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Testimonies/2009/Feb/Testimony-Insurance-Design-Matters-Underinsured-Trends-Health-and-Financial-Risks.aspx>

*Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS) is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.*

# Green Corner

According to Heal the Bay, more than 6 billion plastic bags (approximately 600 per person) are used in L.A. County each year. This plastic ends up in the Pacific Ocean. Fish eat it and we eat the fish. A simple switch to reusable bags will break this toxic cycle.



From left, standing: Anna Rundle, Inez Truger, Monica Marquez, Chris Carson, Laurie Collins, Joan Goddell, Renee Leask. Seated: Joan Hardie, Arline Ames, Tom Carson, Connie Wilson.

## Popovers in Pasadena

Our League turned out in force for this signature summer event on July 25. Members attended several workshops, heard LA County Sheriff Lee Baca speak on the county jail system, and of course enjoyed the lunch and famous popovers. As always, the day was perfect, thanks in large part to the great preparation done by **Gwen Cochran** and **Georganne Thomsen**, LWV Glendale/Burbank members as well as members of the LWV Los Angeles County Board.



## Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All Citizens of voting age are welcome. Associate Membership is open to all others.

YES! I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (please check one or more of the following)

\$60.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)

\$100.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER., nine times per year)

I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Gifts made payable to the "LWV Education Fund are tax deductible.**

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my VOTER by email.

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to League of Women Voters. Mail to Vera Naylor, 7714 Via Capri, Burbank CA 91504

# Voter

The VOTER is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, California

CO-PRESIDENTS: Chris Carson  
Joan Hardie  
EDITOR: Monica Marquez  
PRODUCTION: Carole Dougherty  
CIRCULATION: Anna Rundle

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

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



*What will your legacy be?*

As a leader in your community, you know what you want to accomplish for yourself, for your family, and for your community. Consider making the League of Women Voters\* part of your overall estate plan next time you speak with your attorney or financial professional, so that your hard work will carry on.

249 N. Brand Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Corner of Brand/Calif.  
tel: 818.244.4448  
fax: 818.244.4795  
M-F 8:30-6, Sat. 10-4

1125 E. Broadway  
Glendale, CA 91205  
Btwn Chevy Chase/Adams  
tel: 818.242.4270  
fax: 818.242.0525  
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LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK

Post Office Box 21010  
Glendale CA 91221-5110  
818 247-2407

League websites:  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

LWV California  
<http://www.ca.LWV.org>

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