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# OWL OF CALIFORNIA

## OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

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### OWL-CA COUNCIL, 2010

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Ruth Kletzing, Sacramento

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San Bernardino

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## OWL-CA NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER, 2010

### Presidents' Message:

OWL was founded 30 years ago in 1980 to focus on issues unique to women as they age. The OWL-CA Council followed a few years later, when there were several chapters in the state, to consolidate impact on state issues. We've had some success (e.g. the Cobra law, a respected voice in Sacramento and Washington) but there is much yet to be done. Women still do not have equal pay for the same work as men. There are too many women at or below the Federal Poverty Level and we know that the FPL is a grossly inadequate guide. That's why we chose to highlight the current bill requiring the use of new Economic Security Index scale for California for our Mother's Day event this year.

This coming **October 15 - 17** we will have our **OWL-CA Council Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting** at the **Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento**. **OWL's National Board is planning to meet at the same time at the Sheraton! They will have some separate meetings**, but will join us to **celebrate OWL's 30<sup>th</sup> year**, especially at our banquet Saturday evening, when we will be honoring Betty Perry. All members of OWL are welcome to all three days, but if you have to choose one day, plan to come for **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**, when there will be interesting speakers, the banquet and a chance to meet your National Board members. We think this is the first time they have ever met outside of Washington, DC. It is also an opportunity to make friends across chapters and learn more about OWL – how it works and how you can participate at all levels of the organization. Consider getting on the leadership track. You are essential to our survival and future. **Registration information will be sent soon.**

Become inspired - come to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Evie and Ruth

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*Evie Kosower and Ruth Kleetzing serving their third year as co-presidents*

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE OF OFFICIERS FOR 2011**

**Co-Presidents:** Joyce Klein Kamian and Mary Lembke

**Vice President South:** Shirley Ferrill

**Vice President North:** Ida Curtice

**Treasurer:** Glenda Cheesman

**Corresponding Secretary:** Rosemary Bacy

**Recording Secretaries:** Audrey Barth, Joyce Miller

We need an additional Recording Secretary. Anyone interested please contact one of the Nominating Committee members. Nominations are open for all positions and will be taken on the floor at the October Council Meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Evie Kosower, Nan McGuire, Roberta Battle

## **OWL-CA NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE JUNE 13, 2010**

*Submitted by Clare Smith Ahern, National Public Policy Rep.*

### **National Housing Trust Fund**

There is still activity surrounding the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). The Senate is addressing the House bill (HR 4213), which is called the "American Jobs and Closing Loopholes Act of 2010." In addition to addressing Gulf Coast Recovery efforts, there are important housing provisions included in this version - especially the initial funding for the NHTF.

### **Why is the initial funding for the NHTF important?**

- The NHTF creates a permanent source of funding for affordable housing and is not subject to the annual appropriations process.
- NHTF revenue is projected to produce or preserve 1.5 million homes in the next ten years and 200,000 new housing vouchers a for ten years
- Preserve and expand the supply of affordable rental homes for low-income community members.

The Senate is expected to start reviewing, once again, this proposed legislation in mid-June 2010. Apparently, some Senators are balking at the overall cost of the bill...so support is still needed. Visit the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) web site and read a summary of H.R. 4213, The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act, by visiting <http://www.nlihc.org/doc/Summary-Extender-Bill.pdf>.

### **Patient Protection and Affordable Patient Care Act (PPAC)**

Take a look at <http://www.avalerehealth.net/news>. Also, a health care reform task force will be set-up here in California. It will be important for OWL to keep tabs on the membership of this new task force so that all stakeholders are included (read consumers!) Below are immediate steps that California will take in implementing the PPAC:

#### **Immediate Steps**

- \* form a health care reform task force;
- \* establish a health insurance purchasing pool;
- \* require insurers to allow young adults to remain on their parents' policies until age 26;
- \* ban insurers from denying coverage to children;

\*prohibit retroactive policy rescissions; and

\* Remove lifetime limits on health insurance coverage  
Source: AP/San Jose Mercury News, 4/29/10

### Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act

Also available from Avalere Health and the SCAN Foundation is a new Internet tool that gives people an opportunity to design their ideal long-term care policy. The tool is intended to increase public awareness about long-term care, reality of costs and current financing options. Located at [www.ltcpolicysimulator.org](http://www.ltcpolicysimulator.org) it is worth a look. This resource can be used for advocating for affordable long-term care coverage. As many of you know, most people think that Medicare covers long-term custodial care, when in fact - it does not! Also many people do not understand the true costs of long-term care insurance products currently available. If you can get a plan, premiums will increase over time and often become unaffordable so that some people drop their policies before they have an opportunity to reap the benefits. Using this simulator, my ideal plan was out of this world in terms of costs: **2010 average per-person monthly premium: \$813.36!!! Note: This premium will increase over time to reflect cost of living adjustments.**

As noted in earlier reports - it will be crucial to pay attention to the implementation and development of the new health care coverage. Recognizing that big interests (e.g., health care provider associations, insurance and pharmaceutical industries) will undoubtedly be in the "front seat" of development and have a great influence on how the legislation will play out - representatives of older women and other vulnerable health care consumers must be part of the decision-making process in California.

#### Great Day

It will be a great day...  
when our schools get all the money they need  
and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber.

**WILFP**

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Clare Smith & Daughter Erin At Her Graduation from UC Santa Cruz, June 2010

### OWL-CA LEGISLATIVE REPORT— JUNE 2010

*Submitted by Roberta Battle, President, Sacramento Capitol Chapter, pitching in for Betty Perry, while she convalesces from medical problems.*

The Sacramento Public Policy Committee continues its monthly meetings under the leadership of Vice Chairperson Kathy Lane. Although Director of Public Policy, Betty Perry's involvement is sorely missed, hopefully she will be ready to return in a few months.

This year, the legislative news is even worse than in 2009, when so many of the safety nets for seniors were shredded or eliminated. As usual, the Governor's budget proposals call for major cuts or eliminations of most state-funded health and human service programs—especially those designed to help the poor, children, the disabled and seniors. The Governor wants to "realign" certain state functions, which is another way of saying that he intends to shift responsibility for many critical programs to the counties, but with no way to pay for the services. If enacted, it is estimated that these proposals would move as much as \$4 billion in costs to the counties resulting in the loss to California of even more federal funds.

Senate Democrats have issued their own "Multi-year Government Restructuring

Proposal”, which also envisions shifting programs, such as Cal Works Child Care, Adult Protective Services, and various other state-supported aging services to counties. The rationale for these changes is that this may be the only way to preserve some programs from total elimination. However, what is most shocking is that they are proposing to eliminate the Department of Aging, transferring any remaining functions to other state agencies. Additional cuts are being made to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), mental health services and transportation for the disabled. It is an unpleasant fact that these proposed cuts will disproportionately affect low-income women and their families, the elderly and those with disabilities.

It is difficult to understand these draconian cuts to programs assisting the most vulnerable groups in our state—especially, when we know that the senior population alone will grow to over 7 million in only a few years. As an organization, we need to develop strategies to deal with the hardships that are facing many Californians, particularly, older people; the proposals that are on the table will set back much of the progress made in the past 30 years in support of those most in need.

### **Some of the Bills We Continue to Follow**

SB 810 (Leno) that would create a single payer universal health care program for all Californians was passed on June 29, in the Assembly Health Committee. (SUPPORT)

SB 782 (Yee) would prevent a landlord from evicting domestic violence survivors from their rental, under certain conditions. (SUPPORT)

AB 2117 (Beall) (our Mother’s Day bill) would provide for an Elder Economic Standard Index pilot project to better plan and prioritize for senior services. (SUPPORT)

AB 2555 (Feuer) would provide for Long-Term-Care Ombudsman funding. (SUPPORT)

AB 2347 (Feuer) would allow local agencies to delay a foreclosure sale if they had affordable

housing deed restrictions or regulatory agreements on the property. (SUPPORT)  
AB 1600 (Beall) would require most health plans to provide coverage for the diagnoses and treatment of a mental illness. (SUPPORT)

AB 2578 (Jones) would require approval by the Dept. of Managed Care or the Dept. of Insurance of an increase in the amount of premium, co-payment, coinsurance, deductible or other changes under a health plan. (SUPPORT)

AB 761 (Calderon) would end rent control in mobile parks. (OPPOSE)

This has been a challenging year for the Public Policy Committee but its members are working to maintain OWL’s presence in the Capitol. They will be working more closely with the chapters to increase local education and advocacy on OWL issues.

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*Roberta Battle, President, Sacramento Capitol Chapter, Website Manager, and filling in for Betty Perry as California Public Policy Director. An OWL with many hats! We appreciate her ability to do this in the interim*

### **ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL SECURITY – June 25, 2010**

*Submitted by Joyce Miller*

I am so glad that Margie Metzler went to the nearest town hall in East Palo Alto, sponsored by America Speaks to discuss solutions to the nation’s deficit. She will represent OWL. I appreciate all the information on Social Security she has sent us, including William Greider’s article on the Nation online, on the probable intent of the administration to make

cuts in SS benefits to make the deficit look better, as previous administrations used it to make deficits look smaller.

On June 23 in the Sacramento Bee, an article quoted Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader, as suggesting that future Social Security benefits may have to be trimmed to "contain the national debt." He also suggested that "popular" middle-class tax-cut reductions set to expire at the end of this year (actually Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy) could be extended temporarily. I was so mad that I went ballistic when a few minutes later someone from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee called asking for donations and I told him what I had just read. He said he would look into it, as it was news to him! What has happened to the Democratic Party?

Wall Street billionaire Pete Peterson, along with several members of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility, has proposed cuts to Social Security and other entitlement programs to deal with the deficit and the billions we have spent to rescue Wall Street. These cuts could include raising the age for receiving Social Security. At this time, the many older workers who have lost their jobs will need Social Security sooner rather than later. Also, private pensions seem to have vanished, and 401-Ks have often lost half their value. The entire entitlement system is needed for the human needs that have mushroomed during this extended recession. OWL and other groups have vowed to oppose cutting this popular and effective program.

## **SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

*Submitted by Shirley Harlan*

### **Washington DC National Board Meeting May 13-15**

On Thursday, May 13 in the United States Capitol Building, I was so proud of OWL's Mother's Day Report, "End of Life Choices: Who Decides?" presentation. The room was packed with key coalition supporters to hear moving comments from Ashley Carson,

Executive Director, OWL, Kathryn Tucker, Compassion & Choices, Laurie Young, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Deidre Scherer, Artist. The report is not only informational but also beautiful. It is a PDF file on the website [www.owl-national.org](http://www.owl-national.org) or you can request a copy from the national office.

In the evening there was a fundraiser well attended with Washington DC celebrities, which demonstrated how well OWL's national presence is valued. This is due to the fine leadership of Ashley Carson and Natale Zimmer, Public Policy and Communications Director (new title) who have been actively presenting our agenda during the Healthcare Reform activity. People are reaching out to OWL for talking points. Though we are small, we commit and respond with results that are respected. For example, Age Rating, OWL's position on Health Care is well known. We focus on what is really going to affect older women (OWL members).

We have funding to have two regional meetings to celebrate OWL's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. One will be in Sacramento, joining OWL-CA Annual meeting October 15, 16 & 17, 2010. This will be a grand HOOT so mark your calendar NOW.

The National Office is operating within limited budget restraints requested by the board and although National OWL has gotten considerable grant support, we still need \$150,000 to balance out the year. There will be a special September appeal as we move forward on concerns of the Social Security Commission issue.

The Fiscal Commission appointed by President Obama, though moving slowly, is our next focus since it deals with Social Security. Efforts to make this commission transparent have our strong support. Do join the conference call the first Tuesday following the Observer publication to talk about this and the message we choose to make it effective for all generations. Social Security did not cause the deficit. We need to redirect the problem and

not compromise. We need to stick with positive messages.

The Board approved negotiating and completing appropriate storing national OWL archives with the Radcliff's Library division "History of Women in America".

I will not be running for Southwest Regional Representative for personal preference. Interested persons should email [Ellen.Bruce@umb.edu](mailto:Ellen.Bruce@umb.edu). The board is interested in geographic diversity, ethnic and racial diversity, commitment to the issues, useful skills, and/or ability to assist in raising money. Don't be bashful submit yourself or someone you know.

When I leave the board after four years, it has been a very worthwhile enriching experience, a privilege to represent OWL members and our agenda at the national level. I get goose bumps in Sacramento when we advocate with our representatives and those bumps just get bigger and jumpier in Washington DC as we speak with one Hoot from the west across to the east. Our agenda resounds around the board table and is carried out by the executive director. I am very grateful for all the support OWL-CA has given me.

### **Older Women in Prison: A Suggestion for Study and Action**

*Submitted by Shirley Harlan, At-Large Rep-South*

Fellow prisoners who did not have her advantages are reported in a storytelling way. Piper Kerman, author of [Orange Is a New Black, My Year in a Women's Prison](#) introduces the reader to women she encountered while she was locked up. In the detail of the daily life, the empathy and respect for her that could be the catalyst for discussion and programs on the aging population in our California prisons.

OWL-CA has been advocating that older women who have served their term and have Parole Board approval be released. We have urged the Governor to return those women to society. The council approved a letter which was hand delivered to the governor at this

Mother's Day event, urging him to parole those women who have been recommended by the Parole Board to be released. You can access this letter on our website.

Ms. Kerman's memoir supports California contacts and letters from OWL member, Jane Benson in CIW (California Institution for Women) and others. Quoting from the book "It's the insidious, cruel paradox of lengthy sentences: for women doing seven, twelve, twenty years, the only way to survive was to accept prison as their universe". Right now that universe is in flux with a new warden and budget pressures. We need to hoot for these women. Their voices are silenced in the current political climate.

For more information to contact older women in prison who need a letter of support for release or a pen pal, E-mail Shirley Harlan, [vldy@aol.com](mailto:vldy@aol.com).

### **NORTHERN CA. AT-LARGE REPORT**

*Submitted by Rochelle Goldman*

I do miss the monthly meetings of our now defunct San Mateo Chapter. Nevertheless I am trying to keep active with OWL's issue of mental health for women as they age.

My activities include: a training course in Senior Peer Counseling here in San Mateo; participation on the committee to schedule lectures for the San Francisco Osher Life Long Learning Center (OLLIE) for the coming year; and being active with the Caring Community Committee which is part of the OLLIE Aging Explorers interest group.

### **UPDATE ON DEMING BEQUEST: ARE YOU PLANNING TO SUBMIT?**

*Submitted by Evie Kosower*

Deming Bequest Funds have been requested and received by two OWL Chapters so far: San Diego and San Francisco. Requests can be made up to June 30, 2011. Proposals with a line item budget must be submitted through the President of the chapter to the Deming

Committee Chair, Evie Kosower, who will then forward it to the rest of the committee for review. All or part of the \$5,000 allocated for each chapter may be requested. At Large members may request \$250 for activities in California.

Grantees are asked to report progress to the committee six months after the approval and to the OWL CA Council at each October meeting the grant is in operation.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OWL-CA COUNCIL ON MAY 5, 2010**

*Submitted by Joyce Miller, Recording Secretary*

**Present:** *Rosemary Bacy, Roberta Battle, Lucille Blass, Ida Curtice, Ellen Doerfer, Peggy Finch, Bonnie Graham, Shirley Harlan, Randy Hicks, Joyce Kamian, Ruth Kletzing, Evie Kosower, Kathleen Lane, Mary Lembke, Eleanor Luce, Margie Metzler, Joyce Miller, Martha Millhone, Carolyn Negrete, Kathie Piccagli, Linda Roberts, Nancy Sampson, Jan Vandre*

The morning program was conducted by Claire Lachance, president of Inspiration Quest, and a continuation of the visioning program that she conducted for us at the Annual Meeting in 2009. This meeting was shared with Gray Panthers. She looked at where we are today, in relation to where we were, the direction we are going and how we can continue to thrive and grow. She presented ideas to take our organizations from good to great. We had her services thanks to our MEDIC Grant.

**Committee Meetings:** Following lunch, due to time constraints we had brief committee meetings, with reports to be given at the Council Business Meeting on May 6.

**Council Business Meeting:** Joyce Kamian read the revised budget from Glenda Cheesman, OWL-CA treasurer. Jan Vandre added the Deming Fund redistribution. It was suggested that we wait until the October Business Meeting for the Executive Board to decide about it. The minutes of the previous Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Public Policy Committee – Roberta Battle:** Basing our decisions on how they affect midlife and older women, and using CARA's positions

to help us review the propositions, the Council voted no position on 13, no on 14, yes on 15, no on 16, and no on 17. Materials put together by Margie Metzler on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were available. State action on healthcare; SB810 is still moving and has 261 endorsements. Carolyn Negrete suggested that each chapter should send a letter to Senator Leno.

**Deming Fund Committee:** The fund balance is \$43,978. San Diego has a grant, one has been approved for San Francisco, and Ohlone is working on a proposal, as is Santa Clara.

**Finance Committee:** Jan Vandre has resigned as associate treasurer, and we need a new one, from the Sacramento Chapter, as this person keeps track of dues. If there is no volunteer, the Executive Committee will decide on how to replace Jan. The federal government considers OWL a total organization, so our financial records need to be forwarded to National. Three members of the Executive Board can decide urgent measures.

### **Membership Committee – Kathie Piccagli:**

The chapter representatives attending submitted reports: Ohlone, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara. Sacramento Capitol, and At-Large. Placer's president, Bea Graham died, and we plan to help them get started again.

**Nominating Committee:** Evie Kosower (chair), Roberta Battle, Nan Maguire. There is a three-year limit for holding an office. Joyce Kamian and Mary Lembke will be nominated as co-presidents.

### **2010 Meetings:**

The necessity of having three council meetings a year, initially brought up at the February Council meeting, and discussed again, looking at the costs and manpower involved. No decision was reached. The annual OWL-CA Council meeting will be in Sacramento on October 17, 2010

**CARA Report – Kathie Piccagli:** They had a town-hall meeting on fiscal responsibility at the San Francisco Unitarian Church. The Northern California training program for 2010 was in June at the Mercy Center in Burlingame.

**National OWL Report – Shirley Harlan:** Healthcare conference calls with Natale Zimmer continue; the next one is in June. She will be next concentrating on Social Security. There is a strong OWL presence in Washington D.C. We will need new members of the National Board if Shirley and Kathy do not run again.

**Women in Prison – Shirley Harlan:** She distributed copies of a sample letter to the Governor advocating releasing women OK'd for parole by the Parole Board. She noted that a female warden at one prison retired and was replaced by a new male warden, who disrupted all the good programs for older women that she had started.

**Chapter Reports:** Brief oral reports were given by chapter representatives from Ohlone, Sacramento Capitol, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Clara. Written reports will be available in the June OWL-CA Newsletter.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  
REPORT—May, 2010 Council Meeting**  
*Submitted by Roberta Battle*

The goal of this committee for 2010 is to improve OWL communication throughout the state. We intend to achieve this by encouraging more reports/articles for the OWL-CA newsletter, posting timely reports on our website and by having verbal reports made at chapter meetings.

The June newsletter will be the only one published before the October Annual Conference. Therefore, conference information will need to be in the June newsletter and/or published and sent out separately and/or given to the website managers for posting as soon as available. It is hoped that the Executive Committee will also send any important and time-sensitive information to the website for immediate

publication. Finally, we are proposing that the Chapter Representatives be responsible for reporting at their general/membership meetings on events such as Mother's Day in the Capitol and Council meetings. The new Council directory and stationery were presented and updated. We need to send interim changes to both Margie Metzler and Roberta Battle.

**TREASURER'S REPORT April 30, 2010**  
*Submitted by Glenda Cheesman, Treasurer*

The total cash balance, as of April 30, 2010, was	<b>\$92,034.</b>
This total is allocated as follows:	
General Fund	\$17,811
Petty Cash	50
Endowment Fund	26,442
Laurie Shields Fund (Scholarship)	4,297
Medicare Part "D" Grant Fund (Final \$5000 payment to be received in July, 2010)	544
Deming Fund*	43,978
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$92,034</b>

\*Deming Fund: The Council approved the allocation of a maximum of \$5000 for the use of each of the six member chapters and \$2000 for at-large member's use from the Deming Fund. After these and other allocations approved by the Council, a reserve of \$16,900 remains. Proposals for the use of the allocated funds should be submitted to the Deming Fund Committee, chaired by Evie Kosower. To date, San Diego and San Francisco Chapters have received funds. Reports on their activities utilizing Deming Funds are to be presented at the October OWL-CA annual meeting.

Janet Vandre submitted her resignation as Associate Treasurer, an appointive office. A replacement has not been named. She will be sorely missed, and we thank her for many years of service.

## MOTHER'S DAY EVENT AT THE CAPITOL

*Submitted by Ellen Doerfer*

A very interesting day, what with visiting our legislators and the governor to deliver the Mother's Day cards with the message of supporting AB 2114 (Beall), the Aging Elder Economic Standard Index. Assemblyman Beall spoke to us, giving us talking points to use when we visited the legislators offices. The bill had already passed the Appropriations Committee, and is now (as of 6/26) in the Senate Human Relations Committee. This index, which has not been modified for over 40 years, would require local Area Agencies on Aging to base programs for seniors on an adjusted economic index for their county in planning senior programs, and to track the state administered SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program), for employment and training programs for employed low-income seniors. He also said that the bill defines economic need and does not increase payments or expand services, but allows for better planning of programs. After lunch, and reporting on how our visits to the legislators went, we had two interesting speakers



CA Senator Chirstine Kehoe, Evie Kosower and Bonnie Graham in her office during the Mother's Day event.

**Gary Passmore, Executive Director, California Congress of Seniors (CCS)** had no good news for us: CCS priorities for the coming fiscal year are the state budget and health care reform. With our state budget for fiscal 2010-2011 still in limbo, there is not good news for reform this year. He said that the baby boomers lost half of their assets in the recession, and that the budget will get worse for the next 3-4 years.

**Beth Abbott, Director of Administrative Advocacy, Health Access**, talked to us about "A Bird's Eye View of Health Care Reform--What's Happening Where, and What You Can and Should Do". The first thing to impact California with the new U.S. health care reform will be a national high risk insurance pool, which will cost considerably less than California's high risk pool. Much of the health care reform legislation won't go into effect until 2014.

## CHAPTER REPORTS SACRAMENTO CAPITOL CHAPTER

*Submitted by Joyce Miller, Chapter Representative*

Lenny Goldberg, local lobbyist and liberal tax consultant, spoke at our chapter meeting on February 20, 2010. He said programs that are succeeding, using nonprofits, are losing funds and that people in California want high-end services for mid-level taxes. Business taxes, he said, are low in California.

On March 20, 2010 we had a panel discussing alternative housing options, and several intriguing ideas were introduced, including some on creating your own community. On March 18th several members of our chapter attended a retirement party for Bill Powers of CARA, OWL, and several other organizations, long known as a denizen of the Capitol. OWL-CA Mother's Day cards were distributed in April, dedicated to the Elder Economic Dignity Act, AB2113 (Beall), which requires California's 33 area agencies on aging to use the Elder Index in developing federal mandated "area plans" instead of the very old federal formula based on just the price of food. On April 1, we cosponsored a celebratory event with Congresswoman Matsui of Sacramento following passage and signing of The Health Care Bill. At our April 17, 2010 chapter meeting on pensions and retirement issues, we had representatives of CALPERS, CALSTRS, and the Pension Project. In May 2010, we have been busy preparing for the Council Meeting and Mother's Day on May 5th and 6th. On May 15th we will have a panel on mental health. May is Mental Health Month, and as we have two members attending meetings on the Older Adult Program in

Sacramento County, we have been very aware of the many cuts in mental health services. On June 19, 2010 we will have a joint OWL-Gray Panthers meeting on Medicare and Social Security to inform those signing up for these programs how to prepare for them and where to get advice. There will also be a speaker from the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare to talk about what's happening with Social Security. I have been warning our members to pay attention to those who want to change, cut, or eliminate these programs.

### **SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

*Submitted by Evie Kowoser*

We are a small but lively group that is active and working on our revitalization as an organization. This group has been meeting monthly since last December at the San Diego Women's History Museum, a rather small but rich and inspiring place. Our less active members are kept in touch by E-mail and snail-mailings. We are working on membership outreach strategies, sometimes in conjunction with the Women's History Museum.

In March we supported the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony; five of our members attended. April was a busy month with two tabling events, a *Meet the Pharmacist Day* and San Diego's famous *EarthFair* in Balboa Park. Mother's Day cards and the Elder Economic Security Act were the focus. We marched carrying our banner with some Brownies in the Children's parade at EarthFair! We shared the table at EarthFair with the Women's History Museum, and they took our flyers and cards to a "Women's Head to Toe Expo" that same weekend in the north part of the county.

### **OHLONE EAST BAY CHAPTER**

*Submitted by Joyce Kamian & Mary Lembke*

We have had two general meetings and two meetings of our satellite group at Rossmoor, plus a letter writing gathering and two meetings of the Deming grant committee since our last report.

Poet and teacher, Dr. Sandra Gilbert, spoke to us about end of life issues and read some of her evocative poems (from one of her many books about grieving). This coincided with the topic for discussion at one of the Rossmoor meetings. Alameda county district Attorney, Nancy O'Malley gave us her insights into current practices in family and elder law issues in Alameda County. All of our speakers engaged us in lively discussion. The other Rossmoor meeting focused on calling attention to our Mother's Day topic and on reviewing books that we are gathering as references on many subjects of interest to OWL'S.

We have found a new meeting venue, as the Berkeley Co-housing space is no longer available. We are researching our use of the Deming funds. Many of our members are active in the local CAT meetings. We're happy to report three new members.

### **SANTA CLARA COUNTY OWL CHAPTER**

*Submitted by Rosemary Bacy*

Our recent meetings have been very diverse. In February, Geri Kennedy, social activist, discussed ethical choices in food, based on the human and environmental costs of production and distribution. In March, we celebrated Women's History Month with dramatic readings from the works of eight courageous 19<sup>th</sup> century women. In April, we shared favorite jokes and poems, demonstrating that laughter is good for health. In May, OWL cartoonist and quilter Genny Guracar (Bulbul) led an arts and crafts day, where members explored their creative and artistic talents. We also signed a petition to the San Jose City Council, urging them to regulate predatory payday lending.

We have gained one new member since January. We have also resolved our meeting location problem—we have found space at the First Unitarian Church in downtown San Jose, beginning in September. Our meeting day will also be changed from 2nd Saturday to 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. It will be a challenge to retain members at the new location and to attract new ones.

## **OWL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**

*Submitted by Ellen Doerfer*

OWL-CA has put a lot of emphasis on increasing our membership. Mary Lembke, and Ellen Doerfer have promoted OWL in the Rossmoor community. Rossmoor has a population of 9,200, two-thirds of whom are female. What great possibilities for OWL! We have started a peer group to the Ohlone East Bay Chapter, and have had programs that appeal to midlife and older women. In the past year and a half we have gained thirteen new members in Rossmoor. We are working to increase that number, so that we can be considered a viable organization in the community with a representative on the Rossmoor Activities Council.

Our agreement with the Ohlone Chapter which has deep roots in Berkeley and Oakland is to have meetings at Rossmoor on the opposite months that the main chapter doesn't meet. Every member is welcome to attend, and many of them have. Two outstanding programs we have hosted are one on the discharge from hospital to home, and one on the propositions in the last primary election. We are working on a cooperative effort with CARA to sponsor a Town Hall on efforts to save Social Security. Other meetings have been held so we can get better acquainted with one another. We have started collecting books on women's issues to be checked out. We encourage our new members to carpool with us to Berkeley or Oakland to the regular meetings. Contacting active retirement communities in your community and doing a program there that includes relevant information to them would be a good recruitment strategy.

## **WANTED: ASSISTANT OWL-CA NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

*Submitted by Ellen Doerfer, Newsletter Editor*

In keeping with our new vision of easing members into new roles, I am looking for a member who would like to get their feet wet learning the ins and outs of doing our state newsletter. I have been doing it for several years now, and this will be my last year. I am

happy to give my all to whoever comes forward, however timidly, to learn the job. Please give this some thought - stretch your mind around doing something to keep your brain active and contribute to our important job of communicating OWL's mission.

## **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Our own Ruth Kletzing with the much-deserved California Senior Leadership Award presented Feb. 28 by the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health and the California Wellness Foundation. You might want to note that other leaders so honored in the past have included Betty Perry and Theresamary Johnson. Belated congratulations!

## **DONOR'S CORNER**

*Submitted by Audrey Barth*

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS TO OWL-CA**

Your donations help us to further the work of OWL and to advance the quality of life for mid-life and older women. We have received \$400.00 for this reporting period.

### **GENERAL FUND**

Ruth Hansen  
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Julie Stindt  
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