



THE V O T E R

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE**
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President: Doris Fine

Summer, 1998

Editor: Bob Hawley

The 1998 Annual Meeting

On a sunny Saturday, mid-May morning, many of us gathered for our annual meeting to hear our guest speaker and to enjoy a delicious lunch. At our business meeting, we reaffirmed our local positions and adopted the budget and program for 1998-99. We also elected members of the 1998-99 Board, which includes 2 new VPs (*Jean Safir*, Program, and *Lassie Ulman*, Community Services) and 3 new Directors (*Charlotte Bernardin*, *Ruth Ganong* and *Doris Maslach*). Awards of merit were presented to *Louise Larson* and *Allie Norton* for their dedicated services and invaluable assistance with the ASUC election. *Therese Pipe* presented *Sally Severance* with a bound copy of the oral history prepared from her extensive interviews.

Our speaker, Peter Schrag, journalist and author, spoke about the effects of the recent proliferation of initiatives in California. Tracing the history of the initiative from the progressive era at the turn of the century - when it was introduced as a safety valve to check the excessive pressure of business interests on the legislature - to the present, Mr. Schrag argued that the use of initiatives has shifted political gravity away from representative government to those of special interests. The provocative title of his talk was "Under-represented and Over-propositioned." What was intended as a check on moneyed interests has, ironically, become its vehicle, he stated. Today's "initiative-industrial complex" is for sale to whatever group has the funds to buy a ballot measure, and/or to place ads for or against it. Meanwhile, government discretion and accountability are divorced from the

results of ballot measures that become law without the benefit of a legislative process of negotiation and compromise. Unintended consequences of ballot-made legislation then come into play. For example, Proposition 13 which was intended to reduce local property taxes has had the effect of shifting money and power to the state, confounding local and county governments, and leading to the passage of Proposition 98 which mandated funds for public schools - otherwise starved for resources - but restricts the state's ability to fund other necessary services. On the whole, the prevalence of legislation by initiative has had the effect of reducing public services, Schrag believes, in part because the state's voters are overwhelmingly not those who consume those services. The state's public school population, e.g., is now majority minority; it is "our taxes" versus "their schools."

With all this food for thought, members sat down to a lovely lunch and began discussing possible reforms of the initiative process to be reviewed at upcoming UNITs. (The LWVC study updating its position on the initiative process will be completed this fall and will become the subject of a major publication.)

Thanks to *Ruthann Taylor* and her committee for making all the arrangements for this memorable day.

-Doris Fine, President

ACTION ALERT: The LWVC urges members to contact Governor Wilson and Assemblywoman Aroner to instruct them not to reduce the vehicle license tax (VCT). Revenues from this tax support basic city and county services. Their loss would have a major impact upon our communities.

President's Message

This issue contains reports from our several Vice Presidents on the range of activities they have completed this past year. You will be amazed at how much a dedicated group of volunteers - including both on-Board and off-Board directors and consultants - can accomplish. And that's not all. We also have produced several remarkable TV programs on local issues, have our own web page, and, as Senator Bulworth got tired of saying, "We're ready to step into the 21st century." (Do see "Bulworth," that wild ride of a film, with its wise insights into race relations and the corruption of politics by special interest lobbyists.)

This is also my chance to say "thank you" to those members of the Board stepping back into normal life (although several are staying on as off-Board Directors - for which we are most grateful.) I also welcome several new members: *Charlotte Bernardin*, who brings an interest in political issues and lots of administrative experience; *Ruth Ganong*, an experienced office-holder and Albany resident; *Doris Maslach*, who has just completed the update of our Rent Stabilization Board position; *Lassie Ulman*, long-standing League and former Board member who will serve as VP for Community Services; and *Carol Voisin*, just returned from two years as an administrator in higher education who brings vigor as well as a fresh perspective to our Board. Welcome also to *Jean Safir* as VP for Program (*Jean* was our Albany representative for the past 2 years.)

The Board will have its annual planning meeting in July to determine what issues we need to focus on during the coming year. We have lots of ideas; producing a regular TV program on Channel 25 to air before meetings of the Berkeley City Council; starting an Advisory Committee to help diversify our membership; redesigning our *Voter* and including in it the reports of those who observe Council, School Board, and important boards and commissions in our communities; planning a fund-raising event with corporate sponsors; encouraging members to get "on-line" to receive updates from LWVUS and LWVC; and on and on. These activities will supplement our program responsibilities - including both an LWVBAE study of housing, and an LWVBA study of land use decisions, as well as working with our members to reach consensus on LWVUS and LWVC studies and issues for emphasis.

1998 is also a major election year, involving candidates for local, state and national offices, as well as local and state ballot measures. We will be busy.

But now it is time to enjoy the summer recess (our office will be closed until August 17), to read, relax and store up the energy we will need in the coming months. Please join me in expressing thanks to all who have made this a successful year, and in welcoming those who will lead us onward. A happy summer to one and all.

-Doris

Board Briefs

The Board met on May 6 and began the meeting with reminders of League activities occurring in May. LWVC is conducting a computer workshop on May 23 to teach members how to get online, how to use the World Wide Web, and related tasks. Since the state will be sending information to us online, this is a timely LWVC opportunity.

There is so much material on hand about the initiative process that two UNITs have been scheduled to cover it. Peter Schrag's book about the initiative process will be on sale at our Annual Meeting.

Election-related programs we've made will be shown several times on BTV, Channel 25, so check your program listings.

LWVBAE delegates to the National Convention in June are *JoAnn Price*, *Jean Safir*, *Pat Kuhi*, *Jane Bergen*, *Lois Brubeck*, and *Doris Fine*. Two of the topics to be discussed at the convention are the next LWVUS budget and an issue for emphasis. It is expected that the Making Democracy Work project will be continued.

At the recent meeting, the Presidents' Council, made up of the presidents of all the California Leagues, gave *Lenora Young* an award as Outstanding Voter Author for her columns on publications. Congratulations, *Lenora*.

Yvonne San Jule, our LWVBA representative, was elected second vice-president of the LWVBA and *Eva Bansner* was elected to the LWVBA's board.

The office will be closed for the summer on June 19 and will reopen on August 17. The Board meeting of June 3 will be a combined meeting of retiring and incoming members.

-Violet Feinauer, Secretary

Donors Through May 1998

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Betty Ann Bruno¹ Allie Norton
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¹ In Memory of Ms. Madeleine Korb

Members and Membership

Bits, Pieces and News You Can Use

A hearty welcome to new League members:

Dr. Hilda Kessler Jeanette Quint
Theodore E. Lobman Peter Todd
Poki Namkung Wanda Underhill
Poki Namkung Carol Voisin

Novice League members are often intimidated by what they conceive of as the vast knowledge and experience of the members they meet and so do not volunteer their services to the League. *Winifred McLaughlin* and *Sally Severance* offer this advice in the recently published interview in the League's Oral History Project: "Just get started. Get started; right... some of the jobs aren't very exciting, but they are very necessary, basic stuff - people doing little jobs, it all adds up together. Who brings the food or washes the dishes - these don't seem exciting, but they are all part of the general pattern - of what has to be done in order to make the whole thing work. They add up to importance. Involvement in the work of the League is the ideal route to learn and you meet a whole lot of wonderful people, and learn a whole lot about different points of view, and (gain) a larger perspective on a lot of different important issues and things that are important in peoples' lives. JUST GET STARTED!" (*Sally Severance*).

Bits

Founders: *PILLARS IN THE COMMUNITY* by *Doris Nassiry* and friends to restore Berkeley's pillars.

Jeanine Saperstein: HEALTH IN COMMON, an alliance of complementary practitioners, doctors and consumers in Berkeley and surrounding communities.

Healing nicely: *Janet Strothman's* right wrist after surgery required because of a fall.

All better: *Grace Gildersleeve's* bout with tendonitis.

Showing through June 30 at the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Avenue: recent porcelains and ceramics and older drawings, works of *Doris Mendell*.

Congratulations to *Lenora Young* upon her receipt of the LWVC's Presidents' Council special award as Outstanding Voter Author of 1997-1998 (for her Publications Corner series).

Traveling: *Phoebe Watts* (in Italy), *Jo Ann Price* (in Greece), and *Violet Feinauer* (in Ohio).

Pieces

Emil Guillermo, former head of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," asked in a recent San Francisco Chronicle column the question "How do you teach (English Literature) in a school district where 90% of the students are ethnic minorities and have nothing in common ... with Emily Bronte and William Shakespeare?" His list of answers to his own question ends with "...but most of all, hire the best teachers. This from a Filipino kid on the school lunch program, who got into Harvard. The best teacher I ever had? *Florence (Flossie) Lewis*, bar none. *Flossie* didn't teach, she performed! She communicated! She held court - and our attention. She made it real. What about a Filipino kid like me? I loved it! She had me convinced that Hamlet was a Filipino!! With *Flossie* at the helm ... we were taken beyond race, petty politics, school boards, and interest groups. Great teachers can do that."

Florence (Flossie) at age 74 was recently granted a PhD. in English Literature and was principal speaker at the graduation ceremony for the Department of English at UC Berkeley. We add our congratulations and best wishes to the many she has deservedly received.

Our sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of four of our members, recently deceased: *Vera Seligson* (9/97), *Guenevere Logan* (4/98), *James L. Beatty* (5/98) and *Elizabeth Beatty* (6/98).

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership

On this and on following pages, appear the Annual Reports from our 1997/98 officers. Areas are Action, Administration, Community Services, Development, and Program. An Education Committee report follows.

1998 Report: Action

During the 1997/98 League year, opportunities for action were bountiful on the local, state, and national scenes. The LWVUS and the State League did a masterful job of keeping us well and fully informed about proposed or threatened legislation that require either our support or opposition. We did this through letters, phone calls, faxes, and e-mails. The priorities of LWVUS were: Level One - enacting campaign finance reform and protecting the National Voter Registration Act; and Level Two - enacting health care legislation to provide access for children; ensuring health care for seniors by protecting Medicare; strengthening Clean Air Standards; protecting and strengthening the Clean Water Act; and strengthening the United Nations by providing adequate funding. Issues for Emphasis of LWVC were: Children's Issues - welfare reform, juvenile justice, and education; Election Reform - campaign finance, initiative and referendum, and voting rights; and Sustainable Communities.

We sent thirty-five letters to city, county and regional officials urging or opposing items on which we have League positions. At the state level we responded to LWVC's calls to action by sending at least eight letters from the LWVBAE, as well as requesting our members to take action. At the national level we responded to LWVUS' action alerts and urged our members also to take action.

Our United States Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and our former Congressman Ron Dellums did not need much lobbying to vote as the League requested. We were frustrated to a degree when Congressman Dellums resigned in February and there was a two-month hiatus when no one represented our district in House votes. In April, Barbara Lee was elected to complete Dellums' term which ends in November.

The monthly Action Committee meetings were well-attended and the members eagerly participated in discussion of items of keen interest to us all. Local and regional officials were invited to speak to us on areas of concern. In groups of three or more we interviewed city officials on matters we considered crucial. We followed up with a constant barrage of letters to the Planning Commission, the Waterfront Commission, the Rent Stabilization Board, the Fair Campaign

Practices Commission, the City Council and its Rules Subcommittee, the City Manager, and the School Board - all in Berkeley. We also observed and commented on the status of a 2x2 committee in Albany.

We took our role as "watchdog" and "conscience of the community" seriously in several areas covered by our local positions. The weekly Berkeley City Council packets were reviewed to ensure that we were on hand to speak and distribute statements when we deemed it appropriate. The Berkeley Planning and Waterfront Commissions were observed and addressed on a regular basis.

We worked hand-in-hand with the Program Vice President to try to provide a seamless cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as the UNITs on the United Nations and LWVC's Initiative and Referendum Study.

I thank all the members of the Action Committee for their faithful, effective, and responsible participation throughout the year: *Eva Bansner*, Local Action/Berkeley; *Lois Brubeck*, Education/Berkeley; *Erika Kunkel*, Environmental Concerns; *Doris Maslach*, Rent Board; *Jean Safir*, Albany; *Yvonne San Jule*, LWV Bay Area; and members - *Lisa Alfert*, *Eleanor Cox*, *Ann Crowe*, *Ruth Ganong*, *Marion Luten*, *Ginette Polak*, *Meda Rechen*, *Marj Rubinow*, and *Lenora Young*.

A further thank-you goes to the several consultants who gave their expertise in helping us to have informed discussion in their areas of interest: *Felicia Bock* and *Margaret Dumas*, International Relations; *Ora Huth*, Environmental Impact Reports; *Wilma Jordan*, Child Care; *Helene Lecar*, School to Careers; *Charlotte Lichterman*, Women's Reproductive Choice Issues; *Gail Schickele*, Environmental Concerns; *Anne Wallach*, 2x2 Berkeley City and School Committee; *Carla Woodworth*, Health Issues.

We thank *Phoebe Watts*, Program VP, for having the Action Committee meetings at her centrally located home, and *Doris Fine*, President, for attending all of the meetings. We will see you again in the fall when we embark on another busy and rewarding year.

-Jo Ann B. Price, Action VP

1998 Report: Administration

The 1997-98 year began smoothly enough with *Genette Polak* quickly learning the Treasurer's job, *Marjorie Rubinow* lining up volunteers for reopening the office after the summer closure and *Bob Hawley* getting the September *Voter* ready. Then the VP for Administration returned from a summer holiday to find that our long-time and devoted Office Administrator, *Janet Strothman*, was resigning. What a blow!

A search committee comprising *Genette Polak*, *Marjorie Rubinow*, *Doris Fine* and *Marion Luten* went to work. Within a short time we had some good applicants and hired *Audrey VanDenberg*. *Audrey* seemed to be working out well but after a few weeks, she, for family reasons, left suddenly without notice, leaving a replacement who, in turn, also left after a week, by mutual agreement.

Back to square one, almost. We had an earlier applicant named *Linda Carothers* who had been highly recommended. *Linda* agreed to take the job and has remained through the rest of the year. She continues to grow in competence and usefulness and is well-liked.

Meantime, the Board Handbook was updated, the new Members' Directory prepared and all the office routine went forward: answering phones, recording and conveying messages, and keeping the office tidy and useful to our volunteers. The foregoing and all manner of other jobs, large and small, have been accomplished by those who volunteer their time and talents week after week and month after month. My sincere thanks go to all of you:

Emma Lue Kopp, Librarian and Historian

Bob Hawley, Producer-Editor of the *Voter* responder to calls for help on computer problems or almost anything else.

Marian Leibowitz, Corresponding Secretary (temporary)

Evelyn Light, *Voter* Proof reader

Phyllis Menefee, producer of the donors list for the *Voter*

Allie Norton, distributor of voter registration forms

Marjorie Rubinow, Coordinator of Office Volunteers, *Voter* Proof reader

Lenora Young, Publications

Bill Chapman, Web Page Creator, consultant and promoter of the uses of the Internet

The people listed below are those League members who worked three-hour shifts in the office at the reception desk and/or prepared the *Voter* for mailing, and, along with the members mentioned above, were largely successful for the functioning of the office in the 1997-1998 League year:

<i>Eva Bansner</i>	<i>Jill Martinucci</i>
<i>Charlotte Bernardin</i>	<i>Karen Nelson</i>
<i>Joan Berzins</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Genette Polak</i>
<i>Cecile Christian</i>	<i>Jo Ann Price</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Marjorie Rubinow</i>
<i>Peggy Anne Davis</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Elizabeth DeVelbiss</i>	<i>Yvonne San Jule</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Sally Severance</i>
<i>Mari Fertig</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
<i>Linda Gerson</i>	<i>Janet Strothman</i>
<i>Peg Hammerquist</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>
<i>Emma Lue Kopp</i>	<i>Lassie Ulman</i>
<i>Louise Larson</i>	<i>Pat Wadleigh</i>
<i>Virginia Laurence</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>Evelyn Light</i>	<i>Lenora Young</i>

-*Marion Luten*, Administration V.P. 1997-98

1998 Report: Community Services

What did Community Services volunteers do this year? We:

- Facilitated community meetings in El Cerrito on proposed development around the Del Norte BART Station.
- Organized and moderated a candidates' night for the Emeryville City Council and the Emery School Board on Emeryville cable TV.
- Supplied voter registration forms to offices, banks, libraries, post offices, schools, and colleges.
- Assisted the Alameda County Registrar of Voters on election day by keeping our office open to answer voter questions.
- Monitored the ASUC election, including sorting the ballots, staffing the polling stations during election days and evenings, and monitoring the vote counting.
- Monitored a 2-day Vista College election for student trustees.

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Community Services (*Continued from Page 5*)

- Collaborated with neighbor Leagues in the 9th Congressional District on a candidates' forum televised on local cable TV prior to the April Special Election, and again before the June 2 Primary Election.
- Had a table on Earth Day where we registered voters and distributed League materials.
- Conducted a full range of Voter Services prior to the June Primary (see separate article), including registering high school and Vista College students.
- Monitored the election of members of the Advisory Council for the South Berkeley Senior Center.
- Worked with other concerned citizens on a committee seeking changes in Berkeley High School, served on the Superintendent's Goals Committee in both Berkeley and Albany, and initiated the WRITE IT! project linking adults and high school students.
- Conducted a National Issues Forum on changing approaches to government.
- Moderated a neighborhood meeting regarding proposed expansion of a local synagogue.
- Assisted LWVUS to identify and register Bosnian citizens in exile in the Bay Area to vote in upcoming Bosnian elections.

Almost 100 League members gave many hours and contributed their expertise to these activities. Without their hard work, generous support and cooperative attitude, we could not have accomplished all that we did.

Thanks to all, and to the many office volunteers who made phone calls to help arrange many of our events. You have not only contributed to the community through your services, but have also worked to support the League's budget for our member services, such as this *Voter*. The ASUC election is a major source of revenue, and our community activities have also resulted in contributions to the League. By serving the community, our volunteers are simultaneously serving the League.

-Doris Fine, Acting Community Services VP

(Our elected VP, Regina Minudri, had to resign to take on the San Francisco Public Library as Acting Director. She expects to return to us when her current duties are over in Fall 1999. I can't believe we did it without her!)

Community Services Volunteers
1997/98

Many of these Leaguers worked on more than one of the activities mentioned in the Community Services Annual Report. An asterisk (*) before a name indicates an LWVBAE Board member.

<i>Ruth Jean Arkley</i>	<i>Louise Larson</i>
<i>Eva Bansner</i>	<i>Helene Lecar</i>
<i>Jane Bergen</i>	<i>Jim Lindsay</i>
<i>Charlotte Bernardin</i>	<i>*Marion Luten</i>
<i>Eloise Bodine</i>	<i>*Jill Martinucci</i>
<i>Ida Braun</i>	<i>Doris Maslach</i>
<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Doris Mendell</i>
<i>Aida Brenneis</i>	<i>Jean Moses</i>
<i>Karen Carlson-Olson</i>	<i>Doris Nassiry</i>
<i>Bill Chapman</i>	<i>Barbara Nelson</i>
<i>Barbara Coleman</i>	<i>*Karen Nelson</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Jane Coulter</i>	<i>Nina Olson</i>
<i>*Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Betty Parsons</i>
<i>Ann Crowe</i>	<i>Therese Pipe</i>
<i>Anne Culver</i>	<i>*Jo Ann Price</i>
<i>Bill Davis</i>	<i>*Ginette Polak</i>
<i>Emmy Davis</i>	<i>Peggy Reid</i>
<i>Peggy Anne Davis</i>	<i>*Marjorie Rubinow</i>
<i>Elizabeth De Velbiss</i>	<i>*Jean Safir</i>
<i>Louetta Erlin</i>	<i>*Yvonne San Jule</i>
<i>Mari Fertig</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schaaf</i>
<i>*Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Kurt Schoeneman</i>
<i>*Doris Fine</i>	<i>Susan Schwartz</i>
<i>Jenny Fleming</i>	<i>*Sally Severance</i>
<i>Katherine Foley</i>	<i>Carrie Sprague</i>
<i>Carolyn Gan</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
<i>Ruth Ganong</i>	<i>Joan Strasser</i>
<i>Dildar Gartenberg</i>	<i>Janet Strothman</i>
<i>Heidi Gillies</i>	<i>Peggy Thomsen</i>
<i>Mary Hampton</i>	<i>Elsa Tranter</i>
<i>Bob Hawley</i>	<i>Norma Van Orden</i>
<i>Mim Hawley</i>	<i>Juliet Viola</i>
<i>Anne Henderson</i>	<i>Lassie Ulman</i>
<i>Mary Jacobson</i>	<i>*Pat Wadleigh</i>
<i>Pat James</i>	<i>Mary Wallmann</i>
<i>Mina Jenner</i>	<i>*Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>*Erika Kunkel</i>	<i>*Lenora Young</i>
<i>Virginia Laurence</i>	

* Board Members

Voters Services

The heartbeat of Voters Services during the spring of 1998 was definitely the Speakers Bureau. We had nine trained speakers available to deliver Pros and Cons on the nine statewide ballot initiatives and on the Alameda County Measure B.

As usual, *Meda Rechen* did an excellent job of matching speakers with speaking engagements, even with her eye surgery in the heat of the Bureau's season. *Meda* reports that requests for speakers were low for a spring election. In 1996, we had 19 Pros and Cons engagements in contrast to 14 this year. The Most Active Speaker award goes to *Pat Wadleigh* who delivered a whopping 5 Pros and Cons to interested Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville community members. Thanks also to speakers *Helene Lecar*, *Fran Packard*, *Anne Henderson*, *Jean Safir*, *Miriam Hawley*, and *Doris Fine*.

Pros and Cons and the Easy Reading Voter's Guide (distributed in English, Spanish, Chinese and a small number in Vietnamese) were distributed throughout Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. Thanks to *Peggy Anne Davis*, *Helene Lecar*, *Meda Rechen*, *Anne-Marie Hogan* and others for help in distributing both Pros and Cons and Easy Reading Voter's Guides.

In addition to the robust Speakers Bureau, Voters Services had a great television season on Berkeley's public access station, B-TV. *Jill Martinucci* spear-headed the production of two election-related shows with the capable help of League members *Masako Yamada* and *Kay Schwartz*. Productions included: (1) a Measure B show that included specially taped footage, interviews with proponents and opponents, and a "live" discussion; and (2) a live viewer call-in show on the June 2 ballot. A special thank-you to *Anne Henderson* for her on-camera talent with the call-in show. *Jill* also arranged for B-TV to air two pre-taped 14th Congressional District candidates' forums. Thanks, *Jill*, for all your hard work.

Voters Services co-sponsored two 14th Congressional District Candidates' Nights with the Alameda, Oakland, and Piedmont Leagues. *Fran Packard* did a terrific job representing LWVBAE as the moderator of the first event, and *Doris Fine* volunteered as a question sorter to ensure that the candidates had tough questions to answer. *Emma Lue Kopp* served as timekeeper on the second program.

Finally, LWVBAE co-sponsored a forum on bilingual education at the North Berkeley Senior Center. A special thanks to moderator *Eva Bansner*, and for her work in organizing the event, to *Lois Brubeck*. This event was taped by our B-TV crew and was replayed several times prior to the June 2 election.

-*Lessly Wikle*, Voters Services Chair

1998 Report: Development

Development is responsible for membership, public relations, outreach in the community and fund raising to maintain the office and support the League's mission of encouraging active citizenship. The participation of members of the League on Development this past year gave strong evidence of effective commitment. Members contributed generously to our annual fund drive which benefits the operating budget and to the Foundation which supports our education work.

Membership chair *Eleanor Cox* reports that LWVBAE now has just over 400 members. New members came to orientations which were also open to prospective members. Our current membership list is accurate and in concordance with LWVUS guidelines due to the efforts of *Mina Jenner* and *Nina Olson*.

Grocery SCRIP sales done by *Eva Brecher* raises money by netting LWVBAE five-six percent of the value of purchased SCRIP. This major funding source is a win-win operation smoothly facilitated by *Eva* and also by treasurer *Ginette Polak*. All we have to do is to send a check to LWVBAE in multiples of twenty dollars and specify either Safeway or Andronico's markets.

The Soulage Writing Project awarded Ann Swidler, co-author of Habits Of The Heart and of The Good Society a bequest from Madeleine Traynor at a luncheon held at the Berkeley City Club. *Jo Ann Price* also set up a literary evening at the home of *Fran Packard*. This is the final award of the project with the grant now dedicated to LWVBAE's educational programs.

The successful ASUC elections at the University of California brought major funds to the coffers of LWVBAE. *Louise Larson*, *Pat Wadleigh*, *Heidi Gillies*, *Lassie Ulman* and *Doris Fine*, together with a cast of competent monitors who oversaw the voting, gave their all in a challenging and exhausting

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Development (*Continued from Page 7*) endeavor. *Ruthann Taylor* led the Vista College elections, which were monitored by a dozen LWVBAE members, under contract for a three-day election of student officers.

Oral History is the recording of a spoken autobiography of a League member done by *Therese Pipe* and her committee. *Sally Severance* contributed her history at interviews done by *Winnie McLaughlin* and transcribed by *Emma Lue Kopp* into a blue bound document that can now be read in our LWVBAE office. Other interviews are in progress.

This year a preliminary effort began to set up an Advisory Board. Eight members of LWVBAE and three board members are engaged in this innovative project. Also, another preliminary dialogue at the UCB Section Clubs fall sign-up resulted in eleven women indicating interest in creating a section to discuss Democracy, Politics and Citizenship.

Development began new League projects this past year and carried on with the challenge to be visible, informative and solvent.

-*Karen Nelson*, Development VP

1998 Report: Program

The 1997/98 Program year began for LWVBAE with the Fall Membership evening meeting in September, 1997, at the Epworth Methodist Church in Berkeley. We had a modified pot-luck meal (coordinated by *Peg Hammerquist*), a business meeting, and heard speaker *Dwight Steele* of Citizens for an Eastshore State Park.

We reached consensus on proposed League positions, National, State and Local, at UNIT meetings: on the National position on the United Nations; on State positions on mental health and on libraries; and agreed to amend our Local position on Rent Control (after a restudy led by *Doris Maslach*, *Suzanne Adams*, *Meda Rechen* and others). In May and June of 1998, we reached consensus based on a restudy of the LWVC position on the Initiative and Referendum process. Many thanks to the UNIT hosts *Peggy Anne* and *Bill Davis* and *Barbara Nelson*, to discussion leaders *Luanne Rogers*, *Suzanne Adams*, *Doris Maslach* and pinch-hitting *Eloise Bodine*, to the recorders, to *Sally Severance*, UNIT chair, and to all the members of the committees preparing these programs.

On our third Thursday noon meetings, we benefitted from the Speaker Series arranged by *Sarah Miyazaki*, *Eloise Bodine*, and *Elsa Tranter*.

We held program planning meetings for National, Bay Area and Local programs.

At our 1998 Annual Meeting in May, new officers were installed, a Local study of housing in our three cities was adopted, and editor and author *Peter Schrag* spoke about the initiative process in California. The luncheon which followed was arranged by *Ruthann Taylor*.

Many League members have helped me this year, and I thank you all, especially *Pat Wadleigh*, *Ginette Polak* and *Doris Fine*.

-*Phoebe Watts*, Program VP

Rent Board Study Committee Final Report

The committee was formed to carry out the recommendation of the 1997 LWVBAE Annual Meeting to investigate "whether, when and how to take ACTION on Local Support Planning E.3: to abolish an elected Rent Stabilization Board." Although we decided not to propose action to this end, members of the committee conducted numerous interviews, attended meetings and workshops on rent control and housing, surveyed other rent control jurisdictions, and reviewed several reports and publications on this issue. Specific findings were reported in the *Voter* during the spring of 1998.

Conclusions:

1. Elected vs. Appointed Rent Board

We are in favor of an appointed Rent Board.

Supporters of electing the Rent Board claim it is more democratic and involves more people through the electoral process. This argument runs counter to the League's position that the Rent Board is a *regulatory* body and thus should be de-politicized to be effective in implementing the law. Elected officials have constituencies to whom they feel accountable, which could influence their ability to judge requests, claims, and disputes that arise in implementing the law.

The constant adversarial controversy over rent control for the past twenty years has resulted in hardship for many Berkeley residents. It will not be alleviated until there is community confidence in the

-(Continued on Page 9)

Rent Board Study (*Continued from Page 8*)
 Rent Board as a fair, problem-solving body. An appointed board structured to represent all viewpoints, including people with expertise in housing, will further this objective.

Rent control is but one part of the city's total housing program. An independently elected board takes action from its specific perspective without necessarily considering the impact on the city as a whole. As it is, much of the rent control program requires the services of many city departments - personnel, codes and inspections, health and fire safety, etc. It is more costly and inefficient to have the necessary liaison groups than it would be to have the rent control program part of an integrated housing department.

2. Changes in Local Support Position E.3

The changes to our position that were approved at the 1998 Annual Meeting defined more precisely the functions of the Rent Board, the limits that should govern its expenditures, and how the Rent Board Commissioners should be appointed. Added was the method of hiring and the responsibility of the Rent Board Director. A final addition was to add a goal for the program: to alleviate the adversarial climate surrounding rent control.

3. Recommendation to Program Planning for a Study of Housing in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville

Please refer to the separate article on the proposed local study on housing on Page 10 of this *Voter*.

-*Doris Maslach*, Chair
 Rent Board Study Committee

Education Committee Activities

Addressing the BUSD School Board on June 3, the League urged adoption of the Superintendent's three major goals for the District, while making clear that the Board must insist on regular progress reports as to their implementation. "For the goals...to be taken seriously, you need to find ways to communicate to everyone in the District - staff, parents and students - that it is your genuine resolve to achieve them." In addition we challenged the Board to have remedial programs ready for the "at-risk" students at the beginning of the school year. Three Board members echoed our call and asked staff to find the funds somewhere in their tight budget so that money could be put where their goals are - in literacy programs.

Our committee, which met on May 20, decided that our priorities for the coming year would be: (1)

to **monitor** the School Board's attention to and implementation of the three goals: academic achievement for every student, citizenship, and a positive environment; (2) to **ensure** that programs are instituted for those who fail to reach the stated reading goals; and (3) to **watch** how budget money is spent in relation to goals. This summer and fall we will focus upon **citizenship**, helping with registering 18-year-olds and with the **mock election**. In addition, we will look for ways to encourage schools to teach citizenship through action, noting the positive steps being made in conflict resolution programs at various District schools. In preparation for fall School Board elections, we'll be helping with **candidates nights** in Berkeley and Albany.

What did we do this past year? First, we are proud to be represented on the steering committee of the Berkeley Alliance, which joins city, schools and the university in educational programs; we also were invited to serve on the Superintendent's Goals Committee; and we contributed to the process of choosing a new Assistant Superintendent.

Doris Fine, Helene Lecar, Anne Wallach, Carol Stone and I, or some combination thereof, have been members of the Concerned Citizens for Berkeley High and the Berkeley City-Wide Collaborative for Youth. *Anne Wallach* was also a member of the 2x2 Committee until her health interfered. *Helene Lecar* has continued her incredible work in furthering the School-to-Career program.

We and other Leaguers volunteer in the schools. *Doris Fine, Sally Severance, Jean Safir, Lisa Alfert, Ida Braun, Dorothy Lindheim, Barbara Coleman, Anne Wallach* and I have been part of a Literacy Volunteer program at Malcolm X, reading with first and second graders, and some of us do a "literary circle" program for third graders at LeConte. Several tutor in other District classrooms as well. Speak to us or call the Berkeley School Volunteers and give a bit of time next year. The schools need you and will love you! The state budget may be flush, but our schools still have legions of desperate needs.

Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the Mock Election committee, on July 14 at 10 am. Please see the calendar page for details.

-*Lois Brubeck*, Education Chair

World Population Numbers

Population was the subject of Environmental Concerns May 18 meeting in an interesting presentation by *Daniel B. Luten*, Emeritus, UCB Department of Geography. The roots of modern concern about human impact on the environment dates to 1798 with Thomas Robert Malthus' Essay on the Principle of Population. Malthus contended that poverty and distress are unavoidable since population increases by geometrical ratio and the means of subsistence by arithmetical ratio. His controversial landmark work forewarned a population destined to overtake available food supply. A generation ago, Paul Ehrlich's bestseller, The Population Bomb, created an image of uncontrollable growth. While trends and predictions vary in different world regions, the fact remains that increasing numbers everywhere affect landscape and resources, contributing to problems of crowding, crime, pollution, unemployment and energy crises. Today, world population is nearly five times greater than in 1800. With growth at 2%, our nearly 6 billion population will grow exponentially (always doubling) to SRO population (standing room only) in a mere 650 years. Luten's informative slide show of graphs and population pyramids confirmed startling growth trends.

For more information, the Population Reference Bureau offers the World Population Data Sheet, an excellent table of countries and specific population trends (e-mail: popref@prb.org or call (202) 483-1100). In addition to Malthus' Essay, see: Malthus (William Petersen. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1979); How Many People Can the Earth Support? (Joel Cohen. WW Norton & Co. NY. 1995); The Population-Environment Connection: What Does It Mean For Environmental Policy? (Carlyn Orians, Marina Skumanich. Batelle Seattle Research Center, prepared for the EPA Office of Policy Planning and Education. December, 1995). Current world population trends and the importance of family planning are well summed up in the January, 1997 issue of Today's Observations (John Birmingham. Colorado Population Coalition. PO Box 6201, Denver, CO 80206). In California, contact The Population Coalition, which publishes Population Press and whose mission is to increase awareness of the burden of over consumption and over population on a sustainable future. (Population Coalition, 1476 N Indian Hill Blvd, Claremont, CA 91711).

-Gail Schickele

Proposed Local Study on Housing

At our Annual Meeting on May 16, 1998, the following action was approved:

"The Board recommends adoption of a study of Housing in the three cities. The purpose of the study will be two-fold: (1) to expand our position on housing to the three-city area, and (2) to arrive at recommendations for the housing policies of each city. Scope: supply; affordability for those who live, work or study in the area; and housing policies and actions."

The Rent Board Action Committee concluded that rent control is but a band-aid in the face of a local housing crisis; what is needed is a realistic plan to increase the supply of rental housing.

While the population and the numbers of both non-rental and of rental housing units have increased in Albany and Emeryville since 1970, the city of Berkeley has registered decreases in both population and in numbers of non-rental and of rental housing units. Since all three cities have limited space for development, it is essential that housing policies be developed to determine how much housing it is reasonable to build, where it should be located, and for whom it should be built and priced.

All those interested in participating in this critical study should contact *Jean Safir*, VP Program, at 524-9088.

-Suzanne Adams, Member, Rent Board Study
(653-4688)

LWVBA Convention, May 30

LWVBAE members *Eva Bansner, Ginette Polak, Karen Nelson, Doris Fine, Pat Wadleigh, Lenora Young, Jean Safir* and *Carol Voisin* attended the bi-annual convention of the 9-county Bay Area League. *Jean Matsuura* was elected President, and *Jane Bergen* and *Yvonne San Jule*, Vice Presidents.

A two-year study was adopted. Its purpose is to identify the inter-jurisdictional impacts of local land use decisions on housing, jobs, transportation and the environment; and to establish an LWVBA position that will define the appropriate regional mechanisms, powers, and funding needed to address these issues.

-Doris Fine

Bay Area Military Base Closings

Sylvia McLaughlin spoke to the Environmental Concerns April 20 meeting about the closing of Bay Area military bases and the doctrine of the Public Trust. She also described the work of the Public Trust Group.

Of 540 bases around the country being closed and returned to civilian use, 11 are around the San Francisco Bay (some 14,500 acres), including The Presidio, SF; Ft. Baker, Marin County; Concord Naval Weapons Station; Mare Island at Vallejo; Oak Knoll Naval Hospital; Oakland Army Base; Alameda Naval Air Station and the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISCO); Moffett Field; Hunters Point Shipyard; and Treasure Island. These closings will trigger significant changes in the patterns of land use. Communities in the former base areas are facing reductions in income and employment, and are looking to base assets - primarily real estate - as an economic resource. The decisions of these local communities will determine the San Francisco Bay shoreline environment well into the future. Good land use planning has never been more important.

Major bases have redevelopment authorities and most have citizens groups to oversee conversion. Regionally, there is the Bay Area Defense Conversion Team, otherwise known as BADCAT, an offshoot of the Bay Area Economic Forum, which is in partnership with ABAG and the Bay Area Council. Most of the Bay Area military bases slated for closure are on lands created by filling open water and tidelands. Much land, therefore, is subject to the doctrine of the Public Trust. This doctrine is an historic legal principle under which each state holds title to certain tidal and submerged lands in trust for the benefit of its citizens. Permitted uses are commerce, navigation, fisheries, ecological habitat protection, water-oriented recreation and preservation of land in a natural condition. Since 1938, the State Lands Commission (composed of the Lt. Governor, the State Controller and the Director of Finance) has been administrator and guardian of these valuable public lands.

The trust doctrine provides a framework for economic and environmental planning, with public input, to guide the base conversion process. Using the doctrine as a basis for the reuse of the military bases, citizens have an opportunity to develop patterns of use to enhance neighborhoods and communities.

-(Continued in next column)



Publications Corner



The Road To Reforming Government In California, Summer, 1998, California Voter (LWVC)

You should have received a copy of this publication from the LWVC, and if you have not already read it, you will want to add it to your list of summer reading.

This publication details the history and effects of Proposition 13 and the initiative process in California, the proposals for change by the Constitution Revision Commission to reform California government, and other coalitions formed to bring about change.

A restudy of the LWVC's Initiative and Referendum position is currently in progress and our League has held UNIT meetings on this topic during May and June. As a result of this restudy, the LWVC position on the initiative could be changed. If you were not able to attend the UNIT meetings, you will certainly want to read the current California Voter publication to help you understand the recommendations for change which have been proposed.

Paradise Lost (Free Press, 1998), by Peter Schrag, is a critical and detailed analysis of California's "direct democracy." Mr. Schrag spoke on the subject at our annual meeting.

-*Lenora Young*, Publications Chair

To promote the public's interest in the reuse of Bay Area military bases, the Public Trust Group provides legal research and advocacy, public education and community organizing. Positions adopted by the Public Trust Group include support for maritime and water-related recreational use, land exchanges, toxic clean-up, educational facilities, development of the Bay Trail, creation of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge (as requested by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and public participation in all leasing decisions.

"These base closings are like an urban frontier," *Sylvia* concluded. "We need to learn what's there, what the possibilities are and we need to become involved in the planning process for their future. This is a one-time, tremendous opportunity." For copies of *Sylvia McLaughlin's* speech, send an SASE to LWVBAE. For information about the Public Trust Group, contact Sandy Threlfall, P.O. Box 11520, Oakland, 94611-0520, (510) 339-9233.

-*Gail Schickele*, Environmental Concerns

CALENDAR

July

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

- The LWVBAE Office is closed all of July -

- 1 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee Meeting. (Fine)
- 8 Wed. 10 am Board Planning Meeting (Fine)
- 14 Tues. 10 am Mock Election and Education Committees (Brubeck)
- 29 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee Meeting (Fine)

August

- 5 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (Fine)
- 7 Fri. 4 pm Deadline for September *Voter* at the LWVBAE office
- 17 Mon. 10 am LWVBAE Office reopens
- 26 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee Meeting. (Fine)

September

- 1 Tues. 7 am - 8 pm Special Election for State Senate District 9

LWVUS Convention '98: SHARE THE SPIRIT

June 13 - 16, San Diego

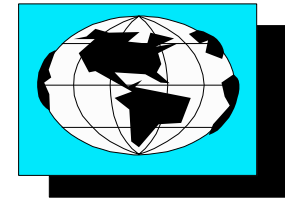
1998-2000 Proposed Program and Issue For Emphasis

Program: The LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current positions.

They will be the basis for a moderate level of advocacy on priorities in the four program areas of Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Issue For Emphasis: The LWVUS Board recommends continuing Making Democracy Work with a focus upon Seeking Change, particularly in the area of Civic Participation.

Look for a full report in the September issue of our *Voter*.



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