

President: Nancy Bickel

April 2004

Editor: Jean Safir

ANNUAL LWVBAE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

ROBERT B. REICH "Taking Back Politics"

Doubletree Hotel, Berkeley Marina

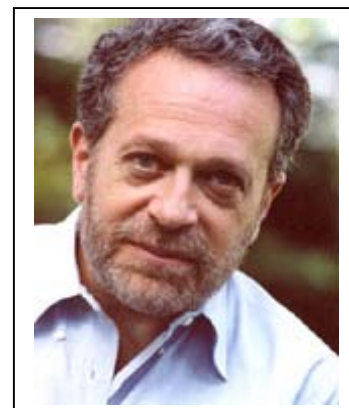
11:30 am - Socialize

12:00-1:30 pm - Luncheon & Program

\$50.00 per person

The Luncheon Committee is pleased to announce that our speaker will be Robert Reich, distinguished visiting scholar at the Goldman School of Public Policy on the U.C. Berkeley campus.

As Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration, Reich cracked down on sweatshops in this country and initiated an international campaign against child labor around the world. He fought against unsafe work sites and fraudulent purveyors of health insurance and pensions. He shepherded the Family and Medical Leave Act and a minimum wage increase through the Congress. Before serving as Secretary of Labor, Professor Reich had extensive government experience in the Ford and Carter years and taught at Harvard University.



Since leaving government, Professor Reich has been University Professor at Brandeis University and a frequent commentator on television and radio programs. He has written nine books, including the bestseller *Locked in the Cabinet* and his most recent, *The Future of Success*. His tenth book titled *Reasons* is due out in May. He also founded and contributes to the new journal, *The American Prospect*. One of his recent articles, titled "It's Jobs, Stupid" points out that the economy needs at least 150,000 new jobs a month just to keep up with the population growth of available workers.

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(REICH, continued from page 1)

Reich points out that reducing overtime and encouraging guest workers from Mexico will not do much to increase jobs. He urges a three-pronged approach that includes tax credits to deal with job creation. This is bound to be a central issue in the next Presidential election.

The Luncheon is a major source of funding for the many local activities of our League, since our dues are shared with the state and national levels of the League. Be sure to send your reservations when you receive your invitation.

- Karen Nelson, Ruth Ganong, Co-chairs

DONATIONS in January & February 2004

To the General Fund

Marie Lagarde	Julie Shearer
Charlotte Lichterman	Janet Stromberg
Doris Maslach	Grace Ulp
Ruth Page Schorer	Paul L. Warner
Doris L. White	

- Evelyn Light

SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT CONCURRENCE

League members met twice in February to discuss the LWVUS proposed concurrence on how the President should be selected. This was an update of positions originally adopted in 1971 and modified in 1982. The goal of the selection process position as stated by the Task Force that worked on the update is to produce the best possible candidates, well-informed

voters and optimum voter participation.

The concurrence proposed retaining the positions on 1) the abolition of the Electoral College and the direct election of the President and Vice-President, and 2) support for uniform voter qualification and voting procedures throughout all the states for presidential elections. LWVUS proposed adding to the position: 3) support for changes in the presidential election system to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates, public policy issues and the selection process, and 4) action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates and government work to provide the necessary information to the citizenry.

Members asked questions about the continuing and new positions, and lively discussion ensued. Members were concerned about the vagueness of the two proposed additions to the position, and discussed the advantages of having specific versus general position statements. All of the members attending the meetings agreed with the position, with most agreeing strongly.

Members were asked how they liked the use of concurrence (a written statement which cannot be amended) for achieving member agreement, rather than the usual method of study and consensus. They were evenly divided. Members can participate directly without attending a meeting; they only need to mail in their ballots printed in the *National Voter* or vote through the LWV website. One suggestion for future studies was to expand the use of the Internet to distribute information, conduct discussions and seek member agreement.

A special thanks to *Pat Kuhi*, the best committee member possible, and *Luanne Rogers*, lively discussion leader. Working with these knowledgeable people makes taking a committee responsibility a pleasure.

- Eloise Bodine, Chair

NEW LEAGUE PROGRAM ON CIVICS EDUCATION PROPOSED

The Board proposes a new local study for the 2004-05 League year: Civics education, kindergarten through grade 12, in the Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville public schools. *Jinky Gardner* brought the proposal to the February 26 program planning meeting. "This is the reason I joined the League; we have to educate the young if we are going to save our system," said *Jinky*. *Catherine Lynch*, chair of the Education Committee, and attendees at the program planning meeting responded enthusiastically to the proposal. The group also proposed two local issues for emphasis: monitoring of the voting process and monitoring of budget content and process.

The Program Planning meeting also reviewed the multiple Bay Area League positions, recording our principal interest in three items: (1) Building a constituency for regional planning and governance; (2) Defending the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and (3) Promoting housing at transit hubs to help redress housing shortages and to achieve cost-effective coordination of transit planning and land use.

"Protect the right of all citizens to vote" was chosen as the LWVUS position that should be selected for systematic review and update. This review process would be similar to the current update on Presidential Selection. Going beyond simple review, the group proposed that we look at the protection of the integrity of the votes cast and suggested that the review also cover electronic voting devices. We suggested that LWVUS use League expertise for developing the study, thus limiting its cost.

In a **special meeting** immediately following the program planning session, the Board approved the proposals for submittal to the general membership at the annual meeting in May. The Bay Area and national proposals were forwarded directly to the appropriate

Leagues.

Kudos: to *Eloise Bodine* and *Pat Kuhl* for the excellent background information they brought to the meetings on Presidential Selection, which stimulated thoughtful discussions.

- *Lois Brubeck*, Program VP

SAVE THE DATE: May 27

The **LWVBAE ANNUAL MEETING** is set for **Thursday, May 27, 5-8 pm, at the Northbrae Community Church.**

Members will look ahead to the next year, elect a new slate of officers and approve, or disapprove, new local program planning proposals. We will also have a catered supper and a stimulating speaker, yet to be confirmed.

SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, April 8, Noon to 2 pm
Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue at Masonic

Please join us on Thursday, April 8, to learn about city parks in our three communities. Speakers will include John Medlock, Director of Albany Parks and Recreation, Mark Selevnow, Acting Director of Berkeley Parks, and Hank VanDyke, Director of Emeryville Public Works. They will speak to us on sources and adequacy of funding for purchase, development and maintenance of city parks, and also on interaction with other governmental agencies and community groups concerning parks.

The public is always welcome at our Speaker Series meetings, so please invite a friend to join you. You may bring lunch; juice will be provided.

The final Speaker Series meeting for this season will be on May 13, and the subject will be public libraries. Please save the date!

- *Barbara Nelson*, committee member

BOARD BRIEFS

At a **special meeting on January 22**, the Board

- agreed to follow the recommendation of the presidents of the Alameda County LWVs to support County Measure A, the "Essential Health Care Services" Tax.

At its **regular meeting on February 12**, the Board

- voted to recommend that members at the Annual Meeting adopt the Proposed Budget for 2004/05;
- discussed advocacy efforts for LWV local and state recommended ballot measures for the March 2 election;
- discussed election services efforts: voter registration and production and distribution of local and state *Pros and Cons*;
- approved the appointment of *Sherry Smith* as chair and *James Sweeney* as member of the Bylaws Committee;
- heard reports of other ongoing League activities.

At a **special meeting on February 26**, the Board

- agreed to recommend for adoption at Annual Meeting the approval of the consensus of the Program Planning meeting for local LWVBAE program items;
- voted to report the consensus of our Program Planning meeting to LWVBA and LWVUS for their programs for 2004-2006.

-*Ginette Polak*, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

The LWVBAE extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Stephanie Antalocy *Frayda Simon*
Lila Witt *Christine Wenrich*

And after a long sojourn out of the country, welcome back *Dildar Gartenberg*

- *Jinky Gardner*, Membership Chair

ELECTION SERVICES

Besides advocating for the passage of measures that we supported in the March Primary Election, LWVBAE also worked hard in its education role. Those activities included the *Smart Voter* website, kept up-to-date by *Lea Barker*, and our own website, run by *Bill Chapman*.

We wrote pro and con information about the Berkeley measures (*Sherry Smith* and *Phoebe Watts*), about Alameda County Measure A (*Eva Bansner*) and regional Measure 2 (*Kate Quick* of LWV-Alameda). *Marylyn Coons* donated her professional skills to prepare the document for the printer -- a big job. Then we distributed the local *Pros and Cons*, the state *Pros and Cons* (purchased from LWVC) and the *Easy Voter Guide* (co-sponsored by the LWVC Education Fund, the California State Library, and other organizations, and paid for by a grant). Some of the members who folded, stuffed, counted and delivered were *Polly Amrein*, *Nancy Bickel*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Helen Canin*, *Suzanne Chun*, *Elizabeth DeVelbiss*, *Vi Feinauer* and *Fumio Uchiyama*.

Polly Amrein, *Fran Packard* and *Helene Lecar* spoke to groups about ballot measures and voting procedures. *Lenora Young* and her crew made sure that voter registration forms were widely available in our three cities.

Now we can take a short break before the November General Election, when Berkeley and Albany will have local elections at the same time. (*Will you help with candidate forums?*) There will be State and local ballot measures. (*Will you help write pros and cons?*) Should we make an effort to speak about ballot measure pros and cons to groups?

What activities are most important for us to do? Think about it, make your opinions known, and VOLUNTEER!

-*Phoebe Watts*, V.P. Election Services

BERKELEY MEASURE I WON

by a Gratifying 72.2% in the March Election.

League support contributed significantly to this success, which will enable Instant Runoff Voting to be used in Berkeley's future elections. Although we have no polls to tell us exactly how big a role the League's name and work played, we can give you some sense of how much work and funding the League brought to the campaign.

We raised money. Some of our efforts were firsts for our League -- as far as I'm aware. LWVBAE sent a fundraising letter to every member. More than 25 League members, their families and friends generously responded by contributing. The campaign raised more than \$21,000. We're most grateful to all who contributed.

We walked precincts, distributing the League's own recommendations on all the ballot measures, including Measure I, to a very large proportion of likely voters in Berkeley. (I don't recall the League walking precincts, at least not since 1977.) Leaguers and other campaign volunteers walked 71 precincts (out of 114) to reach most likely voters. Volunteers also telephoned likely voters, and a special mailing went to permanent absentee voters.

Nearly 30,000 potential voters were reached by the Measure I campaign; 31,385 people voted on measure I; 22,653 voted yes. [These are the Registrar's unofficial returns on March 5, 2004.]

We lent our name to the campaign, after Board approval, when I signed, as president, and helped write the official ballot arguments in support of Measure I. In addition, our name (and my picture) appeared on the campaign literature.

I'm tremendously pleased with the energy and persistence so many League members put into this campaign. Walking hill precincts was a test of commitment—and terrific and demanding exercise. Our honor roll of League

campaign volunteers is below.

The campaign was a collaboration with many different organizations and individuals, many of them longtime campaigners for IRV and other election reforms. State and National League have been urging us to collaborate for years, but it isn't always easy for the League to find organizations that we can work with comfortably. In this case, the collaboration with Californians for Electoral Reform, the Green Party of Alameda County and the national Center for Voting and Democracy was easy and a success. The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club also pitched in toward the end of the campaign, helping to distribute literature. Some of the Leaguers most active on the campaign are also members of one of these organizations. I recall with appreciation our IRV study chair, the late *John Reynolds*, who joined the League to get us interested in this issue he cared so strongly about, but is not with us to relish its success.

Council Member Dona Spring co-chaired the campaign with me and contributed a fundraising mailing, numerous volunteers and her own political expertise. Substantial work was put in by Council Members *Mim Hawley* (and past president of LWVBAE) and *Kriss Worthington* and by School Board President *John Selawsky*, Campaign Co-coordinator *Dave Heller*, Volunteer Coordinator *Jim Lindsay* and Treasurer *Budd Dickinson*. Our energetic part-time professional campaign manager *Kenny Mostern* was fun to work with and did an outstanding job of planning our strategy and making it happen.

What next? Instant Runoff Voting will only be implemented when the City Council sees that all the legal and technical barriers have been overcome and the cost would be no more than the then current cost of a General Election and separate runoff. The Secretary of State must certify IRV voting equipment -- currently under way for San Francisco. Enabling state legislation may also be needed; *Loni Hancock* has introduced AB 1039.

(Continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE -- OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

By the time you read this, the new **Vista College Campus** will be a big hole in the ground. Jackie Shadko, Vice President for Instruction at Vista, told the Speakers' Series meeting in February that the expected move-in date is still set for September 2005.

As explained by Ms. Shadko, Measure E funds were used to purchase the site and cover the construction cost. State bond money will provide \$2 million for hardware -- shelves, heating units, plumbing fixtures -- things that "screw into the walls." Everything else, an estimated \$2 million, must come from local funds. Dr. Shadko invited League members collectively and individually to join in the effort to outfit the building.

Marsha Skinner, who documented the needs of the library in the original 1999 Vista study, asked about storage space in the new building. Many Leaguers had donated books to Vista, but the limiting factor was the lack of space to keep any but the books on the shelves. She also asked about operating funds to keep the library open evenings and Saturday, when students have time to study.

Dr. Shadko responded positively to both questions, and invited League members to take part not only in the restocking and furnishing of the library, but also in the community advisory committees, to help it run smoothly.

State-wide, the new chancellor, Dr. Mark Drummond, took office in January. He previously served as head of the 9-college Los Angeles CC district. Our new League position enabled members across the state to support the student march on Sacramento, which took place on March 15.

In addition, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation granted to the LWVC \$150,000 over

two years for outreach about Education K-12

and the Community Colleges. The grant includes seed money for local Leagues to raise public awareness on educational issues of importance to their communities. We will be reporting back in greater detail on this subject.

GET INVOLVED! It's our college and our kids. Call Helene Lecar 549-9719 to find out more.

(Berkeley Measure I, Continued from page 5)

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters Brad Clark does not favor adopting IRV, and he will be very busy sorting out lots of other problems with our new voting machines in the near future. New software will have to be written or adapted to enable IRV. Ultimately, our county supervisors will decide whether IRV elections in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro, the Alameda County cities that have already adopted it, can be consolidated with county elections. Keith Carson supported Measure I, and we would hope to persuade others to support it as well.

Since LWV California now supports IRV, we may want to urge state League to take a more active role in making IRV a reality.

-Nancy Bickel, President

LWVBAE Members Who Worked on MEASURE I

Polly Amrein	Russ Ellis
Evelyn Apte	Doris Fine
Eva & Horst Bansner	Jinky Gardner
Lea Barker	Mim Hawley
Judy Bertelsen	Jim Lindsay
Nancy Bickel	Ginette Polak
Eloise Bodine	Jean Safir
Lois Brubeck	Joan Strasser
Sherry & Judd Smith	

STATE HOUSING BOND PAYS OFF FOR BERKELEY

The \$2 billion statewide housing bond measure approved by voters in 2002 -- known as Proposition 46 -- has just brought some significant benefits to the City of Berkeley, among many others in Alameda County and throughout the State. The recent sale of bonds will be used to promote new construction of affordable housing for low-income families and seniors, and also to provide homeless shelters and assist first time home buyers.

Berkeley received \$1 million for its housing trust fund, which helps support the cost of building new affordable housing units and other programs that benefit low-income households. More than \$18 million will help develop affordable rental properties in Oakland and Fremont. A \$300,000 award to Alameda County will help fund construction of an 84-unit senior apartment complex in unincorporated Ashland.

The county's housing development manager, Michelle Starratt, was quoted in the *Oakland Tribune* as follows: "The housing crisis is a regional crisis, and any money coming into any jurisdiction in the county is beneficial to all county residents." She said that much of the money will help provide home-ownership opportunities to working families who aren't able to afford homes in the Bay Area's expensive housing market. In all, the county and its cities received \$24 million in the recent payout. Additional funds from the bond sale will continue to be distributed over the next three years.

- Jean Safir, Editor

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Call Ruthann Taylor at the office, 843-8824, or at home, 527-0673, if you can give a few hours a month answering the phone and processing mail at the League office. It is a good chance to meet more members and find out what's going on.

THE LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!

LWVUS JOINS COALITION TO GET OUT THE VOTERS AGED 18 TO 30

A "Voter Issues Paper," representing the concerns of young adults today, was released at a news conference at the National Press Club in February. The conference was held by a broad coalition of organizations -- including the League of Women Voters of the US -- dedicated to increasing voter turnout among young adults. News conferences were also held in Boston and San Francisco to release "The 18-to-30 Year Olds' Voter Issues Paper: Questions Every Candidate Should Answer to win 20 Million Votes in 2004."

National research centers identified issues that 18-to-30-year-olds have said are most important to them in the upcoming 2004 elections. Candidates for elective office, including the Presidency, should be asked to address questions on the economy, education, Iraq and leadership, according to this research.

Young people are urged to use the questions in the issues paper to engage the candidates in dialogue, noting "You are a VIP (Very Important Player) in the political process, but only if you get in the game."

Kay Maxwell, LWVUS president, said that Leagues across the country are urged to use questions from *The 18-30 VIP* in local candidate debates. "It's time that candidates give young voters more than just lip service," she said. "Young people will care about candidates only when the candidates begin to pay attention to them. Candidates must address the issues that resonate with our nation's youngest voters."

Joining the League in this nationwide effort are World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, Youth Vote Coalition, MTV's Choose or Lose, Rock the Vote, 18to35, the New Voters Project, Declare Yourself and other "strategic partners," as reported on the LWVUS news page:

<http://interactive.lwv.org/News/>

- Jean Safir, Editor

CALENDAR

 Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated 

March

22 Mon. 6:30-8:30p Universal Access to Health Care Berkeley Central Library, 3rd Floor
Kittredge St. at Shattuck Ave. Brubeck, 526-5139

April

8	Thurs.	6 - 8 pm	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	Bickel, 526-4055
9	Fri.	Noon	May-June VOTER deadline	jeansafir@att.net	Safir, 524-9088
12	Mon.	2 - 4 pm	Education Committee	LWVBAE Office	Lynch, 527-2173
12	Mon.	7:30 pm	Environmental Concerns	1340 Arch St. (Bansner)	Stone, 549-0959
15	Thurs.	Noon	Speaker Series	Albany Public Library,	B. Nelson, 644-1237
22	Thurs.	7:30 pm	Action Committee	1419 Grant (Watts)	Safir, 524-9088
27	Tues.	Noon	ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON	K. Nelson & Ganong,	843-8824
			Doubletree Hotel, Berkeley Marina		

May

27 Thurs. 5 - 8 pm LWVBAE Annual Meeting Northbrae Community Church
Brubeck, 526-5139

June


12-15 Sat. - Tuesday National LWV Convention Washington, D.C. Bickel, 526-4055

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



April 2004

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip and mail this information to us with your check for 

annual dues made out to: \$55

LWVBAE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Joining the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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