

President: Nancy Bickel

September, 2002

Editor: Jean Safir

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Berkeley Public Library - 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck)

5:30 Social: Gathering with friends and welcoming guests

6:00 League Opportunities: The variety of ways you can become involved in the League this year

6:15 Speaker: Benjamin Highton, Professor of Political Science, UC Davis
Topic: Who Votes and Why

7:00 Supper and Social: \$15 - pay at door or send to office, but
reserve before September 15: 843-8824.

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Dr. Highton has done extensive research, teaching and writing about voter turn-out, including the effects of easy registration on voter turn-out and the voting patterns of minority citizens. Come prepared to learn more about the changing political behavior of our increasingly mobile and diverse society, and be prepared to ask questions.

In place of the usual business meeting, we will hear about League projects for the November election and other volunteer opportunities, such as the update of the LWVUS position on the election of the president and the LWVC study of community colleges. You are invited to do as little as serving coffee at a meeting or as much as chairing a major project. There will be tables where you can sign up for those activities that interest you.

SUMMARY OF RECENT LWVBAE BOARD MEETINGS

At its July 10 Board Training and Goal Setting meeting, the Board

- discussed "Total Board Responsibility" concept;
- reviewed the LWV Non-Partisanship Policy;
- updated the organization chart and jobs to be filled;
- edited a proposed schedule of events for the year;
- evaluated how successfully we met our goals for last year; and
- decided on 5 goals for 2002/03.

At its July 24 Special Meeting, the Board

- re-adopted the Non-Partisanship Policy as amended;
- voted to oppose the Berkeley height initiative;
- voted to support the proposed increase in Berkeley's property transfer tax for housing;
- re-adopted the Guidelines for Joining a Coalition; and
- voted to appoint *Jinky Gardner* to the Board as Membership Chair.

At its August 7 Meeting, the Board

- reviewed the proposed schedule of activities for the year;
- discussed plans for voter services for the Nov. election;
- discussed status of our advocacy on 2 Berkeley ballot measures;
- voted to take no position on the Alameda County ballot measure on the Chief Probation Officer; and
- heard reports on other League activities.

- *Ginette Polak*, Secretary

Know Your Bay Area League Day

The annual "Know Your Bay Area League" day will focus on **housing issues** this year. It will include speakers from local Leagues about some of the controversial housing issues in their communities and how Leagues have been helping to resolve these controversies. With a number of housing-related ballot measures facing us in both local and state elections in November, this meeting will be very timely.

Date: Saturday, September 28

Place: Palo Alto, the Unitarian Universalist Church (East Charleston Road, one block west of Middlefield intersection).

Title: **Housing: Successes, Setbacks, and Challenges**

Time: 9:30 a - 12:30 p.

Cost: \$10 per person (to cover cost of facilities and printed material)

Call the LWVBAE office (843-8824) before Friday, September 20, to register or call Jean to find out more about the agenda and speakers. We will plan to car-pool, so let us know if you can drive and how many you can take. Coffee and goodies will be served when you get there.

- *Jean Safir*, housing action chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

T.D. Dungan

Lissa Franklin

Queen Graham

Page Bynyn Griffin

Ali R. Kashani

Catherine C. Lynch

Winfred McLeod

Sheldon Margen

Merrilie Mitchell

Inge Schuman

Mary Sylvia

Peter Todd

Elizabeth F. Warrick

Elizabeth Wolgast

Cynthia Wooten

- *Ginette Polak*

ELECTION SERVICE NEEDS YOU

Why did you join the League? To support us or be one of us?

We need you to pledge some of your time to make League election work actually happen.

The "League" isn't other people; it's every one of us. Our traditional League work just won't get done for this November's election — unless you give some of your time, your energy, your brains.

If you can give five hours or less, these jobs can get done.

- **Pro-&-Con Speaker on Ballot Measures:**
 in 5 hours you can help 10-30 other people become informed voters
 2 hours at the pro-&-con training meeting;
 1.5 hours read materials & prepare brief notes on a few key measures
 1.5 hours to go with an experienced League partner to speak to a group and hand out State & Local Pros & Cons, Easy Reading Voter Guides, & Smart Voter bookmarks.
 ...groups will be so glad you came that you might want to do it again...
- **Candidate Debate Moderator, Timer, Question Reviewer, Helper:**
 In 2 hours, you can help 20-150 citizens become informed voters.
 If it's a televised debate, you help inform hundreds of voters.
 0.5 hour briefing before meeting
 . 1.5 to 3.0 hours running the debate

- **Voter Registration Form Distributor or Team Member:**

In 1 hour every two weeks, you could refill some of the 20 boxes we fill for the Registrar at public locations & help hundreds of people register to vote.

- **Election Publication Distribution Team Member:**

In 1-5 hours during October, you and a partner could drive and drop off Pros & Cons and other election information at public locations and to requesting groups. We've asked more than 500 groups whether they want our publications...if even 100 respond, we'll need your help.

- **Smart Voter Assistant—can you phone from home for 2 hours?**
- **Help with a mailing for 2 hours?**
- **Our Smart Voter website manager Mary Lou Breiman needs helpers to:**

get out a mailing to local candidates and then to phone candidates for local offices and make sure they put their information on our website

If you can give 10 or 20 or 30 hours over a two-month period in September and October, a world of opportunities awaits you — on your own or with a partner or team:

- Schedule Pro-&-Con Speakers
- Coordinate Distribution of Publications
- Schedule and coordinate one or more candidates debates

Please call *Phoebe Watts* at 525-6614 or phoebewatts@cs.com and help fulfill the League's mission to encourage informed voting by all.

- *Phoebe Watts*, election services v.p.

OUTLET FOR ANXIETY —SMART VOTER—

Some perfectly delightful opportunities are coming up this Fall. As the snake oil salesmen of yore used to say: "Are you tired? Are you anxious? Are you frustrated? I have the answer for you, my friends!" Read on.

The LWV has a website called "Smart Voter" that lists all the state, county, and local races in California. Candidates are invited by letter to say what they have to say within a loose framework on this website. The voters are then able to see what the competing candidates have to say — all in one place. Even if they didn't know anything about the candidates before, they can find out now!

I am the local volunteer coordinator for this website (Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville races) and have found the various facets of this work/play a great antidote for my malaise (derived from disgust over how few people are participating in our democracy and how many are ignorant about how the results happen!).

This year, **LWVBAE is going to make a big push to publicize our website** and form relationships with candidates and their teams, media, and the potential voters. Registrars of Voters and people who have run before already know and love us! We've been saving them money and putting their message out for years!

So if you are any of the following:

- A person who likes to read one or more local papers and will notify us of newspaper articles relevant to the upcoming races;
- A person who likes to talk to interesting, friendly, new people (the candidates);
- A person who likes to do publicity (taking posters to businesses for display and/or being the liaison with radio and TV stations);

- A person who likes to attend and/or speak at candidate forums or other meetings (we have a 6-minute video on Smart Voter that can be shown at meetings on a VCR and a venue for you to speak); or
- A person who likes using computers, e-mail, and internet and would like to learn more about how to publicize our site via computer.

THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES varying from 5 minutes to several hours for the election season. Doing SOMETHING will do wonders for your sense of control, anxiety or frustration. And for a lazybones like me, it makes getting up early interesting so that I can see what the recipients of my communications have sent back. We need every one of you who feels a need to DO SOMETHING! Whatever your schedule, you can contribute.

We'll **get together in September** and have a "back room" party to put our act together. And to the three newer members who showed interest several months ago, I'll call you if you don't call me. It's all about good things, folks!

- *Mary Lou Breiman*, Smart Voter chair
510/528-3340 or e-mail
marylou@stat.berkeley.edu

AFTERNOON NIBBLES Welcome meeting for our new members Food For the Stomach And the Head

Come and meet local League leaders and find out how you can make a difference on current political issues.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 3-5 p.m. at President Nancy Bickel's house, 1033 Colusa

Old members who want to become more active are heartily invited as well.

- *Jinkiy Gardner*, membership co-chair

MEMBER SERVICES WORKSHOP**New National League President**

LWV of California (LWVC) has scheduled a day of workshops to help members taking on new League jobs, considering doing so, or wanting fresh energy to keep on doing what they enjoy. They have a crew of members to conduct the workshops, people with a wealth of knowledge who can help new and long time members know more about League and how to get more involved.

The workshop leaders are former local board members, local presidents, state board members and former and current state presidents. We are very excited about this project and look forward to meeting and working with members who want to participate.

DATE: September 14, 2002, 9:30am-3:00 pm

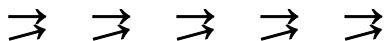
PLACE: USC School of Policy & Planning
1800 "I" Street, Sacramento

TOPICS: How to do a Study
Membership: "Attract, Involve, Retain"
How to Lead a Community Forum
League Management

COST: \$ 15, includes lunch; \$ 5 without lunch.

If you have further questions, please contact me. Please plan to come — e-mail or phone the office to let us know (843-8824 or lwvbae@pacbell.net.) We can do car-pools.

- *Nancy Bickel*, president



Maxwell, who is a vice president at the International Executive Service Corps, an international economic development non-profit, urged convention delegates to think beyond our own borders and help involve the League in developing democracies.

"I firmly believe that the League should continue to be a player on the international stage. Spreading the message of the League and the positive impact it can have on citizens trying to secure democracy has a tremendous impact on the world. It is in the interest of the League in the U.S. to build strong citizen organizations around the world. We cannot live in isolation," said Maxwell.

In addition to her volunteer work with the League, Maxwell was honored as the first annual Connecticut "Citizen of the Year" award winner in 1993. Maxwell also serves on the boards of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, the Connecticut Public Affairs Network and Planned Parenthood of Connecticut Public Policy Fund.

League's Grassroots Members Choose *Kay Maxwell* to Head National Organization

The League of Women Voters (LWVUS) concluded its 45th Biennial Convention in June in Miami, Florida, by electing a new national president. *Kay J. Maxwell* of Greenwich, Connecticut was elected unanimously by the state and local delegates gathered at Miami Beach's Fontainebleau Hilton. Elected to serve a two-year term, she will be the national organization's 16th president.

In her acceptance speech, Maxwell thanked members for entrusting her with the leadership of this storied organization. "I am honored and energized to lead the League, which for 82 years has been a voice for citizens and a force for change," Maxwell remarked. "We all know that a democracy isn't something that runs itself. ... It's up to citizens to make it work. And it is up to the League of Women Voters to provide citizens with the information and tools they need to become involved and make a difference."

A League member since 1976, Maxwell ascended to the presidency of the Connecticut League in 1989, and served in this capacity until 1993. She also served as first vice-president on the LWVUS national board in 1998, as the national organization's Budget Committee chair and as a Lobby Corps member on Capitol Hill.

LWVUS Convention Report

Held in Miami Beach, Florida, June 14-18

The convention had a total of 634 delegates, including national board members, from 412 Leagues, from all 50 states and the Virgin Islands. The delegate body was much more diverse than the last National convention I had anticipated. While still predominately white older women, there were a number of men, some quite young women and men, and more ethnic diversity than I had seen before.

The major work of the convention was to adopt a program and budget, and to elect officers and other board members for the next 2 years.

Controversial matters included:

- proposed amendments to the international trade position, arrived at through member concurrence via the National Voter (never done that way before); extensive discussion was followed by a vote to confirm the new position as adopted.
- raising the per-member-payment ("PMP," the dues to LWVUS) by \$2.00 permanently and by an additional \$1.35 for 1 year to fund the proposed update of the position on the election of the US president; the study was approved, and so was the increase in PMP.

The current LWVUS position on election of the president, last updated in 1982, calls for direct election, without going through the electoral college, and it was generally felt that there was not adequate member understanding to go forward with action on this position without revisiting the study.

The proposed increase in PMP lead to extensive debate, raising such concerns as the fact that the proposal was announced so late that local Leagues had mostly concluded their annual meetings, so the increase would have to be covered by already tight budgets. Many of those attending the convention were from Leagues on better financial footing; less well-off Leagues were not well represented and were

not able to vote on the proposed increase.

Other proposed studies included re-apportionment (redistricting following the completion of the national census), energy, drug policy and proportional representation. Proposals were also made to revive the Equal Rights Amendment.

Prior to the convention, rumors of a challenge to the nominating committee's slate for officers and board members abounded, but they proved baseless, and the slate was approved by acclamation. The program and budget were adopted as proposed, with the addition of the non-recommended item of a study of re-apportionment to be done if adequate funding can be found during 2003-4.

Major problems for the national league are reflections of the problems our local league is facing, regarding membership — not enough active new members to replace the aging membership — which leads to budget problems and problems with how to conduct League studies using study committees and the consensus process. How to do all the things the League says it wants to do with very limited funds. Loss of income and principal due to changes in the stock market were cited as the reason for much of the problem, causing foundations to cut back on funding new projects and to decrease the amount they are giving to continuing projects.

Because of the fear of a challenge to the nominated slate of officers and board, said slate was very visible at this convention, and the opportunity to ask questions and get to know them was much greater than at previous conventions. It also helped to have the chairman of the nominating committee be Jean Matusuura, former president of the Bay Area League, and Rosie Stephens, who was on the California state board,, as members of the committee, in addition to members of the slate being from California: Xandra Kayden and Jan Hirohama, both from Southern CA Leagues.

- *Eloise Bodine*, program v.p.

Take Action

Is Pro-&-Con too tame for you? Do you want to get out there and fight for League causes?

Then join our action team to persuade voters to support these approved positions:

- Vote **No** on the Berkeley Height Initiative
- Vote **Yes** on the Berkeley Affordable Housing Transfer Tax measure.
- Vote **Yes** on the statewide Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act.
- Vote **Yes** on the statewide Election Day Voter Registration Act.
- Vote **No** on the statewide Racial Privacy Initiative.
- Vote **No** on the statewide After School Education and Safety Program Act.
- Vote **No** on the statewide Traffic Congestion Relief and Safe School Bus Act.

Pick one of these:

- Preparation: Read the League material on one or two of these issues on the LWVBAE website <http://home.pacbell.net/lwvbae> or pick up information at our office.
- Write a letter to the editor of one or several local newspapers explaining the League position and urging voters to support our position.
- Send it by e-mail, fax or snail mail to the papers and send a copy to Lois Brubeck.
- Speak for the League to interested groups. Pair up with another League speaker to present our views -- or the Pros and Cons -- to community groups through the Speakers Bureau, and enjoy the lively discussions that follow.

To find out more about how you can help keep the League an active, influential organization, please get in touch with *Lois Brubeck* at 526-5139 or via email at lbru94708@aol.com.

SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, October 10, noon to 2 pm
Albany library, Edith Stone Room
Speakers: School Board members

The October 10 Speaker Series will present speakers on public school finance. A school board member from each of our communities — Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville — will join in the presentation. This will be followed by an audience question-and-answer period.

This first meeting of the season will be at the Albany library from 12 noon until 1:30 or 2 pm in the Edith Stone Room. The library is at 1247 Marin Avenue, corner of Masonic; and the Edith Stone Room is in the rear of the library, facing the parking lot. Bring lunch if you'd like; the League will provide juice.

- *Evelyn Light*, committee member

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Pros & Cons Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 10-12, at the
Berkeley Main Library, Kittredge & Shattuck

Start the October countdown to the November 5 general election right by being the first on your block to understand the pros & cons of the November ballot propositions.

And enjoy the opportunity of visiting the wonderful downtown Berkeley library to listen to and discuss with knowledgeable League people the significant state, regional, county and local measures to be on the ballot.

Better still, bring your friends and neighbors along with your questions.

- *Eloise Bodine*, program v.p.

IT'S OFFICIAL! THE NEW VISTA COLLEGE IS ABOUT TO RISE

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of the new Vista Community College campus will be held on October 23, 2002, so **SAVE THE DATE**. Plans for celebrating and the kickoff for the new Friends of Vista College foundation are still jelling as we go to press. More details will be available at our Fall Meeting, September 19.

But don't hold your breath. Completion is expected in 2004 and full occupancy is slated for Fall, 2006. In the meantime, keep an eye on Proposition 47, the education construction bond measure on the November 2002 ballot. Our local Measure E bond, passed by Peralta voters in November, 2000, will pay for the building itself, but if, and only if, voters statewide approve Proposition 47 this November is Vista expected to receive the \$28.5 million needed from the state to equip the new building.

- *Helene Lecar*, study chair

Statewide Community College System Study Comes to Consensus This Fall

The research phase of our new state study is now finishing up. Watch this space in October for the straight scoop on our most populous, most affordable system of higher education.

Units will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 10-12, in Berkeley's beautiful new library conference room, and again, two weeks later, on Tuesday, December 3.

- *Helene Lecar*, study chair

A Sad Note

Longtime LWW members will be saddened to hear that *Mary Lee Jefferds* and *Maxine Zugg* have passed away.

Mary Lee observed the East Bay Regional Park Board for the League for decades, and *Maxine* worked on state legislative issues for our League for many years until recently.

Join Us: Register First-time Student Voters

In the last elections, volunteers -- League members, parents, city officials, student leaders -- registered high school students at the beginning of the school term in time for them to vote in the November election. Again, we plan to beat the October 23 registration deadline in time for them to cast their first votes in the November 5 election.

After they are registered, we will be active in informing the students, distributing our Pros and Cons which we hope they will study and discuss in their classes and take home to discuss with their parents.

As well, we ask your help in registering younger students for the Mock Election, a nationwide effort, to be held on November 1. It gives interested students, even those in the middle schools, the opportunity to register, study the issues, and vote a week earlier on a similar ballot of actual candidates and issues. The ballot results are tallied nationally and well publicized.

Yes, volunteers are essential to this project, but we cannot tell you the specific times and places until school starts and we can work out a schedule with the school people. **BUT IF YOU CAN HELP FOR AN HOUR OR TWO, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME NOW WITH *Karen Carlson-Olson*, co-chair of the Education Committee: Tel: 524-7004.**

- *Ann Wallach* and *Winnie McLaughlin*,
education committee members

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee meets monthly throughout the year. Come to the first meeting of the new school year and learn about the broad range of concerns in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville.

We will meet Tuesday, August 20, from 4:00 to 6:00 at 2310 Ward Street in Berkeley. If you are interested in our schools, come and meet with the regular committee members. For further information, call *Karen Carlson-Olson*, co-chair, at 524-7004.

- *Anne Wallach*, education committee member

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Monday, September 9, 7:15 p.m.

1340 Arch Street, Berkeley

2002 threatens to be another bad wildfire year and communities which border on wildlands, like Berkeley, will again be at risk. The Environmental Concerns Committee will start its fall program with a meeting dedicated to learning about **wildfire risks**, what is being done to reduce them, and what property owners can do to improve chances to make it past the fire next time.

Our September speaker will be Kenneth Blonski, Fire Mitigation Advisor of the UC Forest Products Laboratory. Ken has had a distinguished fire management career with the United States Forest Service and was principal organizer of last year's conference commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 1991 fire. He is co-chair of the Diablo Fire Safe Council, an organization of stakeholders in wildfire control in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. He is now organizing a conference for September 21, 2002, aimed at empowering neighborhood organizations concerned about fire safety.

- *Gilbert Bendix*, committee member

DONATIONS (through 7/31)

to General Fund

<i>Patricia Kates</i>	<i>Meredith Stout</i>
<i>Patricia Kuhl</i>	<i>Helen Wachs</i>
<i>Marie Lagarde</i>	<i>Paul Warner</i>
<i>Charlotte & Martin Lichterman</i>	
<i>Marion Luten</i>	

to LWVB Foundation

*Phyllis Clement **
Louise Rasmussen

- *Evelyn Light*

League Joins Coalitions on Two Ballot Measures

After an extensive study, the LWVBAE updated and adopted very clear positions on housing in 2000, thereby affirming its commitment to work toward expanding our communities' housing stock to provide for the needs of low-and-moderate income households.

Two measures on the 2002 Berkeley ballot clearly called for our action under these positions. One is the "Berkeley Height Initiative," which runs counter to our adopted positions, and which, therefore, the League is opposing. The other measure, which the League is supporting, is an increase in the real property transfer tax, which would help relieve the serious need for safe and affordable housing, and which we are therefore supporting.

The League has joined citywide coalitions working on both of these measures. See the October VOTER for more details on these and other ballot measures.

- *Lois Brubeck*, action v.p.

LEAGUE UNITS

Units are the meetings where we discuss items for study and action in order to come to consensus. This League year we are planning to have a single unit, usually on the first Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Tell us other times that you prefer and we will try to schedule units for those times also.

Discussion Leader Training

We need more people who understand and are able to lead discussions leading to consensus. Let us know if you are interested in being trained.

- *Eloise Bodine*, program v.p. 845-0974

*In Memory of *Lauriel Anderson*

CALENDAR

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

Printed On Recycled Paper

September

4	Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	Bickel, 526-4055
6	Fri.	12p	Deadline for October VOTER	LWVBAE office	Safir, 524-9088
8	Sun.	10a-5p	Solano Stroll	Solano Avenue	K. Nelson, 525-1673
9	Mon.	7:15p	Environmental Concerns	1340 Arch St. (Bansner)	Stone, 549-0959
17	Tue.	4-6p	Education Committee	Check with Karen	K. Carlson-Olson, 524-7004
19	Thurs.	5:30-8p	FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Who Votes & Why		Bodine, 845-0974
			Berkeley Public Library, Kittredge St. at Shattuck Ave.		
25	Wed.	7:30p	Action Committee	1129 Neilson St.(Safir)	Brubeck, 526-5139
28	Sat.	9:30a-12:30p	Know Your Bay Area League Day: Housing		Safir, 524-9088
			Unitarian Universalist Church, East Charleston Rd, Palo Alto		
29	Sun.	3-5p	Welcome New Members	1033 Colusa (Bickel)	Gardner, 548-5292

October

1	Tue.	10a-12p	Pros & Cons Meeting	Berkeley Main Library	Bodine, 845-0974
2	Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	Bickel, 526-4055
4	Fri.	12p	Deadline for November VOTER	LWVBAE office	Safir, 524-9088
10	Thurs.	12-2p	Speaker Series: Public School Finance		Mendell, 526-1588
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Edith Stone Room		
14	Mon.	7:15p	Environmental Concerns	1340 Arch St. (Bansner)	Stone, 549-0959
15	Tue.	4-6p	Education Committee	Check with Karen	K. Carlson-Olson, 524-7004
17	Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	1129 Neilson St.(Safir)	Brubeck, 526-5139



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 \$50 annual dues made out to:

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
1414 University Ave., Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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