



President: Nancy Bickel

Summer, 2002

Editor: Jean Safir

JUVENILE JUSTICE FORUM A GREAT SUCCESS

On April 30, the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Alameda County Leagues, jointly chaired by *Lois Brubeck* and *Iris Winogrand* of Oakland, sponsored a highly successful forum on how to meet the needs of youth and families in our juvenile justice system. With sponsorship by the LWVC Education Fund and a grant from the Hewlett Foundation, we were able to bring together three youths, four parents and grandparents, and 14 professionals. Those young people who had been saved by getting into a substance abuse program made impassioned pleas on behalf of the many who hadn't gotten into the few available slots and faced a future of incarceration and hopelessness. They also bemoaned the fact that most youth had to wait until they had committed a crime before they could get help. For some, their probation officers or other caring adults had been the key to their turn-around. Many youth are the third generation substance abusers. Parents pled for education on child rearing; they regretted the lack of family communication and the difficulty of getting help or information on how the justice system works.

Professionals, including an assistant district attorney, a public defender, law enforcement officers, a school administrator, service providers from community based organizations and mental health workers from Juvenile Hall, all agreed that we need more services and good staff, and this means more money. Closely following the intractable problem of funds was the difficulty of reaching those parents who are in denial. They seconded the call for parental education, so that parents could recognize developmental problems early and insist on testing for their children as soon as they fall behind in school. Some recommended attendance review boards (truancy control) starting in the early grades. They want more mentoring and after

school programs and more mental health care. Some proposed a regional center for at-risk kids. Children need thorough assessments when they come before the court, so that they can get the most appropriate placement. Once in the system, the youths need to have quick transfer of records between school and Juvenile Hall, so they won't fall farther behind. Young people leaving the system need mentors and follow-up services. Finally, the professionals wanted more opportunities to share information and discuss programs and resources.

—*Lois Brubeck*, Study Chair

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DONATIONS — 4/1/02 - 5/28/02To the General Fund

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Heidi Gillies</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Jane Coulter</i>	<i>Barbara Oliver</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Susan Pownall</i>

To a Tribute Fund "In Memory of Virginia Laurence"

<i>Phyllis & Eli Clement</i>	<i>Ginette Polak</i>
<i>Louetta Erlin</i>	<i>Janet Strothman</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Ruthann & Clyde Taylor</i>
<i>Allie Norton</i>	<i>Lenora Young</i>

To the LWVB Foundation

<i>Ann-Marie Hogan</i>	<i>Lila R. Mitchell</i>
<i>Alice Mead</i>	Alliance First Unitarian Church - for Voter Service

BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

- New Board Policies on office files and office keys were adopted.
- Regarding the LWVUS Concurrence on International Trade, we direct our delegates to the National Convention to state that we consider the process for this concurrence to be flawed, that there is not sufficient member understanding of the issue, and that we do not advise a new study of the subject.

- *Ginette Polak*, Acting Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all of you for the honor and the pleasure of serving as your President this year. As I expected, League people continue to be well-informed, hard working and a pleasure to work with.

During the past year, the League continued to excel in so many activities, as the "Year-End Wrap-up" — starting on page 3 — clearly shows. I won't repeat all that is said there, but will simply touch on a few items not covered.

I hope you've noticed and like the VOTER's new look. LWVC has just awarded our VOTER an honorable mention as one of the state's outstanding newsletters. *Jean Safir*, our editor, welcomes your comments and suggestions. The

new masthead was drawn, like the previous one, by *Kristina Lim*. (She's not only generous, and gifted, but modest; you can't really read the signature we

asked her to include in the drawing.)

Now I come my most important topic — ELECTIONS. And to make our election work successful, we will need your help. Elections with a good turnout of well-informed voters is at the heart of the League.

Our efforts for the primary election, led by *Phoebe Watts*, Elections Services VP, were a practice effort for the much bigger fall election. We plan to greatly expand our work for the fall election by taking advantage of the new contacts with individuals and organizations we have made this year. We will do active outreach to many more community organizations inviting them to work with us to provide election information to their members or their areas. We will particularly seek out organizations in South and West Berkeley and in Albany and Emeryville, and organizations serving new Americans and foreign language speakers. The State League now provides excellent election materials in several languages.

The internet will be more important in all future elections and we'll use it more. We'll have more information for voters on our local and State web sites, and we'll publicize the excellent Smart Voter and League web sites more widely and persistently. All this will be made possible with the support of *Bill Chapman*, our web-master, and *Mary Lou Breiman*, our Smart Voter coordinator.

But more effective election services will only be possible if each of you will help. You, our members, are our most important resource. November will be a big election locally, as well as state-wide and nationally, with races for mayors, city council seats, school board members, and more. There are likely to be some very controversial local ballot measures as well as State measures. If you like to write or want to learn to work on elections, please speak to *Phoebe Watts*. We need writers, public speakers, editors, people willing to drive around to deliver ballot information and much more. Don't worry if you have never done any of this before; if you're willing, we'll train you.

We've noticed that League members in large numbers are very willing to turn out to staff the

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ASUC election. But many fewer volunteer for or attend our other activities.

What accounts for this difference?

We need the same kind of enthusiastic participation for the fall election as you give to the ASUC. The ASUC election is an important fundraiser, as well as a community service, but it is not a core activity for the League, as our general elections are.

How can we shape and organize our election services and other activities so that you will find them appealing and WANT TO participate? We have some ideas, but we need to hear from you. You can give us your advice and observations by phone, by letter, by e-mail, or whatever works.

We'd like to hear particularly from new and newly active members. How can we help you to learn the League ropes and find League activities that you will find rewarding?

- Nancy Bickel, President

YEAR-END WRAP-UP

LWVB FOUNDATION

For the year ending June 30,2002, the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation board members have been: *Wilma Jordan*, President; *Pat Kuhi*, Vice President; *Pat Wadleigh*, Secretary; *Sarah Miyazaki*, Treasurer; *Eloise Bodine*, Special Projects, and *Nancy Bickel*, LWVBAE Representative.

The Foundation has provided substantial contributions to the work of the LWVBAE by paying part of the rent, part of the per member payments to the California and national Leagues, and support for educational materials such as the VOTER, Pros and Cons, the Housing Report and special projects, including the ongoing oral history interviews and the Community Conversation on Racism.

We spent just over \$7,300 in Foundation grants this past year. Nearly \$4,000 came from individual donors who knew that their contributions would be tax deductible because the Foundation is a qualifying organization. Some very welcome dollars came in the form of a US Treasury check that a couple turned over to us in 2001 via the special income tax rebate program. Quite a bit of the rest was withdrawn from our investment portfolio. We own three mutual funds

and are at liberty to draw on both earnings and principal. Union Bank of California and American Century keep the funds secure.

⇒ Sarah Miyazaki, Treasurer

ACTION

With extensive planning and collaboration with other community groups, principally the City of Berkeley's Young Adult Project and the Berkeley Alliance, and with the leadership of *Marissa Saunders*, the League sponsored the "Community Conversation on Confronting Racism: Finding Common Ground For Building a Stronger Community." About 100 people attended that meeting and, in response to requests for a follow-up meeting, we held a reunion in March.

A full report of the first meeting was published and distributed to attendees, city officials and the press. (It is also available on our web site.) Many of those at the reunion agreed to join in working on specific issues, such as housing and education. The Community Conversation enabled us to work with the community in new ways, form new partnerships, and reach out to diversify our membership.

The Education Action committee, chaired by *Anne Wallach*, continued to monitor the schools, writing letters when appropriate, most recently urging that the community be informed as to the reading performance of 4th graders, so that none are allowed to fall through the cracks. *Karen Carlson-Olson*, the new co-chair of the Education committee, was a prime organizer of an Albany forum on school finance in February. Kevin Gordon of the California Association of School Business Officials spoke on educational finance, and drew a lot of questions from the audience of 150. The second half of the program was a debate among the three candidates for the 14th Assembly seat in the Democratic party primary election..

The Housing Action committee, led by *Jean Safir*, did a lot of advocacy work on housing issues. Following the publication of our final report on the two-year study, "Housing Policy and Progress," we

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wrote letters to the City Councils of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville and to the newspapers on the need to provide affordable housing for a diverse community, as well as letters on specific housing proposals. With recruits from the Racism forum joining League members, *Jean* started holding a series of meetings on how to become more effective in urging our communities to do more to meet the housing needs of low- and moderate- income residents. Participants in these meetings included *Nancy Bickel, Lois Brubeck, Marianne Graham, Mim Hawley, Ann-Marie Hogan, Fran Packard, Sherry Smith, Lenora Young* and *Kriss Worthington*.

On the election/voting front, we followed Berkeley's redistricting efforts and continued to answer LWVUS's calls to action, contributing our efforts to the passage of the Campaign Finance Reform bill this spring. In addition, we urged citizen support for LWVC-endorsed measures on the March ballot. Regular attendees at the monthly Action Committee meetings included *Nancy Bickel, Karen Carlson-Olson, Ann Crowe, Helene Lecar, Doris Maslach, Jean Safir, Carrie Sprague* and *Lenora Young*. Thanks to all!

- *Lois Brubeck*, Action VP

ADMINISTRATION

It would not be possible to operate the League activities without the help of our Office Volunteers. Their time and effort are greatly appreciated. The following League members have served as Office Volunteers this year: *Diane Akers, Eva Brecher, Eleanor Cox, Peggy Anne Davis, Louetta Erlin, Vi Feinauer, Louise Larson, Virginia Laurence, Evelyn Light, Marion Luten, Barbara Nelson, Allie Norton* and *Marj Rubinow*, in addition to Board members *Jane Barrett, Lois Brubeck, Helene Lecar, Karen Nelson, Ginette Polak, Jean Safir, Sherry Smith, Mary Wainwright* and *Phoebe Watts*. *Emma Lue Kopp*, who has been faithfully coming in even after she moved to Alameda, has decided she cannot continue and she will be missed.

Our new web site, which helps to keep the membership and the community at large informed about League activities, is the work of *Bill Chapman*.

Many thanks to *Bill* for all of his work on the web and other computer-related tasks. *Bill* selected, purchased and installed the new computer at the League Office, and helped train our Office Manager,

Karen Carlson-Olson, and our membership data person, *Nina Olson*, on its use. His training of Board Members is an ongoing process. *Bill* has agreed also to help develop a membership database to help in determining members' strengths and areas of interest. The computer has become a vital part of League activities.

A very special thank you to the volunteers who help to edit and assemble the VOTER and get it ready to mail each month. Those volunteers are: *Eleanor Cox, Evelyn Light, Ruth Maguire, Barbara Nelson, Allie Norton, Marj Rubinow, Janet Strothman* and *Virginia Laurence*. *Virginia* had helped regularly for a number of years and is missed by all.

- *Ruthann Taylor*, Administration VP

ELECTION SERVICES

Election services by LWVBAE go on year-round, every year, in the person of *Allie Norton*, who distributes voter registration materials to libraries and other public locations, under an agreement between the League and the Alameda County Registrar of Voters.

The City of Albany voted in fall, 2001, on a charter amendment concerning the way their police chief is chosen. We sponsored three pro-and-con meetings for voters to hear the issues.

The November, 2002, General Election will present many challenges, as we —

- give candidates' forums for local elections;
- write Pros and Cons for local propositions;
- prepare to speak on State and local ballot measures

And there will be more, so please join us!

March 2002 Primary Election

Before the March, 2002, primary election, we distributed 5,000 copies of the State Pros & Cons in English and approximately 1,000 in Spanish. We also ordered 4,000 Easy Reading Voter Guides in English, Spanish and Chinese, from the State

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League and 1,200 copies in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian.

We filled 15 speaking engagements, with six speakers. *Eloise Bodine* was in charge of the Speakers Bureau, and *Nancy Bickel* and *Fran Packard* did the speakers' training.

Meetings

We also co-sponsored two candidates' meetings in Oakland. They were the candidates for Superior Court Judge, and the candidates for Congressional District 9 and Assembly District 14. LWV Oakland made the arrangements, and our members attended and helped out. Videotapes of these meetings were shown on Berkeley Community Media four times.

LWVBAE bought a copy of a video about Measure K (East Bay Regional Park District's parcel tax) for Berkeley Community Media, which cablecast it four times.

- *Phoebe Watts*, Voter Service VP

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the Outreach and Development team is to foster growth in local membership, develop new strategies to disseminate information about the League, and enhance its fund-raising to support League activities.

Membership

The Membership team stayed busy all year welcoming new members to the League and keeping the ever-changing membership records accurate. We added 49 new members, but suffered many unfortunate losses of members who moved or passed away. Still, the net result was a slight increase in our numbers. *Winnie McLaughlin*, *Evelyn Light*, *Carol Voisin*, and Chair *Ginette Polak* phoned new and prospective members to encourage their participation in League activities and planned two special orientation gatherings for them. *Nancy Bickel*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Helene Lecar*, *Jean Safir*, *Sherry Smith*, *Mary Wainwright*, and *Phoebe Watts* were especially helpful in attracting new members and explaining League activities to them.

Mina Jenner meticulously sent notices to members to renew their dues and alerted the Board to changes in the membership list each month. *Nina Olson* updated the membership database, coordinated our records with those at LWVUS, and

produced mailing labels and revised lists of members.

3rd Annual Community Luncheon

The Third Annual Community Luncheon on August 24, 2001 brought 170 League members and guests together for a successful community event at Hs. Lordship's in the Berkeley Marina. State Senator Jackie Speier, a lively speaker and outstanding legislator, encouraged women to run for public office. In her address on "California Prospects," the Senator urged the League to focus on fewer goals and "take off the white gloves" — to speak out and act energetically on our major issues.

This fund-raising event netted a profit of \$7,000 for LWVBAE. Photos of the event are in a white binder in the office on the Volunteers desk. Chair *Joyce Jackson*, *Ruth Ganong*, *Karen Nelson*, *Jo Ann Price*, *Sherry Smith*, *Beth Springston* and *Mary Wainwright* comprised the committee, and others were helpful in many ways.

ASUC Election Oversight

More than 100 volunteers from BAE and Piedmont Leagues contributed over 600 hours to monitoring the ASUC election. In addition, ASUC Manager *Jane Coulter* had the help of *Evelyn Light*, *Sherry Smith* and *Tom Coulter*, who spent hundreds of hours to plan, set up and confirm schedules, coordinate with ASUC election staff and supervise ballots and ballot counting in the months before and for many weeks after the actual election. Cordial thanks to *Karen Mai* and the 27 other Piedmont League members who worked with the 80 LWVBAE members at the polls. Income was \$10,750, from which we paid LWV Piedmont for their work and covered small expenses.

Vista College Election Oversight

Thanks to *Lois Brubeck*, *Vi Feinauer*, *Helene Lecar*, *Allie Norton*, *Nina Olson*, *Fran Packard*, *Jean Safir*, *Mary Wainwright* and *Phoebe Watts* for helping out at the Vista College student election in May. We got through two days of three shifts each at two locations — running two elections simultaneously: the student trustee seat on the

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Board of Directors of the Peralta College District and the Vista College student body election. About 200 ballots were cast, which was a larger turnout than in the past, due to the two locations, and it netted the League \$800 for our work.

Oral History Project

The Oral History Project, coordinated by *Therese Pipe*, completed in Spring 2001 the *Gilda Halpern Feller* Oral History, conducted by *Eloise Bodine* and *Therese Pipe*. The Oral histories of *Margaret Dumas* and of *Felicia Bock* will be completed by July-August 2002. The oral history of *Beth Schickele*, based on a videotaped interview by *Jane Bergen* and *Carol Stone*, is being transcribed, and another pending oral history is that of *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat*.

Therese would welcome volunteers to help with production, coordination, and the planning of additional interviews with League leaders within the LWVBAE.

"Scrip" Program

Eva Brecher reports that the League's scrip program is meeting expectations for the year, netting the LWVBAE over \$4,500 from both "regular" Scrip and E-Scrip. Some 58 members purchased Andronico's scrip, and 41 people participated in "E-Scrip" and "Scripadvantage." Becoming a purchaser through the various Scrip programs provides cash to the League in a very painless fashion. If you are not already involved with the program and would like more information, contact *Eva Brecher* and she can tell you how easy it can be to benefit the League while making purchases you would make anyway.

We want to acknowledge the contributions of all those who participate in our scrip program, especially *Louetta Erlin*, *Mim Hawley*, *Jo Ann Price*, *Elizabeth Schaaf* and *Ruthann Taylor*.

Conclusion

The work of everyone involved with these programs has been remarkable and benefits the League in so many ways. As *Mary Wainwright*, last year's Development chair, said in her final report, the sense of individual commitment, purpose and dedication of the volunteers makes our

accomplishments possible. It is this spirit that makes the League attractive to members and effective in our communities.

-*Sherry Smith*, Outreach and Development VP

PROGRAM

Annual Membership Meeting May 18

At the annual business meeting, the members approved the Treasurer's report and adopted the proposed program and local support positions recommended by the Board. All current positions were retained with a few exceptions. The new Peralta Community College positions were adopted. Members may consult the Call to Annual Meeting — the yellow insert in the last VOTER — for details.

Elections and housing were again adopted as areas to be emphasized for action and advocacy and community services.

The Nominating Committee's proposed candidates were elected. In addition to those listed in the Call to Annual Meeting, *Eloise Bodine* was elected as Vice President for Program and *Shireen Burns* joined the 2002-2003 Nominating Committee as chair.

In the program planned by *Karen Nelson*, following an excellent lunch arranged by *Louetta Erlin*, we heard a talk by the Chair of the UC Berkeley Academic Senate *David E. Dowall*, who is also Professor of City and Regional Planning. He discussed the forecast growth in UCB enrollment named "Tidal Wave II," which is expected to bring another 4,000 students to the campus over the next ten years. This will have housing and transportation impacts that will affect Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. Solving them will require more cooperation between the cities and the university.

Planners from each of our three cities — *Charlie Bryant*, Emeryville Planning and Building Director, *Dave Dowswell*, Albany Planning Manager, and *Tim Stroshane*, Senior Planner in Berkeley's Planning and Development Department — commented on these consequences in a dialogue with Professor *Dowall*, with each other and with the audience. The need for more such dialogues became obvious to all.

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Environmental Concerns

Gail Schickele arranged another splendid year of programs and speakers, and the monthly gatherings were again hosted by *Eva Bansner* at her lovely home.

- September: Dana Haasz discussed the critical question of California's projected water needs and availability.
- October: The need for energy conservation was addressed by Mike Boots, regional coordinator for FLEX YOUR POWER, a State program that works to educate and assist all users.
- November: Factors that affect water quality in the SF Bay were addressed by Jonathan Kaplan of WaterKeepers Northern California, which patrols the bay, rivers and delta, and keeps tabs on governmental regulators.
- January: Author and geographer Dr. Gray Brechin addressed urban growth and its corresponding environmental degradation in an entertaining and informative slide presentation. Dr. Brechin also addressed the devastating effect the high-speed bullet train proposed between the Bay Area and Southern California cities will have upon the San Joaquin Valley.
- February: Norman LaForce discussed the creation of the East Shore State Park, including some of the battles that took place to protect the bay shore.
- March: Geologist and river specialist Shawn Chartrand addressed watershed restoration and enhancement plans for central coastal California (San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties), focusing on destruction of habitat and protection of threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout populations.
- April 8: Urban Creek Council horticulturist Carole Schemmerling discussed the challenges of urban creek restoration and urban runoff pollution, including citizen efforts to protect and restore creeks in North Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, South El Cerrito and Richmond.

Speaker Series

The Committee — *Evelyn Light, Doris Mendell, Barbara Nelson* and *Janet Strothman* — carried on gallantly after the unexpected death of chair, *Virginia Laurence*, and continued their tradition of presenting a wide variety of topics and excellent speakers. The past year's programs included:

- October: *Helene Lecar*, Study Chair, spoke about the Peralta Community College District Study.
- November: Jan Davis, Director of Band and Orchestra, Longfellow School, spoke and led seven student performers in a delightful performance.
- January: Arnold Chavez, Executive Director, explained the work of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for the Rights of Children in Alameda County.
- February: *James Lindsay*, Technical Advisor to the Center for Voting and Democracy, member of LWVBAE IRV Study Committee, and David Greene, East Bay Chapter Coordinator, Californians for Proportional Representation, discussed Instant Runoff Voting.
- March: *Anne Henderson*, LWVC Legislative Director, discussed the significance of the March primary election results and the prospects for the November Election.
- April: *Toni Tullys*, Executive Director of the Berkeley Alliance, spoke about the Alliance, a non-profit organization created by the City of Berkeley, University of California and Berkeley Unified School District.
- May: Tom Vacar, consumer editor at KTVU, Channel 2, spoke about how to avoid having your identity stolen and related consumer issues. Interested attendees kept Mr. Vacar overtime with questions.

Proposed topics for the fall include K-12 education and the proposed Gilman Street Ferry service to San Francisco.

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

CALENDAR

JULY

10	Wed.	3-7p	Board Retreat [NOTE TIME]	1033 Colusa Ave.	<i>Bickel, 526-4055</i>
15	Mon.	4-6p	Education Committee	Check with Anne	<i>Wallach, 848-6893</i>
18	Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	Check with Lois	<i>Brubeck, 526-5139</i>

AUGUST

7	Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	<i>Bickel, 526-4055</i>
9	Fri.	4 pm	Deadline for September VOTER	LWVBAE Office	<i>Safir, 524-9088</i>
19	Mon.		LWVBAE Office reopens	<i>Taylor, 527-0673</i>	
22	Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	Check with Lois	<i>Brubeck, 526-5139</i>

SEPTEMBER

4	Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	<i>Bickel, 526-4055</i>
8	Sun.	10a-5p	Solano Stroll	Solano Avenue	<i>K. Nelson, 525-1673</i>
9	Mon.	7:15p	Environmental Concerns	1340 Arch St. (<i>Bansner</i>)	<i>Stone, 549-0959</i>
19	Thurs.	5:30p	FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	[More info later]	<i>Bodine, 845-0974</i>

NOTICE TO MEMBERS REGARDING USE OF LWVBAE E-MAIL LIST

We apologize for any inconvenience you might have experienced if you received an e-mail offer to be included in the City of Berkeley's free daily news service. Our office at some point sent out a membership e-mail without making sure that no one could see the e-mail addresses of the other recipients. We now always hide individual e-mail addresses of all other recipients. We do not share our e-mail list or our membership list with other organizations.



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.

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