

President: Nancy Bickel October, 2002 Editor: Jean Safir

# **Election Day – November 5**

In just about a month we will all be voting on the new touch-screen voting machines in Alameda County — no more chads!

This year the League is reaching out in new directions with our election services. We will be distributing our printed materials and voter registration cards at food banks, free meal sites and homeless shelters, in addition to libraries, community centers and other public buildings. And we are investigating ways we can work with "Youthvote," a national campaign to get more 18-to-24 year-olds to register and vote.

League members have written Pro and Con articles about the local ballot measures, in a short format, using a simpler vocabulary than we have used in the past, and these have been put together into a printable document by *Marylyn Coons*. Other members have prepared themselves to speak about the ballot measures to community groups. Candidates' forums have been organized. We've sat at tables at "Destination Telegraph" and at the Solano Stroll. Voter registration materials have been distributed, and many new voters have been registered.

Thank you, thank you to all who have helped so far. Your names will be in the *Voter* after Election Day.

There is still much to be done. Voter registration goes on until October 21. *Pros and Cons* (for both State and local measures) and *Easy Reading Voter Guides* must be distributed; helpers are needed at candidates' meetings; there are phone calls to be made and we need extra staffing at the

In This Issue

- p. 2 Board Briefs Community College Study
- p. 3 Donations
  Juvenile Justice
  California Connected
  Speaker Series
  Environmental Concerns
- p. 4 Calendar

office on Election day and the day before. <u>Please call me if you can help!</u> (525-6614 or 843-8824).

Another way to help is to sign up to be a poll worker. You must attend a training class, and be able to work from 6:30 a.m. until approximately 9:30 p.m. on November 5 — or split a shift with someone you know. For information call the county Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6971 or go to their Web site at: <a href="https://www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/workers.htm">www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/workers.htm</a>

-Phoebe Watts, Election Services vice-president

## **BOARD BRIEFS**

At its September 4th meeting, the Board:

- voted to support the state League's proposal for Directors & Officers insurance;
- voted to send a letter to the Peralta Community College District trustees and chancellor about recruiting foreign students through the Overseas English Institute in Hainan, China;
- discussed plans for League meetings and Election Services:
- reviewed the status of League Action for the November election on local, county, and state ballot measures;
- supported the teaching of citizenship at all grade levels to implement the first goal of the State Master Plan for Education; and
- heard reports on other League activities.

-Ginette Polak, Secretary

# **COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDY**

#### Mark Your Calendars

Our Community College System State Study
Consensus **Units** will take place on Tuesday, **November 19**, and Tuesday, **December 10**, from
10:30 to 12:30 at the Berkeley Main Public Library
Conference room. Also, don't forget to join the
Groundbreaking for the new Vista College building
on Wednesday, **October 23**, in the afternoon at the
new site, 2020 Center Street in Berkeley.

#### **Interviews with Peralta Board of Trustees**

Our Community College Study committee interviewed the Peralta Trustees again this spring and summer. Chancellor Temple also responded.

- 1.A. Q: How did last year's budget cuts affect the Peralta District? A: The District used its large reserve (above the legal requirement) to maintain student services and did not fund vacant faculty positions, saving about \$1.8 million of the \$4 million shortfall. Most of the rest came from a \$3 million payment from CalTrans for the use of a District building.
- 1.B. Q: Peralta has experienced a big growth spurt (15%) over the 3% cap the state pays for. How will the District deal with the unfunded enrollment?
- <u>A</u>: By increasing classroom productivity [bigger classes] and exerting tighter controls on

- expenditures, but this can only serve in the short term. If the District can keep its higher enrollment for 3 years, that larger number becomes the base from which state funding is calculated, and the District will get more money. The real problem will be next year's budget.
- <u>2. Q</u>: Since the state budget shortfall is so big, cuts will have to come somewhere. What cuts would have the least impact on students?
- <u>A</u>: Community colleges should be treated more like the UC and CSU systems, with greater autonomy about how money may be spent. One example: attractive retirement packages for senior faculty would open up positions for younger, less expensive junior faculty.
- <u>3. Q</u>: Peralta has major plans to recruit students from abroad. Do you have current data?
- <u>A</u>: The current percentage of the Peralta student body that comes from out of state is 5.3% They generate 3.6% of the budget revenue and need an estimated 2.04% of services.
- <u>4. Q</u>: What progress has been made in setting up Measure E community advisory committees on each campus?
- <u>A</u>: Many advisory boards already serve specific vocational programs at each of the colleges. Now that all 4 campuses have permanent presidents, advisory committees should be appointed soon.
- <u>5. Q</u>: There has been no report to the community about what the trustees learned in the "Listenings" of 2000, and no "Listenings" were held this past summer. What is required to reactivate community/ District dialog?
- <u>A</u>: A new schedule of "Listenings" will be arranged for the fall semester.
- <u>6. Q</u>: The Board has recently had an all-day meeting on shared governance. What new policies and practices would create a greater sense of involvement among the District's constituencies?
- A: The ultimate responsibility and authority for making District decisions rests with the Board of Trustees. The faculty has responsibility for setting standards with regard to both curriculum content and teacher quality. Faculty committees on budgets and awards now meet on each campus.
  - Helene Lecar, study chair

## **DONATIONS**

#### to General Fund

Jane Bergen Clyde & Ruthann Taylor

Ann Crowe Elsa Tranter
Wilma Jordan Mary Wallman
Ed & Harriet Nathan Carol Weinmann

#### to Tribute Fund

Eloise Bodine\* Evelyn Light \*\*

Mary Brady \* Dirk Neyhart \*\*\*

\* In memory of Emily Fine

\*\* In memory of Maxine Zugg

\*\*\* In memory of *Debby Neyhart* & *Beth Schickele*, and in honor of *Pat Wadleigh* & *Alba Witkin*.

- Evelyn Light

# JUVENILE JUSTICE VIDEO IS AVAILABLE

This video selects the highlights of a 3-hour forum on juvenile justice that was held by the League in April and presents it in just a half hour. The condensation retains the stories of youth and care givers who have been involved in the juvenile justice system and gives a sense of the animated discussion that took place at the forum among professionals working in the system, identifying the gaps and needs for improvements in the system.

A two-page handout summary, also available, includes questions that citizens could and should ask of our elected representatives so that we know that our institutions are addressing the real needs of vulnerable youth and their families.

I would be glad to bring this video and the handouts to any group of citizens in your home, or to any organization, and help answer questions.

Please contact Lois Brubeck, 526-5139

#### **Check it out: CALIFORNIA CONNECTED**

This is a lively, hour-long, weekly news magazine on public affairs in California, aimed at getting more people involved. It airs on Thursdays at 9 pm on KQED (channel 9.)

- Janet Strothman

## SPEAKER SERIES

# Thursday, October 10, noon to 2 p.m. Albany Library, Edith Stone Room 1247 Marin Avenue

Marsha Skinner, John Selawsky and Forrest Gee, who are school board members of Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville, respectively, will share with us their individual views of recent developments in public school financing on Thursday, October 10, between noon and 2 p.m. They will field the audience's questions following their presentations at this first of the season's Speaker Series.

The **November 7** meeting will feature Heidi Machan of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority. She will discuss the East Bay's interest in having additional ferries to San Francisco.

The Albany library is at 1247 Marin Avenue, corner of Masonic Avenue. The Edith Stone Room is in the rear of the library, facing the parking lot. Bring lunch if you like; the League will provide juice

- Evelyn Light, committee member

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

#### for future Speaker Series meetings

January — Effects of November election ballot measures

February — Juvenile Justice

# **Environmental Concerns Monday, October 14, 7:15 pm**

At the Monday, October 14, meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee we will have a discussion of the state, regional, and local issues that will appear on the November ballot and have environmental implications.

Speaker *Polly Smith* is the co-director for water with the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and is also on the advisory committee updating the state water plan for the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Also joining us will be *Anne Henderson* who is the legislative director of the LWVC and a past president of the Berkeley League. *Jane Coulter* will discuss the pros and cons of the Berkeley Height Initiative (the only local issue with environmental implications).

- Carol Stone, co-chair

Page 4 October, 2002



- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

# **September**

25	Wed.	7:30p	Action Committee	1129 Neilson St. (Safir)	Brubeck, 526-5139		
28	Sat.	9:30a-12:	30p Know Your Bay Area Leag	ue Day: Housing	Safir, 524-9088		
			Unitarian Universalist Chur	ch, East Charleston Rd, Pa	lo 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 October 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)	C.Stone, 549-0959		
15	Tue.	4-6p	Education Committee	Check with Karen	K. Olson, 524-7004		
17	Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	1129 Neilson St. (Safir)	Brubeck, 526-5139		
23	Wed.	T.B.A.	Vista College Groundbreaking	2020 Center St.	Lecar, 549-9719		
November							
5	Tue.	7a-8p	ELECTION DAY — TAKE A FR	RIEND TO THE POLLS	Watts, 525-6614		
6	Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	Bickel, 526-4055		
7	Thurs.	12-2p	Speaker Series: Bay Ferries to San Francisco Me		Mendell, 526-1588		
	Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Edith Stone Room						



# 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:

LVWBAE

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

Name:	
Address:	
The state of the s	
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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