



President: Nancy Bickel

February 2003

Editor: Jean Safir

ATTORNEY GENERAL will be ANNUAL LUNCHEON SPEAKER
Thursday, February 27, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Radisson Hotel, Berkeley Marina

Our League is pleased to announce that the California Attorney General, Bill Lockyer, will be the featured speaker at our Fourth Annual Luncheon. The Attorney General provides leadership on issues central to the interests of the League. He is active in protecting the environment, urging the federal Environmental Protection Agency to set effective health standards for the Clean Air Act. He has filed written objections to the Bush administration's plan to weaken federal standards for stationary sources of air pollution, such as fossil fuel-powered electrical plants and refineries.

On other fronts, Lockyer authored measures to strengthen penalties for crimes against those most vulnerable in our society. He provided sentence enhancements for crimes against disabled victims. He sponsored a law that expanded the definition of elder abuse to include physical or chemical restraints or psychotropic medication. He set up a special nursing home investigation unit to stop fraud and abuse. He has sued sweepstakes companies to stop misleading mail advertisements, many of which are targeted at seniors.

In the criminal law area, Lockyer established a program to identify and prosecute rapists and child molesters through their genetic DNA "fingerprints." He set up a special Firearms Division to protect public safety through aggressive enforcement.

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The Community Luncheon is our main fund-raising effort. Most of our \$50 dues goes to Bay Area, state and national Leagues. Our local League keeps less than \$10, which doesn't even cover the cost of printing and mailing *The VOTER*. We invite you to attend this special luncheon event. You will treat yourself to a wonderful lunch and speaker, while helping our local League. Your invitation is in the mail. - Karen Nelson & Ruth Ganong, Co-chairs

Opportunities to Get Involved

Thanks to our strong role in the recent Berkeley election helping to defeat Proposition P, the height limitation ordinance, by a margin of 80% to 20%, the League now has a high profile and great potential for effective participation in public decision-making. In Albany and Emeryville, we are less visible, but still welcomed whenever we appear before Council to offer comments, based on League positions, or to organize public meetings. So wherever you live, you can have a positive role in your community.

Here are some of the many lively options, requiring modest investments of your time, to get involved:

- **Legislative interviews** with elected officials including Assembly Member Loni Hancock, Mayor Tom Bates, City Council members. Call *Lois Brubeck* right away at 526-5139.
- **Action Committee** — third Thursday evenings every month. Bring your cause to these meetings and get help in making it happen; hear reports of what's happening and what LWV is doing in city, county, state and national government.
- **Observer:** Follow a League issue or study a public agency — in person, on TV or through print or Web site for agendas and minutes. League action depends on credible, first-hand knowledge of what our public bodies are doing. You can be our eyes and ears and follow the issues related to League policy positions. In Berkeley, the Planning Commission and Zoning Appeals Board meetings will soon be cablecast, as are Council, School Board and Rent Board. Council agendas, minutes and, increasingly, staff reports are available on the City's Web site.
- **Share you own speciality or expertise with the League.** Are you especially knowledgeable about the changing role of women in society? On elections in Bosnia? On successes and failures in housing

development? On e-mail newsletters that work? Please let us know if you would be willing to give a talk to our Speaker Series, Environmental Concerns, Action or Education Committee. Or share some of your special knowledge or insight with one of our committees by giving us a few hours of advice about improving our database or other activities.

- **Just have a few hours a month?** Volunteer in the office for one morning or afternoon. Sign up to write or address thank-you letters. Phone a few people for the League now and then.
- **Enjoy making people feel at home?** Provide the cookies and juice for a League meeting.

**Call or e-mail me with your suggestions.
526-4055 or nkbickel@locrian.com**

Tea and Talk about Current Issues

— “Clip and Sip” —

Thursday, Jan. 30, noon,
Thursday, Feb. 20, noon,
LWVBAE office

—*Nancy Bickel*, President

Do you enjoy chatting about current events

with other interesting folks?

We're giving a try to an informal meeting that's been popular with other Leagues. Bring a clipping from the paper, an article or just an issue that you find particularly interesting or infuriating, along with a bag lunch [from home or the shop downstairs].

We'll try this out for a few months at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month, — but in February, since we don't want to miss the Community Lunch, we'll do it on the third Thursday instead.

—*Eloise Bodine*, Program VP

DONATIONS

(11-1 through 12-31-02)

to the General Fund

Anonymous	<i>Marion & Dan Luten</i>
<i>Barbara Alesandrini Ruth Maguire</i>	
Mai Arbogast	<i>Jill & Piero</i>
<i>Robert Arnold</i>	<i>Martinucci</i>
<i>Diamera Bach</i>	<i>Kitty McLean</i>
<i>Ellen Barth</i>	<i>Madeline Mixer</i>
<i>Nancy & Peter Bickel</i>	<i>Haruko Nagaishi</i>
<i>Virginia Blacklidge</i>	<i>Harriet & Ed Nathan</i>
<i>Ida Braun</i>	<i>Roselyn Rosenfeld</i>
<i>Joy Carlin</i>	<i>Marjorie & Hugh</i>
<i>Jane & Tom Coulter</i>	<i>Rubinow</i>
<i>Marion Craig</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schaaf</i>
<i>Peggy Anne & Bill Davis</i>	<i>Sally Severance</i>
<i>Klaus Dehlinger</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Elizabeth De Vogelaere</i>	<i>Ruthann & Clyde</i>
<i>Lissa Franklin</i>	<i>Taylor</i>
<i>Margie Gee</i>	<i>Frances & Charles</i>
<i>Penelope Hanan-Dahman</i>	<i>Townes</i>
<i>Bruce Harris</i>	<i>Renate Tubman</i>
<i>Miriam & Bob Hawley</i>	<i>Anne Wallach</i>
<i>Ora & Kurt Huth</i>	<i>Elizabeth Warrick</i>
<i>Dick Kassiss</i>	<i>Andrea Washburn</i>
<i>Erika Kunkel</i>	<i>Doris White</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Cheryl Woodward</i>
<i>Elizabeth Little</i>	

to the Foundation

<i>Denny Abrams</i>	<i>Lynn Glaser</i>
<i>Robert Arnold</i>	<i>Wilma Jordan</i>
<i>Gilbert Bendix</i>	<i>Adeline Kahn</i>
<i>Jane Bergen</i>	<i>Elizabeth</i>
<i>Nancy & Peter Bickel</i>	<i>Lichtenberg</i>
<i>Arrietta Chakos</i>	<i>Evelyn Light</i>
<i>Marion Craig</i>	<i>Linda Maio</i>
<i>Elizabeth De Vogelaere</i>	<i>Winifred McLeod</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Linda Gerson</i>	<i>Alba Witkin</i>

to the Tribute Fund

In memory of *Suzanne Adams*
Doris Fine *Doris Maslach*
Ginette Polak

In honor of *Miriam & Bob Hawley (50th wedding anniversary)* *Evelyn Light*

- *Evelyn Light*

SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, February 13, 12 noon to 2 pm
Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue, at Masonic

Our February Speaker Series meeting will feature League member *Lois Brubeck*, who will talk about the **Alameda County juvenile justice system**. She will also present a video of a meeting of several Alameda County agency representatives involved with juveniles in the system. The video was made at a county wide meeting in the fall of 2002. (Background information on the County juvenile justice system can be found on page 7.)

As usual, we will meet at the Albany Public Library in the Edith Stone Room at the rear of the library, facing the parking lot. Bring a bag lunch, if you'd like; the League will provide juice.

Our **March 13 meeting** — same time and place — will bring us a speaker from UC Berkeley on the plans for redevelopment of **University Village in Albany**, below San Pablo Avenue.

- *Doris Mendell*, committee member

<p>SUZANNE ADAMS, 1927 - 2002</p>
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League members will be saddened to hear of the passing of *Suzanne Adams*, after a long struggle against lung disease. She led our recent two-year study of *Housing Policy and Progress*, after serving on the rent control study, both of which gave us new and stronger positions on which to base an effective action program. Suzanne's commitment to public service, her energy and leadership skills will be greatly missed, not only by the League, but in the community at large.

- *Jean Safir*, housing action Chair

Financial Report to Members
For Fiscal Year ending 6/30/02

League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville

Fund Balances

Fund	On 7/1/01	Receipts	Disbursements	On 6/30/02
General Fund*	76025	57006	69550	63481
Tribute Fund	5409	0	594	4815
Endowment Fund	42100	0	0	42100
Total Funds	123534	57006	70144	110396

*General Fund includes Current Operating Fund, Reserve Fund, Lease Deposits, and Miscellaneous Assets

Combined Assets

Assets and Liabilities	On 7/01/01	Increase (Decrease)	On 6/30/02
Union Bank Checking	3121	13302	16423
Combined Money Market Funds	37032	- 20075	16957
Fidelity Fund	25681	- 5337	20344
Fidelity Balanced Fund	34694	- 1566	33128
Fidelity International Growth Fund	21814	- 383	21431
Other Assets*	2057	223	2280
Year-End Liabilities	- 865	698	- 167
Fund Balances	123534	- 13138	110396

*Other Assets include stamps, post office deposit, lease deposit, and equipment value

Respectfully Submitted, *Thomas M. Coulter*, Treasurer

BOARD BRIEFS

At its December 4 meeting, the Board

- voted to urge the State Park & Recreation Commission to approve the General Plan for the Eastshore State Park and approve the classification of "state seashore" for the park, subject to approval of the Bay Area League;

At its January 8 meeting, the Board

- approved LWVBAE consensus for submission to LWVC on the state Community College Study;
- reviewed plans for our 4th Annual Community Luncheon (Feb. 27, 2003) and many other upcoming LWV meetings and programs during the next few weeks;
- adopted a Board Policy that non-members who provide programs for LWVBAE be sent our local Voter for a year;
- appointed Karen Nelson, Lois Brubeck and Mary Wainwright to the Nominating Committee;
- Noted the generous contributions received in response to our fund-raising letter and the projected deficit in this year's overall Balance Sheet;
- postponed or barely mentioned reports on various Agenda items, for lack of time.

- *Ginette Polak*, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Monday, February 10, 7:30 pm
1340 Arch Street

On **Monday, February 10, 2003**, at 7:30 p.m. Nadia LaBon, the director of operations for Mountain Travel Sobek will speak about Eco Travel. She has traveled extensively to remote areas and will give us her first-hand experience about what is happening in the travel industry to preserve and protect the environment, while increasing numbers of people travel to exotic and fragile locations.

STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDY REPORT ON CONSENSUS UNITS

About 20 LWVBAE members, together with a number of visiting Oakland Leaguers, met in November and December to consider the way the California Community College system is run, and how it might run better.

Members were concerned about the overall inadequacy and instability of current funding mechanisms and the fragmentation of responsibility for governing the statewide system.

Now our League consensus, along with similar reports from Leagues all over the state, will be sent to the LWVC office in Sacramento and incorporated into new draft positions to be brought up for discussion and possible adoption by delegates to the state convention this May.

Once new positions are in place, we can begin to advocate actively on behalf of the colleges.

Many thanks to the hardworking LWVBAE Community College Study Committee members: *Polly Amrein, Vida Lehman, Charlotte Lichterman, Tom Mayer, Chi-Kwan Shea and Marsha Skinner.*

- *Helene Lecar*, study Chair

The following month, on **Monday, March 10**, **Richard Register** will speak about ecological design and planning ordinances proposed for Berkeley.

He is a visionary with a plan for making downtown Berkeley more of an Eco City. We will begin with a short presentation by Carol Barrett, Director of Planning for the city of Berkeley, who will discuss the downtown elements of the recently adopted General Plan to give us a context for Richard's proposals.

- *Carol Stone*, co-chair

DO YOU PREFER E-MAIL TO PHONE OR REGULAR MAIL?

- Should we notify you of important League activities by e-mail instead of telephone?
- Should we e-mail you when each issue of the *VOTER* is posted on our Web page, so you can click and read it on line?

To request notices by e-mail, please contact Ruthann Taylor at lwwbae@pacbell.net.

STATE LEAGUE ACTION ON PROPOSED STATE BUDGET

Action on the state budget will be a major priority for League advocacy this coming year. The state Program Director/Advocate, Trudy Schafer, has pledged to keep all interested members informed of the steps taken by the State League (LWVC) as well as action opportunities at the grassroots level.

The League is networking with other concerned organizations and soon will be communicating with members about ways to strengthen our grassroots network and enhance the League's ability to apply strategic pressure on our representatives in Sacramento to achieve a fair budget solution.

Following are selected portions of a letter from LWVC President, Barbara Inatsugu, to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, on December 17, 2002. (To see the full letter and other related information, go to LWVC Web site at: [Http://ca.lwv.org](http://ca.lwv.org).)

"The League of Women Voters of California appreciates the enormous challenge of addressing the multibillion dollar budget gap between projected spending and revenues for the current and budget years — a gap that may be as large as \$30 billion. The impact of the spending cuts that have been and will be proposed is staggering. In your subcommittee's purview, for example, Health Access estimates that the proposed cuts in health care will prevent over a million Californians from accessing basic health care, with over half a

million persons in low-income working families directly denied Medi-Cal coverage. Low-income Californians will also bear the burden of other proposals, such as the elimination of Stage 3 CalWORKs child care.

"A deficit as large as projected *cannot* be bridged by spending cuts, loans, and transfers and fund shifts alone. **Increased revenues are an essential part of a balanced state budget.**

"We urge you to look to the leadership provided by the legislature and Governor in past years and, like them, to couple spending reductions with revenue increases that will allow everyone to share in the solution.

"Since the 1960s, the League of Women Voters of California has had positions on state and local finances that resulted from member study and consensus. We emphasize the need for revenues that are both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services. In addition to adequacy, our system of public finance should ensure equity and fair sharing of the tax burden, with emphasis on ability to pay...

"Even as the current economic situation reduces both state and local revenues, the demand for services increases until governments are stretched thin. Before the rubber band breaks, we urge you to take steps to address both the spending and the revenue sides of the budget.

"Californians have shown their willingness to shoulder the burden, as in the recent passage of Los Angeles County's Measure B to fund trauma centers and protect the health care safety net and in the continued passage of state bond measures that make investments in our state and its people. We urge your leadership in finding budget solutions that protect our most vulnerable Californians and maintain our investment in government services and facilities."

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMMING PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, February 4, 4-6 p.m.
League Office, 1414 University
(at Sacramento Street), Suite D

Did you resolve to find opportunities to set forth in new directions this year? Think about your favorite issue, the one that brought you to the League -- was it education, energy, childcare, libraries, gridlock, air quality, housing, zoning, health care, water quality? Find out what the League has to say about your issue and what the League has been doing about it.

At our program planning meeting on February 4, you can examine state and local League positions, decide what is current, what needs studying and what is no longer relevant, and exercise your muscle as a League member by influencing the selection of the issues that will be the focus of state and local study and action for the next two years. Final decisions on both state and local League programs will be made in May, at our annual meeting and at State convention.

LWVBAE is considering an update of the state League's K-12 education position to include pre-kindergarten; a limited update of the election systems position to compare a 2- round runoff system with instant runoff voting; and an emphasis on action for the new Community College position.

In Berkeley, our recent success in helping defeat the height limit initiative (Measure P) has led to coalition building around land use planning and housing issues. Should we continue this emphasis? How? What about youth issues? How will the city councils and school boards of our three cities cope with the state budget crisis? Are our positions adequate to meet this crisis and where should they come into play? It is up to the membership to work together to help the League decide.

- Eloise Bodine, Program VP

Juvenile Justice Background Info ADVOCATING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Following the resignation of the Alameda County Chief Probation Officer, the League wrote to the County Board of Supervisors to urge that they seek a new Chief who would work in collaboration with other departments. To quote from the letter: "While researching the issues and learning about 'best practices' in other jurisdictions, we noted that many counties and even entire states are already... following collaborative models that bring law enforcement agencies into working relationships with departments of Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health, Behavioral Health, schools, judiciary and other stakeholders. These collaborative approaches have proven to be cost-saving, community-based alternatives to detention and out-of-home placements. In Santa Cruz County, one program alone, in five years, stemmed group home placements that saved their county over a million and a half dollars without compromising community safety.

"Since Alameda County is now in a position to hire a new Chief Probation Officer, the League is convinced that it is vital to select a person familiar with and, if possible, experienced with such collaborative approaches to the complex problems facing our communities... There is every reason for Alameda County to become a leader in this field."

On **February 19, at 7 pm**, the Oakland LWV will host a meeting with speakers experienced in these "best practices." Many community organizations have been invited to cosponsor the meeting, which will be held at the Peralta Community College Administration Building, 333 East 8th St., Oakland.

- Lois Brubeck, Action VP

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

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CALENDAR

JANUARY

30 Thurs. Noon Tea and Talk LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*

FEBRUARY

4 Tue. 4-6p Program Planning LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*
 5 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*
 7 Fri. Noon March VOTER deadline *jeansafir@att.net* *Safir, 524-9088*
 10 Mon. 7:30p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St.(*Bansner*) *C.Stone, 549-0959*
 13 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series Albany Library,
 Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave. *Mendell, 843-8824*
 19 Wed. 7 p Juvenile Justice "Best Practices," Peralta Community College
 Administration Bldg, 333 E. 8 St., Oakland *Brubeck, 526-5139*
 20 Thurs. Noon Tea and Talk LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*
 20 Thurs. 7:30 Action Committee 1033 Colusa (*Bickel*) *Brubeck, 526-5139*
 27 Thurs. 11:30a-1:30p — LWVBAE ANNUAL LUNCHEON —
 Radisson Hotel, Berkeley Marina *K.Nelson, 525-1673*

MARCH

5 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*
 7 Fri. Noon April VOTER deadline *jeansafir@att.net* *Safir, 524-9088*
 10 Mon. 7:30p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St.(*Bansner*) *C.Stone, 549-0959*
 13 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series Albany Library,
 Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave. *Mendell, 843-8824*



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
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