



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

March 2005

Editor: Lea Barker

LEAGUE PRESENTS CITY BUDGET WORKSHOPS THIS SPRING

The City of Berkeley is experiencing the largest budget dilemma in its history as elected leaders and City staff face the daunting prospect of cutting as much as \$9 million from the 2006-2007 budget.

One of the League's missions is to build citizen participation in civic governance. A major local support position of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville declares that "the city should have a budget process and formats which are accessible and understandable to Council and citizens..."

To that end, your League is

sponsoring City Budget Workshops this spring at three locations throughout Berkeley: one in March, one in April, and the concluding workshop in early May—all timed in advance of the City Manager's presentation of his draft budget to the Mayor and Council.

The workshops will be designed to provide budgetary and financial information—the "facts of life" about the budget situation in Berkeley—and to facilitate the opportunity for citizens to do exercises in developing priorities when finite revenues collide with widely varying expectations about the role of local government.

A League committee has been formed to work with City staff in assembling what is hoped to be digestible economic information that can lead to discussions that will assist the City Manager and Mayor and Council in obtaining citizen opinions on appropriate budgetary expenditure.

The details of dates and places as well as format and timing are still being fleshed

out, but we will be making every effort to extend notice of these workshop discussions to as broad a population as possible.

We will be contacting every neighborhood association and community organization for which we can get contact information, to spread the word and try to ensure that a broad spectrum of opinions are exchanged at each workshop.

The next issue of the *VOTER*, which you should receive towards the latter part of March, will have all the details, so please watch for that information and help us to get that word out to the widest possible community.

Such presentations are at the core of what we exist to do, and one of the things we do best. If you want to help in this effort, we would welcome your assistance. Please contact the League office and we will sign you up.

—Sherry Smith, President

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I have this wonderful job, being your President.

Let me share with you some of the extent of this wonderfulness, looking over my calendar for just the past couple of weeks.

1/19—Berkeley School Board Chambers, presentation on the League's Civics Education Study. 1/20—Action Committee meeting, to discuss the City Budget Information Workshops that the League will present this spring. 1/20—volunteer at the League office, handling mail and phone calls and questions generally. 1/25—meeting with newly-forming Alameda County Leagues Council study group to look into Alameda County School Board/Office of Education accountability. 1/27—interview Assemblymember Loni Hancock about the League's legislative priorities, with representatives of other Leagues in her district.

1/29—Bay Area League Day, exploring Regionalism, and touring the Fruitvale Transit Village. 1/30—(morning) interview a Berkeley School District assistant superintendent about bringing our Civics Education Study into the schools this spring (noon)—meet with Berkeley City Manager and Budget Manager about our upcoming Budget Workshops. 2/1—monthly meeting of the League Board. 2/2—meet with Emery Schools Superintendent about Civics Ed Study. 2/5—meeting of the Alameda County Council of LWV.

And so it goes. Every single one of these meetings advances the League program. The people we meet welcome our presence and support what we do, and are extremely cooperative about what we can do in common cause.

Our 85 years of history have brought us to a prominent place in civic affairs, and I am privileged to work with so many League colleagues on a fascinating variety of issues and actions.

2005

Certificate of Appreciation to

Eva Alexis Bansner

In recognition of your outstanding civic and community service work on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville as committee chair of Berkeley Land Use Action and Environmental Concerns; and

in recognition of your work for the region on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, as observer of the Association of Bay Area Governments, as Director of Regional Planning and Governance, as LWVBA President (2002-2004), and as Coordinator of issue papers on regional transit systems and their connectivity at recognized hubs, and the need to support responsible land use planning in conjunction with regional transit investments; and

in recognition of your overall visionary work in support of city and regional planning that seeks complementary relationships with land capabilities and air and water quality; and your inspiring desire for beautiful, healthy urban environments, responsible stewardship, visionary leadership and good government.

For this, and so much more, your League offers our deeply felt thanks and enduring appreciation.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new member:

Kay Lawson

and to the following member, who is re-joining through LWWUS:

Elizabeth Jennings

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY, LWV!

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, has worked for 85 years to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure: a national organization with potent partners at the grassroots level: 900 local and state Leagues, and Leagues in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. From its inception in 1920, the League has been a trusted and leading voice for change, strengthening our democratic system at every level of government. The League has evolved over time to tackle the emerging issues of the day and throughout has remained true to our essential purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens.

1920s Secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; League received pen used to sign the Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of married women.

1930s Helped shape the Social Security Act; fought for child labor laws and environmental

protections and against political patronage; received award from Woodrow Wilson Foundation for "education work on problems of American foreign policy."

1940s Built public support for creation of the United Nations; League's "Dumbarton Oaks Campaign" readied nation to accept international obligations.

1950s Sponsored the "Freedom Agenda" – a nationwide program of close to 1,000 community education forums on civil liberties; President Eisenhower delivered major foreign policy address to the League.

1960s Fought against discrimination in education, employment and housing; built citizen support for Economic Opportunity Amendments; President Johnson proclaims "League of Women Voters Week;" supported presidential suffrage for D.C.

1970s Sponsored televised presidential debates; initiated major grassroots campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; built public support for the Clean Water Act.

1980s Played critical role in the push for fairer tax policies; leader in the fight to strengthen the Voting Rights Act and extend its major provisions for 25 years; helped defeat constitutional amendment that would have overturned *Roe v. Wade*; sponsored series of nationwide hearings on Clean Air Act.

1990s Led successful fight for passage and implementation of the Motor Voter law; played critical role in passage of the Clean Air Act; launched voter empowerment campaign "Take Back the System;" advocated for campaign finance and health care reforms; partnered with Kaiser Family Foundation in "Citizen's Voice for Citizen's Choice" health care reform campaign; worked with women in emerging democracies.

2000s Offered first Internet-based (D-Net) "candidate debates;" instrumental in congressional enactment of Help America Vote Act and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act; launched nationwide voter education campaign on "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day."

PEGGY ANNE DAVIS

1922–2005

Peggy Anne Davis, a good friend to many League members and a valued, active member of our League, passed away on February 2.

For several years, Peggy Anne and Bill hosted Unit meetings at their home on Walnut Street. They were regular volunteers for the ASUC elections, and took charge of them several years ago.

Peggy Anne, a professional editor, was the Publicity Director for LWVBAE in the mid-90s, and regularly volunteered in the office, as well. Her good judgment, generous spirit, and her wonderful sense of humor enriched our activities.

A memorial service for Peggy Anne will be held on February 20 at 1 p.m., at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley.

— submitted by *Mim Hawley*

BAY AND BEYOND

Bay Area Regional Planning: From Vision to Reality

More than 100 participants attended the Bay Area League Day program at the MetroCenter in Oakland on January 29.

The keynote speaker, Ted Droettboom, was appointed last September as the first Regional Planning Program Director of the newly formed Joint Policy Committee of ABAG/BAAQD/MTC. His presentation focused on how the Bay Area might make regional planning work.

It is his aim to have the Smart Growth Vision become "the common vision, the commonweal of the Bay Area." Droettboom believes that over the next 30 years new growth can be managed in ways that improve quality of life by improving the 3E's: environment, economy, and social equity.

Droettboom's presentation was followed by two panel discussions, one on Alternative Models for Regional Planning, and the other on Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally, with Q&A after each panel discussion.

—submitted by *Lea Barker*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRACY DINNER

APRIL 22, 2005

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose

At this event, League supporters will meet some of California's movers and shakers, learn about the global issues facing the U.S., and bid on exciting auction items from around California. A VIP reception and the silent auction begin at 6:30. Dinner begins at 7:30.

The movers and shakers are the Co-Chairs and Honorary Committee for the dinner: Senator Dianne Feinstein; members of Congress Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, and Mike Honda; former Congressman Pete McCloskey; and elected officials from southern San Mateo, Santa Clara, and southern Alameda counties, their legislative schedules permitting.

The banquet speaker is Ambassador Nancy E.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Energy efficiency and environmental protection in California:

Past perspectives and future prospects

Our speaker at the March 14, 2005 meeting will be Arthur H. Rosenfeld, 2004 recipient of the Benjamin Ide Wheeler Medal from the Berkeley Community Fund for research and advocacy for energy efficient technologies.

Dr. Rosenfeld is a commissioner of the California Energy Commission, first appointed by Governor Davis and reappointed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

We will meet at the home of Sylvia McLaughlin at 1450 Hawthorne Terrace, at 7:30 pm.

Contact person is Carol Stone 549-0959 or seastone11@hotmail.com

— *Carol Stone*, Environmental Concerns
Committee Co-Chair

Soderberg, Vice President for Multilateral Affairs for International Crisis Group, formerly Alternate Representative of the U.S. to the United Nations, and author of the soon-to-be-released book, *The Superpower Myth*. Her topic will be "Global Challenges, Global Realities."

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren will manage the festivities as emcee, and California State Senator Joe Simitian will auction selected items contributed to the Education Fund.

Tickets for non-members are \$150; for League members \$100. Non-members can reserve a table for \$1500, and tables for members cost \$1000.

Call the LWVBAE office for more information.

RUTH JACKSON GANONG

ORAL HISTORY

The Ruth Jackson Ganong oral history was recently published by our League, and a copy is now available for reference at the League Office. Other copies have been placed at the Berkeley Public Library (Berkeley History Room), The Bancroft Library—UC Berkeley, and the Berkeley Historical Society.

Ruth Ganong was originally interviewed in 1995 by Therese Pipe for the LWV Bay Area Oral History Project.

As her in-depth oral history illustrates, Ruth has had a wide career in public service. She was Mayor of Albany for two terms in the 1980s, and she served earlier on the Albany School Board.

Later she was elected to the AC Transit Board of Directors. Ruth's long involvement with the League covers the 1960s to the present. She was one of the original Chairs of the Annual Community Luncheon sponsored by our League.

With her husband, Dr. Fran Ganong, she continues to live in a house she originally designed, located in the Albany Hills.

—submitted by *Therese Pipe*

REDISTRICTING REFORM

On January 13, 2005, LWV California wrote to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on the subject of redistricting reform.

Both the letter and the League position upon which this action was based are high-lighted on the LWVC Web site at

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

Three important elements for restructuring the redistricting process are:

- It should include maximum opportunity for public scrutiny.
- Standards that promote fair and effective representation should be applied.
- Redistricting should be conducted by an independent commission.

Stay informed about this issue by watching for updates on the LWVC website.

"IRON JAWED ANGELS"



Hilary Swank and Anjelica Huston
Photos © "HFPA" and "62nd Golden Globe Awards"

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

7 – 9 PM

University YWCA

2600 Bancroft Way at Bowditch

Come be inspired! Come see the movie depicting the bravery of the courageous women who helped to make the final push to get women the right to vote a success.

Come learn about the strategies and tactics that were necessary to convince the Woodrow Wilson White House and Congress about the justice of women's right to vote, and the outrageous response by local authorities in Virginia. Come and you'll never again take your right to vote for granted!

Hilary Swank (*Boys Don't Cry* and *Million Dollar Baby*), Anjelica Huston (who just won a Golden Globe for her role in this HBO film), Julia Ormond (*Legends of the Fall*, *Sabrina Fair*), and Frances O'Connor (*Windtalkers*, *Artificial Intelligence*) all brilliantly convey the passion and bravery of these women to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

This event is co-sponsored by LWVBAE and the University YWCA. It will be widely promoted throughout the UCB campus and the city as an outreach project to attract young women to learn about the League of Women Voters, as well as the importance of their right to vote.

Bring your friends and neighbors. Please call the League office (843-8824) if you need a ride.

—*Jo Ann B. Price*, Program V.P.



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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WOMEN VOTERS

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Joining at 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 extent allowed by law.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

MARCH

- 1 Tues. 7-9 pm Civics Education Study
2339 Edwards St. *Gardner, 548-5292*
- 2 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 3 Thurs. 7-9 pm Movie: *Iron Jawed Angels*, University YWCA
2600 Bancroft Way at Bowditch *Price, 548-5206*
- 4 Fri. noon Deadline for April *VOTER* *Barker, 532-5773*
- 14 Mon. 7:30 pm Environmental Concerns Committee:
Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection in California
1450 Hawthorne Terrace (McLaughlin) *Stone, 549-0959*
- 15 Tues. Civics Education Study
2339 Edwards St. *Gardner, 548-5292*
- 17 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee
1419 Grant (*Watts*) *Safir, 524-9088*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- April 22 6:30 pm LWVC Democracy Dinner, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose
- May 20-22 LWVC Convention, Garden Grove, CA
- May 26 LWVBAE Annual Meeting

NEW VOTER EDITOR NEEDED

Due to work and study commitments, the current *VOTER* editor is not able to continue in 2005-2006. If you have an interest in promoting the League in this way, please phone *Lea Barker* at 532-5773 to find out more. It's fun!