



President: Nancy Bickel

April 2003

Editor: Jean Safir

APRIL IS BUDGET MONTH

This month we are experimenting with having a series of meetings focused on a single topic, and the budget crisis faced by all levels of government is the first topic chosen. How are budget decisions being made, what programs are in danger of being cut, who is going to be hurt and can the community still influence the process?

- **Keith Carson**, County Supervisor for our district, will be the featured speaker at the monthly Speaker Series meeting on **Thursday, April 3**, to talk about the decreasing financial support from the federal and state governments to the counties for all types of programs.
- The budget crisis and its effect on environmental protection will be discussed by **John Gioia**, Contra Costa County Supervisor, on **Monday, April 14**, at the Environmental Concerns Group.
- On **Thursday, April 17**, the budget crisis for the cities will be outlined by **Weldon Rucker**, Berkeley City Manager, and **Paul Navazio**, Berkeley City Budget Manager, at a public meeting co-sponsored with the Berkeley Main Library.
- At its meeting on **Wednesday, April 23**, the Action Committee will focus on how to affect budget decisions, whatever your particular interests are. This will be your opportunity to put the information you have gained at these informational meetings to work, by enabling you to take action with the League, and individually, to influence positive outcomes for the services you value.

These meetings are being held at a variety of places and times, so please check the Calendar and plan to join us.

- *Eloise Bodine*, Program VP
- *Lois Brubeck*, Action VP

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

April 14, 2003 — 7:30 p.m.
1340 Arch Street

John M. Gioia (say Joya), supervisor for Contra Costa County (including Richmond and Kensington), will speak to the **Environmental Concerns Committee** on **Monday, April 14, 2003, at 7:30 p.m.** at 1340 Arch Street (corner of Rose), Berkeley. He will address how the California budget crisis is likely to affect environmental agencies in this region. He is uniquely qualified to address these issues by virtue of his extensive experience serving on the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

For more information, contact *Carol Stone*, at 549-0959 or <seastone11@hotmail.com>

BOARD BRIEFS

At its March 5 meeting, the Board

- Approved recommending for adoption by members at Annual Meeting:
 - Proposed Budget for 2003/04;
 - New dues schedule as of July 2003 (\$55 for members, \$25 for student and additional member in the same household);
 - Bylaws changes, and
 - no new local studies;
- Encouraged development of "Issue Groups" concept (see page 1 in this *Voter*);
- Applauded Community Luncheon committee for its successful Feb. 27 event;
- Advised the LWVBAE president and board members in sensitive positions vis-a-vis the community that they should decline leadership roles in the Livable Berkeley Coalition.

-Ginette Polak, Secretary

ECO TRAVEL IN EXOTIC PLACES

Leaguers attending the February 10 Environmental Concerns meeting enjoyed excellent slides from all over the world and information about the challenges remote areas face from the growing number of tourists. *Nadia LeBon* of Mountain Travel Sobek told us that travel is a \$3.5 billion industry with 250 million employees. Her main interest is adventure travel.

Started by Sierra Club members, Mountain Travel has always had a strong code of environmental ethics: tread lightly, use local resources, do not exploit. Its tours limit the group size, usually to 9 people, or a maximum of 15.

Eco-tourism is the new buzz word within the travel industry. It means the tourists benefit the destination, instead of exploiting it; the tours are active, not passive, and value-driven, rather than profit-driven. Examples of lessening tourist impact on the environment include forgoing hot showers on treks where wood is scarce and reusing plastic water bottles rather than discarding them in countries that have no plastic recycling facilities.

Instead of destroying the local cultures and whatever attracted the tourists, eco-tourism can also provide viable options to local young people to stay in their family villages rather than move to large towns for jobs.

- *Ginette Polak*

WANTED: PUBLICITY AND WEB EXPERTS OR TRAINEES for a new Public Relations Committee

With no local daily newspaper and many events vying for press space, LWV needs active enterprising Leaguers to find new ways of getting League information to our members and fellow citizens.

Please call or e-mail *Shireen Burns* at <theburns@idiom.com> or 527-1339

Sally Severance, 1913-2003

We are saddened by the death of past League President, *Sally Severance*, after a short illness, on March 6 at the age of 90. Sally served as president in 1969, a time of great turmoil in Berkeley, due to the Vietnam war and the protests which were centered at the University and spilled over into the streets of Berkeley.

Sally chaired a housing study in the 1970s and was active in promoting housing for low-income people. She served in many capacities in the League, most recently organizing our study meetings.

Sally always seemed to be an island of calm and reason, and good humor whenever the unit discussion got a little heated. In her quiet way, her sharp questions were to the point and never implied personal criticism or animosity, and she was a willing and responsible volunteer. Sally's mother, Mary Tyler, accompanied her to League meetings until she was at least as old as 90, and she, too, was a dignified delight. She, and her kind, are much missed.

Sally was always there for us, quiet, thoughtful, hardworking, helpful, cheerful, knowledgeable about the history of our League and of the community.

A memorial will be held in June. Her family asks that any donations in her memory be made to the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation. *Sally* is survived by her daughter, Mary Hickson, her son, Charles Severance, one grandchild and two great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to her daughter at 1330 W. Poplar Street, Stockton, CA 95203.

- *Eloise Bodine*, Program Vice President

SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, April 3, 12 noon to 2 pm
Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue, at Masonic

Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor, will be the speaker on Thursday, April 3, at the Albany Library. **(Please note change to one week earlier than usual.)** He will talk about the County's budget for 2003-2004 and the broad fiscal situation, and will answer our questions.

As we all know, county services have been increasingly in fiscal crisis since the passage of Proposition 13 by State voters in 1976. Now, with the large State deficit, there is real concern about the fate of these services.

The meeting will be held in the Edith Stone Room, which is at the rear of the library next to the parking lot. Bring a bag lunch if you like; juice will be provided.

On **May 8** — back to our regular schedule — Rachael Trachtem will tell us about "Rebuilding Together," the program formerly known as "Christmas in April." Please save the date!

-*Janet Strothman*, committee member

DONATIONS in February 2003

to the General Fund

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Geraldine Scalzo</i>
<i>Patricia Jones</i>	<i>Ruth Schorer</i>
<i>Doris Maslach</i>	<i>Helen Wachs</i>
<i>Kitty McLean</i>	<i>Dorothy Walker</i>
<i>Mary Mortimer</i>	<i>Lessly Wikle</i>
<i>Fran Packard</i>	

to the Tribute Fund

Ginette Polak
 In memory of *Teresa Hultgren & Dan Luten*

to the Foundation

Ruth Schorer

-*Evelyn Light*

ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

At its February meeting, the Action committee heard reports on Berkeley's 2x2 Committee, schools, housing, boards and commissions, juvenile justice and state and local calls to action , as well as interviews with Assembly Member Loni Hancock and State Senator Don Perata.

We approved a letter to Albany's mayor and city council, urging approval of draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would help bring the City's Housing Element into compliance with State regulations and "greatly enhance the City's ability to produce much-needed housing that will be permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income people."

On juvenile justice, two recent meetings — one, our February speakers series, and the other held by the Oakland League — provided background for discussion.

We then decided a letter to the Board of Supervisors should be drafted, which, if approved by the Alameda County Presidents Council, would express concerns about the size and siting of the new Juvenile Hall — i.e., that the Hall should not consume funds that need to go toward services for youth and families and alternatives to detention, and that it be accessible to the families of detained youth.

- *Lois Brubeck*, Action Vice President

TWO LEAGUE FORUMS ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The February 13 Speaker Series featured Gerald Herrick of the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) Office of Student Services and Sergeant Dave White of the Berkeley Police Department Juvenile Services Bureau. Also present was BUSD School Board Director Shirley Issel. The presentation and lively discussion centered on the efforts by school,

city and county personnel to keep Berkeley students in school, safe and out of trouble.

Mr. Herrick, with 35 years of experience working with students in other districts, praised the coordination developing among school staff, Berkeley police, county probation departments and community-based programs to which the authorities refer youngsters who come to their attention. Dave White noted that 60% of Berkeley juvenile referrals to their office are diverted to such programs rather than to the county court system. Herrick and White are working with the Mayor's Office to further improve this coordination.

We learned about counseling of students and their parents, restitution by offenders to the victims of their crimes, referral to a county peer court where former youth offenders pass judgement, and referral to the Lifelong Living Academy on Treasure Island, with a more structured environment. Director Issel reported on research that shows that 2/3 of young people from dysfunctional families can succeed if they are given a mentor and a chance to contribute to the community, and if they are held to high expectations.

The League of Women Voters of Oakland held a Forum, February 19, on "Reducing Incarceration, Building Communities." Participants included members of the League and law enforcement and community-based programs. We heard about successful efforts in the counties that contain Portland, Oregon, and Santa Cruz to coordinate services so that they help young people and their families more effectively and incarceration in juvenile halls is drastically reduced. The director of a youth drug abuse treatment program in Alameda County spoke about the need for more treatment. He estimated that 80% of those in Alameda County Juvenile Hall are addicted. His program receives 16,000 referrals and admits 300 a year. Nationally, about 1 in 10 youth who need treatment receive it.

-*Pat Kuhi*, LWVC Juvenile Justice Program Director

LWVBAE TO CO-SPONSOR "FREE AIR TIME" BILL EVENT

The **McCain-Feingold "Free Air Time"** bill to require TV and radio stations to provide free air time to qualifying candidates will be the subject of an informational meeting co-sponsored by Common Cause, the Greenlining Institute and LWVBAE. The date is **Thursday, April 3**, the place is the **Oakland Main Library Auditorium**, 125 East 14 Street, Oakland, and the time is **6:30 - 8 p.m.** .

Featured speaker will be Paul Taylor. Mr. Taylor is president of the Alliance for Campaigns, the organization coordinating a nationwide effort to secure passage of McCain-Feingold's new bill.

Passage last year of the legislation to outlaw unregulated soft money was an important first step in reducing the influence of large, special interest contributions on the outcome of elections. But problems remain, since candidates do have to have funds to communicate with voters.

TV stations take advantage of candidates' need to get their messages out by raising prices for air time during election season. Paying the television tab is the major cost of conducting campaigns, and therefore the prime cause driving non-stop, obligation-incurring money-raising by candidates.

McCain and Feingold have now been joined by Senator Richard Durbin to address the problem. Their new bill, due to be introduced shortly, would require stations to begin to live up to their legal obligation to operate in the public interest by providing two hours of candidate and/or issue centered programming per week prior to elections. The bill would also require them to provide vouchers for free air time to qualifying candidates.

You are encouraged to come and bring your friends — to hear details about this measure which is endorsed by the League and over 50 other national organizations and to find out what you can do to help get it passed.

- *Eloise Bodine*, Program Vice President

Action News from National

Having lobbied hard to pass the "Help America Vote" Act of 2002 (HAVA), the League will now be following its implementation. The law, which requires states to make badly needed changes to their electoral procedures, also has several provisions that actually make it harder for many voters. States are given a lot of authority under HAVA, but also a lot of discretion, and Leagues need to make sure that their states carry out their new duties in a way that makes it easier, not harder, to vote. We are all urged to work in coalitions on both the local and state level.

LWVUS President *Kay Maxwell* urged Leagues nationwide to join her in calling on President Bush to work within the United Nations system to solve the problem of Iraq. (LWVBAE sent letters to all our local newspapers to that effect.)

For 2003, the LWVUS Board adopted the following legislative priorities. Election Reform and Campaign Finance Reform are at the top of the list. Next, are Reproductive Choice, Clean Air, Oil Drilling in the Arctic Wildlands and Title IX. When possible, it will lobby for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), DC Voting Rights and Financial Issues, Health Care and Global Warming.

The LWVUS Board agreed that the two top priority issues reflect the core mission of the League and provide an overarching theme for League action in the upcoming two years before the presidential election. The second-tier issues, "action as needed," are those on which we anticipate threats to long-held League positions, and believe that it is particularly important to respond. The third group of issues are those where a building effort is expected. They represent particular legislative initiatives, but the political groundwork needs to be built for longer-term success.

- *Lois Brubeck*, Action Vice President

**Common Cause
The League of Women Voters
The Greenlining Institute**

invite you to an informational meeting on the

**McCain-Feingold
Free Air Time Bill**

**requiring TV and radio stations to provide
free air time to qualifying candidates**

**Featured speaker: PAUL TAYLOR
President, Alliance for Better Campaigns**

**The time:
6:30-8 p.m.
Thursday,
April 3, 2003**



**FREE ★ AIR ★ TIME
CAMPAIGN
WWW.FREEAIRTIME.ORG**

**The place:
Oakland Main
Library
125 14th Street
(Street parking
usually available
after 6 p.m., or
Douglas Parking,
14th & Madison)**

BILL LOCKYER ADDRESSES LWVBAE

As the featured speaker at the LWVBAE **Fourth Annual Community Luncheon** on February 27, Bill Lockyer, California's Attorney General, briefly described the role of his agency and answered questions from the audience. He even told a timely lawyer joke: Lawyers are like nuclear weapons in that everyone wants one, but when you use them they mess up everything.

The **California Dept. of Justice** with its 1100 lawyers is the largest law office in the State. It defends State agencies, most often the Highways and Corrections departments. Currently they are working on 110 different lawsuits on energy issues. Their rate for inter-office billing purposes, which includes lawyers, paralegals, secretaries, postage and photocopying, comes to \$112/hour.

"Defending the California Dream," Lockyer described three notable characteristics of California:

- [1] Examples of its **innovative spirit** include its pioneers, investors, the University of California. Related State legal matters involve antitrust suits for Silicon Valley and Hollywood as well as medical marijuana laws.
- [2] Its **natural beauties**, which previously were a non-partisan commitment, are currently under aggressive attack from the federal government. Former Republican presidents supported the California government on many issues concerning our National Parks and environment. Photos of Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt remain on Lockyer's office walls. Yet recently, for the first time, the federal government sided with the auto industry against Clean Air Act protections.
- [3] Its **diversity** stems from the 224 languages spoken in California and the 26% of its residents who are foreign-born. Lockyer created two new entities, the Civil Rights Office, now the largest such unit of any state in the U.S., and the Office of Immigrant

Assistance.

Within a generation, the **population of California will grow** to equal the current population of nine Western states. He stressed the need for bipartisan planning for housing, schools, transportation and water.

Responding to questions about **criminal reform and determinate sentencing**, Lockyer advocated more preventive efforts and more focus on strengthening family and community intervention rather than building more prisons. California has 160,000 prisoners, yet only 300 drug treatment slots. San Diego, with the best prison drug treatment program, has only a 9% return rate. Yet overall, two-thirds of prisoners released are re-convicted within three years. He considers the 3-strikes and determinate sentencing laws to be mistakes.

On **terrorism and security**, Lockyer pointed out how minimally protected California's 35 million residents are with only 90,000 law enforcement officers. California's fundamental rule has been that, unless there is reasonable cause, police leave people alone. Law enforcement can function only if citizens trust it and cooperate. Even if the feds change their policy, California will not, Lockyer stated.

Overall, Lockyer is impressed by the quality of those in **law enforcement** careers, but there are some unfortunate exceptions. He cited his two-year effort to reform practices of the Riverside Police Dept., the first time a State Attorney General had ever intervened in a local police department. Key reforms include screening applicants for police jobs and evaluating officers' mental health and attitudes periodically.

On the possible **effort to recall Governor Gray Davis**, Lockyer pointed out that the winner of a recall would be the candidate who received the most votes, which could total as few as 18% of the voters. The winner probably would be a conservative Republican. As to his personal plans, he thinks the best politics is good government: do your job well and, if promotional opportunities arise, people will let you know.

- *Ginette Polak*, Board Secretary

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

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CALENDAR

MARCH

27 Thurs. Noon Tea & Talk LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*
 30 Sun. 2-5p UNESCO, The United States & Afghanistan *Bodine, 845-0974*
 Booth Auditorium, Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley

APRIL

2 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*
 3 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series: County Supervisor Keith Carson *Strothman, 841-2837*
 Albany Library, Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave.
 4 Fri. Noon May-June VOTER deadline *jeansafir@att.net* *Safir, 524-9088*
 14 Mon. 7:30p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (*Bansner*) *Stone, 549-0959*
 John Gioia, CCCounty Supervisor, Budget Crisis & Environment
 17 Thurs. 7p Public meeting: Berkeley City Budget in Crisis *Bodine, 845-0974*
 Berkeley Main Library, Kittredge & Shattuck, 3rd Floor Conf. Room
 23 Wed. 7:30p Action Committee: How to take action re: Budget Crisis
 1419 Grant St. (*Watts*) *Brubeck, 526-5139*

MAY

7 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*
 8 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series: "Rebuilding Together," Rachael Trachtem *B. Nelson, 644-1237*
 Albany Library, Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave.
 12 Mon. 7:30p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (*Bansner*) *Stone, 549-0959*
 15-18 Thurs. - Sun. LWVC STATE CONVENTION - *S. Smith, 548-1769*
 Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel
 19 Mon. 4:30-8p LWVBAE ANNUAL MEETING — SAVE THE DATE *Bodine, 845-0974*
 Speaker: *Kay Maxwell*, LWVUS President



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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