



President: Nancy Bickel

Summer 2004

Editor: Jean Safir

JOIN NEW STUDY OF CIVICS EDUCATION

At our annual meeting, the LWVBAE approved a new, and very timely, study on the state of civics education in our public schools. Training our children to become active citizens is one of the tasks assigned to public education, but we are concerned that this responsibility is being forgotten. We plan to study just what education our students receive about how government operates and how to participate effectively. The League hopes to cover all schools in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

This is a big job we have set ourselves, but a very important one, and it is especially timely during this election season. In order to begin information gathering when classes open in the fall, we will have two organizing sessions this summer: July 27 and Aug. 10, 7:30 to 9 pm, at the home of *Jinky Gardner*, 2339 Edwards St., Berkeley.

Come and add your insights and concerns on this subject; be prepared to contribute your time and energy to make this study a success.

For any thoughts or questions you have ahead of time, please contact either of the study co-chairs, *Jinky Gardner* 548-5292, or *Cathy Lynch*, 527-2173.

In This Issue

- p. 2 President's report and farewell
- p. 3 Emma Lue Kopp
Donations
New members
Thanks to volunteers
- p. 4 Board briefs
Election services
2004-05 Board members
- p. 5-6 Outreach and
Development
- p. 7 Program
- p. 8 Calendar

2004 LUNCHEON PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE

Photos taken at the 2004 Community Luncheon have been posted on our local website <http://lwvbae.org>, where you'll also find links to many other League, government and organization sites. You can read current and past *Voters* on the website and check our positions on local policy issues.

And there's no need to lose touch with the League over summer, when the office stops having regular office hours and League members go on vacation. If you send your e-mail address to lwvbae@pacbell.net, you'll get our e-mail calls to action and updates of League activities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND FAREWELL

Looking back over my three years as your President, I see many things we have accomplished. Successes that stand out include: the Community Conversation on Confronting Racism in fall of 2001, the 80% defeat of Measure P in November 2002, the 72% victory of Measure I in March 2004, the consistent distribution of voter registration forms, of pros and cons on ballot measures, of recommendations on ballot measures and many thoughtful meetings and discussions about important public policy issues. Right now, we are working actively with Leaguers around the State to press for closing of tax loopholes and creating higher top tax brackets to ameliorate the State budget crisis.

I have had the joy and the honor of working with dedicated, well-informed and dependable fellow League members—women and men—board members and others—working long hours over months and years and working in brief stints when they can manage to fit League into already busy lives. I'm particularly grateful to the board members who've served with me.

The foundation of all our successes has been the League's outstanding reputation for serious, fair-minded research and reporting on public policy issues. This reputation was built by the hard work of generations of dedicated League members, including the past Presidents and subjects of our oral history project whom we welcomed to our Annual Meeting this year.

Although we haven't mentioned them all by name, we all know that every single member who sought out the facts, analyzed them clearly and reported them honestly has built this reputation—starting in 1911 when the Berkeley Civic League was founded. Every single member who has signed up new voters, talked to citizens about ballot measures, sold scrip, or organized luncheons and forums has contributed to our reputation.

Why haven't we accomplished all we had hoped to do? The biggest reason is one we can't change -- demographic and economic circumstances. We no longer have legions of well-educated single women and mothers of school age

children looking for opportunities to contribute to their community by volunteering for a good cause.

The League structure was built on the expectation that people could be recruited to study subjects in depth, attend meetings where studies were reported, adopt policies based on those studies and then lobby in support of those policies over years and decades. Without these legions, the League no longer has, among its members, depth of knowledge of as many different policy areas. The citizen experts we do have are as outstanding as ever—our state budget expert *Anne Henderson*, our community college expert *Helene Lecar*, our housing expert *Jean Safir* and our juvenile justice experts *Pat Kuhi* and *Lois Brubeck* are just five of many wonderful examples.

Fortunately for the League, many of us lead longer and healthier lives than earlier generations. This has blunted the impact of demographic and economic changes. Many members continue to lead and participate in League activities into their 70's and 80's. They do sometimes retire from the League, on the grounds that they're 78 or 85 and just can't do it any more, but they often continue to help out despite their words. We bless and thank them.

But the challenge I -- and now *Sherry Smith*-like League presidents everywhere -- face is in finding new Leaguers to carry on. We need to adapt our traditional League structures and practices to suit the demands of the very different and very busy lives of today's potential Leaguers. We need to embrace all of our fellow citizens -- of all ethnicities, all races, all economic levels -- and make them feel the League welcomes them. The League can't seem to be a club for a select few.

The new board, led by *Sherry Smith*, is well-equipped to meet this challenge. All of us will continue to work to find good solutions to League and to public policy. We need, as ever, your help, your advice and your collaboration in our shared League endeavor.

Thank you,

Nancy Bickel, Outgoing President

Emma Lue Kopp

Emma Lue Kopp, a long-time member of this League as well as a member of the Alameda League, passed away on May 1. A retired librarian, she was a member of our Board of Directors for many years, serving as a *Voter Editor* as well as a Director of Voter Service.

Emma Lue was one of the first people in our League who could operate the computer when it was purchased. She taught many members how to use it and set up the Voter and Annual Meeting kits on the computer. She wrote a history of our League, made a list of all of our League presidents, organized the files, made sure that all archival material was properly deposited and filed at the Bancroft Library at UCB, and maintained and organized the many publications we received. She continued serving as a volunteer in the office for many years, even after she moved to Alameda and transferred to that League, coming here by public transit when she was no longer able to drive. We shall miss her so much.

Her sister, Florence Butter, presently a member of the Alameda League, was also an active member of our league.

- Lenora Young

DONATIONS in April 2004

To the General Fund

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Elizabeth & Frederick Balderston</i> | |
| <i>Patricia Bradley</i> | <i>Yvonne Koshland</i> |
| <i>Joy Carlin</i> | <i>Thomas Livingston</i> |
| <i>Suzanne & Gordon Chun</i> | <i>Ardath Miller</i> |
| <i>Doris Fine</i> | <i>Lila R. Mitchell</i> |
| <i>Fishman Financial Group</i> | <i>Allie Norton</i> |
| <i>Maggie Gee</i> | <i>Arthur Rosenfeld</i> |
| <i>Heidi Gillies</i> | <i>Marsha Skinner</i> |
| <i>Joyce Jackson</i> | <i>Meredith Stout</i> |
| <i>Mary Jacobson</i> | <i>Renate Tubman</i> |

To the Foundation

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Phyllis Clement*</i> | <i>Weldon Rucker</i> |
| Sweet Potatoes, Inc. | |

* In memory of *Margaret Dumas* and *Sally Severance*

NEW MEMBERS

The LWVBAE extends a belated but very warm welcome to the following new members:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Elizabeth Balderston</i> | <i>Judith Klinman</i> |
| <i>Alison Bronstein</i> | <i>Jennifer Lawrence</i> |
| <i>Adrienne Cabantuan</i> | <i>Leo Levinson</i> |
| <i>Judith Collier</i> | <i>Frank Lossy</i> |
| <i>Zora Edwards</i> | <i>Dorothy Lowry</i> |
| <i>Richard Friedman</i> | <i>Nancy Nelson</i> |
| <i>Barbara Guest</i> | <i>Chalyn Newman</i> |
| <i>Alexandria Herman</i> | <i>Lynne Palmer</i> |
| <i>Judy Jackson</i> | <i>Alice Philipson</i> |
| <i>Nashua Kalil</i> | <i>Elizabeth Russell</i> |
| <i>Sherry Keith</i> | <i>Kristin Shepherd</i> |



Members and guests at the 2004 Community Luncheon

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Voter assembly: *Barbara Nelson, Diane Akers, Janet Strothman, Mary Lou Breiman, Mary Lines, Adeline Kahn, Pat Selmanoff, Inge Schuman, Eloise Bodine, Vi Feinauer, Peggy Hammerquist, Louetta Erlin, Chris Caldwell, Marian Luten, Elizabeth de Velbiss, Frances Townes.*

Office volunteers: *Diane Akers, Jane Barrett, Lois Brubeck, Eloise Bodine, Christine Caldwell, Jane Coulter, Tom Coulter, Peggy Anne Davis, Louetta Erlin, Vi Feinauer, Ruth Ganong, Jinky Gardner, Adeline Kahn, Louise Larson, Evelyn Light, Marion Luten, Karen Nelson, Ginette Polak, Marj Rubinow, Jean Safir, Patricia Selmanoff, Sherry Smith, Ruthann Taylor, Mary Wainwright, Phoebe Watts, Lenora Young.*

BOARD BRIEFS

At its meeting on **April 8**, the Board

- discussed plans for upcoming LWV activities and heard reports of past events;
- confirmed its previous decision not to support the Common Cause proposal for public financing of elections in Berkeley;
- decided that the office would close for the summer June 21-August 13.

At its **meeting on May 13**, the Board

- authorized the Executive Committee to consider and send a letter, if developed and approved by the Action Committee, commenting on the UC Long Range Development Plan;
- voted to fund our representatives to the LWVUS Convention;
- determined that LWVBAE intends to arrange mock elections in our high schools this fall, with planning starting soon;
- voted to adopt the Bylaws of the Alameda County Council of LWV, as revised March 2004;
- approved the concept of sending a letter to the Berkeley Planning Commission or City Council urging it not to downzone University Avenue;
- approved co-sponsoring a meeting with the Berkeley Public Education Foundation if LWVBAE criteria are met;
- discussed plans for upcoming LWV activities and reports of past events.

- *Ginette Polak*, Secretary

LWVBAE Board Members 2004-05 Elected at Annual Meeting

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Sherry Smith</i> | President |
| <i>Jean Safir</i> | Action Vice President |
| <i>Diane Akers</i> | Administration Vice President |
| <i>Jinky Gardner</i> | Elections Services Vice President |
| <i>Jo Ann B. Price</i> | Program Vice President |
| <i>Luanne Rogers</i> | Treasurer |
| <i>Lea Barker,</i> | VOTER Editor |
| <i>Angharad Jones, Jody Bush</i> | Co-Secretaries |
| <i>Mary Wainwright, James Sweeney</i> | Board Members |
| <i>Ginette Polak, Karen Nelson</i> | Nominating Committee |

Past Presidents and Subjects of LWVBAE Oral History Project Invited to 2004 Annual Meeting

Jane Bergen

Felicia Bock

Eloise Bodine

Phyllis Clement

Marilyn Couch

Jane M. Coulter

Ann Crowe

Gilda Feller

Doris Fine

Dr. B. Fraenkel-Conrat

Ruth Ganong

Miriam M. Hawley

Anne Henderson

Ora Huth

Wilma Jordan

Patricia Kuhl

Harriet Nathan

Fran Packard

Jo Ann B. Price

Ruth Scheer

Jane Vinson

Pat Wadleigh

ELECTION SERVICES

In an unusually busy year for elections, we provided services to voters before the October, 2003 Recall Election and the March, 2004 Primary Election. In October, we distributed Pros and Cons about the State ballot measures, distributed registration cards and registered voters.

Before the March election we produced Pros and Cons about local ballot measures, and distributed them along with Pros and Cons about State measures and Easy Voter Guides. League members spoke to several groups about ballot measures and voting procedures. Distribution of registration cards and registration of voters also continued. Thanks to all members who helped.

- *Phoebe Watts*, V.P. Election Services

GO VIRTUAL THIS SUMMER!

Besides our own League's website (see front page), the websites of the Bay Area, California and the national League all offer ways to keep up to date with discussion topics and actions.

Bay Area: <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>

California: <http://ca.lwv.org>

LWVUS: <http://lwv.org>

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Outreach and Development team works to foster growth in local membership, develop new strategies to disseminate information about the League, and enhance fund-raising to support the League program.

Membership

The Membership team stayed busy welcoming new members and keeping the ever-changing records up to date. We added 64 new members, many of whom have become active, but had a net loss of three members. *Mina Jenner* continues to get out the renewal notices, process the responses, and get timely reports out to the Board. *Nina Olson* has produced mailing labels, coordinated our records with LWVUS, and has been assisted by *Jane Coulter* in keeping our membership database accurate.

As the Presidential election draws near we hope that many more new members will want to join us as we work to get our citizenry informed and out to the polls! We have redesigned our membership application and the reverse side gives new people (and renewing members as well) a good list of opportunities to use their time and talents to further our League's purpose. When you fill out your check and send it in, check out the reverse and see what you can do.

Thanks to *Jinky Gardner* for chairing our membership efforts this year.

Fifth Annual Community Luncheon

The Fifth Annual Community Luncheon, held on April 27, was a major event for our members and for civic leaders, faculty and staff of UC, and other key people in our community. *Nancy Bickel* welcomed the more than 200 people attending and recognized elected officials. A representative of each of the cities of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville spoke. The featured

speaker was Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration, who is a visiting professor at UC in the spring semester. The charismatic Reich gave a clear analysis of "Taking Back Politics." After his presentation he signed copies of his books. Cody's Books generously split their profits on all books sold at the luncheon. The net income from the event was nearly \$5,000. A seven-member committee chaired by *Ruth Ganong* and *Karen Nelson* spent months working to make the luncheon, which is becoming a community tradition, a resounding success from every aspect.

Vista College Election Oversight

Thanks to *Polly Amrein*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Vi Feinauer*, *Vida Lehmann*, and *Sherry Smith*, and to our liaison with Vista College, *Helene Lecar*, for helping out at the Vista College election in April. This was a two-day election in which two elections were run simultaneously: one to fill a student trustee seat on the Board of Directors of the Peralta College District, and the other to elect officers for and to consider changes in the Constitution of the Associated Students of Vista Community College. The League was paid \$500 for the work of our volunteers, which included counting the ballots.

ASUC Election Oversight

The election of representatives for student government positions within the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) was held in early April. The League provided services as it has done since the late 1970's. Since the ASUC has turned to computer voting, the League no longer monitors individual polling sites, but contracts to watch over the computer processing unit containing the election software, to monitor the ballot box into which provisional ballots are cast, to assist with the input of the provisional ballots, and to oversee the tabulation at the conclusion of the election.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

The crew this year consisted of *Polly Amrein, Jane Barrett, Eloise Bodine, Lois Brubeck, Nancy Bickel, Jane Coulter, Tom Coulter, Vi Feinauer, Jinky Gardner, Pat Kuhi, Jill Martinucci, Fran Packard, Ginette Polak, Jean Safir, Sherry Smith, Ruthann Taylor, and Phoebe Watts*. Thanks to their services, the League earned over \$1,500 this year on this project.

Annual Fund Drive

League members and other donors from the community contributed a generous \$4,000 to the Foundation and over \$5,000 to the LWVBAE General Fund, for a resounding response to our annual appeal. Well over 100 contributors made this one of the most successful drives in our League's history.

"Scrip" Program

The Scrip program, which includes paper scrip from *Andronico's* and *Macy's* as well as the electronically-credited "e-scrip", continued to be an appreciated fund-raiser for the League. By using Scrip, about 80 League members contributed a percentage of their purchases to the League. *Eva Brecher* has coordinated this project for many years, with the great appreciation of the participants and the League.

Oral History Project

The LWVBAE Oral History Project, funded by the LWV Berkeley Foundation, began in 1994, when *Ora Huth* conducted brief interviews with long-term League members, such as *Alba Witkin*. In 1995, the LWV Bay Area Oral History Project focused on women from Bay Area Leagues whose accomplishments stretched beyond local achievements. *Ruth Scheer*, president of the Berkeley League in 1941 and of the State League 1945-47, and *Sylvia McLaughlin*, co-founder of Save the Bay, were among

those included in the project.

Interviews include: former presidents *Sally Severance, Margaret Dumas, Gilda Feller, Patricia Wadleigh* (tape only), and *Phyllis Clement* (notes only); *Elizabeth (Beth) Schickele* and her role with the Natural Resources Committee; *Felicia Bock* and the National Security Studies; and *Ruth Ganong*, former Mayor of Albany and AC Transit Director (originally from the LWV Bay Area Project). A work-in-progress concerns former League president and UC scientist, *Dr. Bea Fraenkel-Conrat*. An earlier interview with *Margaret Gordon*, conducted by the Berkeley Historical Society, covered her League, Berkeley City Council, and UC experiences.

League members who have worked on the Project are: *Ora Huth, Gaby Morris, Marilyn Couch, Eloise Bodine, Emma Lue Kopp, Jane Bergen, Harriet Nathan, Winifred McLaughlin, Carol Stone, Gail Schickele, Sarah Miyazaki, Juliet Kniffen, Mina Jenner, Linda Polsby, and Jane Coulter*.

Special thanks to *Therese Pipe*, program coordinator.

Conclusion

The work of everyone involved with these programs and projects has been remarkable, and benefits the LWVBAE in many ways. It is this spirit that makes the League attractive to members and effective in our communities.

-*Sherry Smith*, Outreach and Development V.P.

New VOTER Editor

Jean Safir has retired as VOTER editor and *Lea Barker* will now assume that responsibility, working with the Board and other volunteers.

Special thanks to *Evelyn Light* and *Marj Rubinow*, who will continue in their essential roles as proofreaders, and to *Bob Hawley*, who continues to help with production of the VOTER.

PROGRAM

Several general meetings held during the year focused on the main State and local League "issues for emphasis" and on our upcoming local study. The meetings were announced in the local papers and the public, as usual, was invited. Two meetings took place in the meeting room at Berkeley's main library. At our September general meeting, Prof. John Ellwood tackled: "California After the Recall: Will Anything Change?" – a look at the continuing budget crisis.

In October, Prof. Henry Brady spoke on "The Integrity of Elections: How we can best assure that our votes are counted correctly." In March *Dr. Ursula Rolfe*, *Dr. Ron Adler* and *Marty Lynch* spoke on "Universal Access to Quality Health Care: How Do We Get There?" To kick off the 2004-5 local study, speakers at the May Annual Meeting spoke about: "Educating Our Children to be Active Citizens."

At a meeting after the Brady talk, Leaguers discussed the issues that he had raised, particularly whether electronic voting requires a paper audit trail to be secure. A meeting in February discussed the new LWVUS position on Selection of the President. A February Program Planning meeting led to the recommendation to the Board that a new local study on civics education in our three cities' schools should be undertaken. Also recommended was an LWVUS review and update of its position on voting, by looking at the protection of the integrity of the votes cast and covering electronic voting devices. We reported to the LWV Bay Area our recommendation that it emphasize regional planning, environmental quality and the promotion of housing at transit hubs in the coming year.

The Speakers Series, held monthly at the Albany Library on Thursdays at noon, brought unexpected ideas and insights. In October, former Berkeley City Council member *Polly Armstrong* described her experience taking wheelchairs to Iran. In November, health officials from Alameda County and Berkeley

discussed the proposed budget's devastating impact on health services. In January, senior center directors spoke about senior services and the philosophy of geriatrics. In February, *Jacqueline Shadko*, Vista Vice President, described Vista College courses and plans for the new building and library. In March, *David James* described how the county vector control services contain and control pests and wild animals. In May, librarians *Ronnie Davis*, *Sayre Van Young*, and *Gracie Woodard* discussed the Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville libraries, particularly special programs and services.

Evelyn Light, *Doris Mendell*, *Barbara Nelson* and *Janet Strothman*, the Speaker Series Committee, planned and ran these excellent meetings.

Environmental Affairs, under co-chairs *Carol Stone* and *Gil Bendix*, met one Monday evening a month. In October, *Terry Powell*, Communications Director for the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, addressed concerns about the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed six-story Building 49.

In November, *Peter Gleick*, a recent MacArthur Fellow and expert on global freshwater issues, spoke on the privatization of water. In December, we saw slides on the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. In January, *Susan Strong* introduced the technique of using effective metaphors to make political action more effective. In February, *Marguerite Naillon*, of CALFED, explained the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion plan. March speaker, *Martin Bourque*, discussed the history of recycling.

Michael Dimmock, chairman of Slow Food USA, spoke in April in favor of sustainability and wholesome pleasure over maximum efficiency. In May, *Sylvia McLaughlin* introduced *Robert Cheasty*, President of Citizens for the Eastshore State Park (CESP), who described the campaign to create the Park, which stretches along the bay front from the Oakland Bay Bridge to Richmond.

- *Lois Brubeck*, Program V.P.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated



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 annual dues made out to: \$55

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.

July

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 | Thurs. | 6 - 8 pm | Board Meeting | LWVBAE Office | <i>S. Smith</i> , 548-1769 |
| 22 | Thurs. | 7:30 pm | Action Committee | 1419 Grant (<i>Watts</i>) | <i>Safir</i> , 524-9088 |
| 27 | Tues. | 7:30 - 9 pm | Civics Education Study | 2339 Edwards | <i>Gardner</i> , 548-5292 |

August

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 5 | Thurs. | 6-8 pm | Board Meeting | LWVBAE Office | <i>S. Smith</i> , 548-1769 |
| 6 | Friday | Noon | Deadline for September VOTER | lwvbae@pacbell.net | <i>Barker</i> , 486-1990 |
| 10 | Tues. | 7:30 - 9 pm | Civics Education Study | 2339 Edwards | <i>Gardner</i> , 548-5292 |
| 16 | Mon. | | LWVBAE Office re-opens | | <i>Akers</i> , 524-8152 |
| 26 | Thurs. | 7:30 pm | Action Committee | 1419 Grant (<i>Watts</i>) | <i>Safir</i> , 524-9088 |

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization.

It encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Ave., Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 29

