



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

Summer 2006

Editors: Chapman, Smith & Brandes

JOIN US FOR LWVBAE'S 7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006 – 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

H^Q LORDSHIPS ON THE BERKELEY MARINA, \$75 DONATION

INVITATIONS TO BE MAILED IN JULY

LWVBAE is honored to have one of the nation's outstanding legal minds address us at August's Community Luncheon. This annual event commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote, and the founding of the League of Women Voters, both in 1920. It also funds a significant portion of our budget. So, when you receive your invitation in July, be certain to return it promptly in order to reserve your place.



Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean of the UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law, will speak on **The Status of Civil Rights in the USA After the 'Iraqi Freedom' Invasion**. Dean Edley recently came to his position from Harvard Law School. Following his graduation from Harvard University in 1978 with a J.D. and a Masters degree in Public Policy, he joined the Carter

administration as an assistant White House director dealing with, among other things, welfare reform and social security.

He joined President Bill Clinton's transition team in 1992 as a senior advisor on economic policy. He went on to work as associate director for economy and government at the White House Office of Management and Budget, heading a staff of 70 that was responsible for White House oversight of budget, legislation, and departments including Justice, Treasury, Transportation, and HUD. In 1995 he added "Special Counsel to the President" to his responsibilities, directing White House review of affirmative action. Two years later he was made a consultant to the President's Advisory Board on Race Initiative.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This is my valedictory following two terms as President, during which time I have had the pleasure of presiding over a truly excellent Board of Directors. Recognizing that our Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville League is the oldest and, with 400 members, one of the largest in California, we are often looked to for leadership and asked to become part of projects and take action on civic issues that are both local and beyond our borders.

I want to express my special gratitude to Civics Education Study co-chairs *Jinky Gardner* and *Cathy Lynch*, and their entire committee, for the impressive report they produced that now prepares us for our action phase. Our League's leadership on this issue has caught the imagination of other Leagues in the state that also want to explore how civics education is handled in their local school districts.

Another highlight this year was last August's successful annual Community Luncheon, celebrating the League's 85th anniversary. This year's luncheon committee is planning another celebration of town and gown relations on August 24 at H^s Lordships restaurant. The speaker will be Christopher Edley, the Dean of Boalt Hall Law School. See page 1 for details.

Our major activities this year included:

- The 2005 statewide special election, where we were called upon to provide speakers and distribute Pros and Cons.
- Voter registration, under the wonderful leadership of *Lenora Young* who has coordinated the efforts of the volunteers who patrol the now over 100 locations that carry the voter registration form boxes located throughout our three cities. Unfortunately, Lenora will move to the Portland area this fall – our loss, their gain; she will be sorely missed. She has asked me to acknowledge the League volunteers who have distributed registration certificates on a regular basis. They include *Jean Safir*, *Hillary Reinis*, *Wilma Jordan*, *Ruth Maguire*, *Ruthann*

Taylor and *Allie Norton*. Others who have helped out include *Marsha Skinner* and *Karen Carlson-Olson*. We are fortunate that *Claudia Berger* has agreed to take over Lenora's mission.

- Contrary to our belief that with its incremental progress towards on-line elections some years ago Cal would no longer require our services as volunteer poll observers for the student body election, we were requested to help again this year. The \$4,000 earned certainly helped our budget.
- The State study to update the Energy position has been one of the highlights of this year, particularly a memorable visit to the Lawrence Berkeley Lab for a tour of the energy efficiency facilities.
- "Sunshine Week" was another project in which we have been instrumental---a nationwide project that encourages local efforts to pass "sunshine" ordinances, which allow for open government and access to public records.
- "Clean Money", our ongoing local and statewide effort to promote public financing of elections.
- The Eva Alexis Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities – there will be two recipients chosen by the committee, chaired by *Carol Stone*. One, *Caryl Hart*, has already been selected. Watch for announcements about a special event this fall when the grantee students will make their presentations to the League.

Thanks, everyone, for your countless hours of help and your enthusiastic support of our League program. *Jinky Gardner*, your excellent new President, has my very best wishes for an effective and productive presidency, in collaboration with her outstanding Board and with the support of you, the membership, who make everything happen.

Sherry Smith, President

BOARD BRIEFS

The following motions were passed during the March regular meeting:

1. Budget: (a) To request members to approve an increase of dues from \$58 to \$65 and an increase for second household members and students from \$27 to \$30. (b) That the budget for the coming year be put before membership at the Annual Meeting.
2. Civics Education Study: Acceptance of the refined consensus questions.
3. Bansner Fund: Approval of the Letter of Agreement regarding administration of the Eva Alexis Bansner Fund.

The purpose of the special March meeting was to receive the consensus report of the Energy Study Committee prior to its being forwarded to LWVC. The following motions were passed:

1. To accept the consensus report of the Energy Study Committee for forwarding to the League of Women Voters of California.
2. To commend the Energy Committee for a job well done.

The following motions were passed during the regular April meeting:

1. Nominating Committee Report: *Suzanne Chun* presented the Committee's report and a motion was made to accept the report with gratitude.
2. Program Committee: *Sherry Smith* presented the local Planning Program decisions, on behalf of *Jo Ann Price*, and it was moved to accept the plans as presented
3. LWVBAE Position Statement: Following presentation of the LWVBAE Position Statement it was carried by acclamation
4. Following an explanation by *Helene Lecar* of Measure A, which is a \$390 million Peralta Colleges bond that will appear on the June ballot, a motion was passed to support Measure A.

Angharad Jones, Secretary

LWVBAE Board Members 2006-07 Elected at the 5/17/06 Annual Meeting

Officers

<i>Jinky Gardner</i>	President
<i>Diane Akers and Jane Barrett</i>	Administration Vice President
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	Action Vice President
<i>Luanne Rogers</i>	Program Vice President
<i>Eloise Bodine</i>	Treasurer
<i>Angharad Jones</i>	Secretary

Board Members

Georgia Babladelis, Education Chair; *Jody Bush*, Library Liaison; *Betty Hicks* and *Phoebe Watts*, Voter Services Co-Chairs; *Kristina Lim* and *Karen Nelson*, Membership Co-Chairs; *Ursula Rolfe*, Health Care; and *Jane Brandes*, VOTER Editor

Nominating Committee

Barbara Nelson and *Suzanne Chun*

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Budget 2006-2007: An increase in membership dues from \$58 to \$65 for individual membership, and from \$27 to \$30 for second household and student members was approved.

Program & Local Support Positions were printed in the *Call to Annual Meeting* and motions were moved and carried to support all items listed including, under Program: Action on the new Civics Education study, advocating a Sunshine Ordinance, and support of "Clean Money" public financing of elections. All positions are available on LWVBAE web site and in print at the office.

President's Summary:

- President *Sherry Smith* encouraged attendance at this year's Annual Community Luncheon to be held at H^S Lordships restaurant on August 24.
- LWVBAE earned \$4,000 providing independent oversight of the ASUC elections on campus.
- The visit to the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, in conjunction with the State study to update the Energy position, was a highlight of the year.

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(Annual Meeting Report cont. from page 3)

- The pursuit of open government with the passage of “sunshine ordinances” is an on-going project, as is our support of a local and statewide effort to promote public financing of elections via “clean money” initiatives.
- Two recipients have been chosen for the Eva Alexis Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities.
- Deceased member *Eva Brecher's* family generously suggested, in accordance with Eva's wishes, that expressions of condolence be in the form of contributions to the League.

A Motion was made and carried to elect the proposed slate for the 2006-07 Board.

Direction to the New Board from Members:

- Study earthquake preparedness
- Encourage civics education at the kindergarten level with parent involvement
- Pursue ways to encourage a younger membership in the LWVBAE.

Angharad Jones, Secretary

(Annual Luncheon cont. from page 1)

Dean Edley served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1999 to 2005. In 2001 he was a member of the Commission on Federal Election Reform. Currently he serves as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and as a trustee of the Russell Sage Foundation, as well as on the executive committee of the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Academy of Sciences.

Please plan to join your League colleagues and friends on Thursday, August 24, 2006, for a truly special event.

Suzanne Chun, Chair
Annual Community Luncheon

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT Annual Report

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 Report 2005-2006

We welcomed 70 new members this year, bringing our total membership to 402.

Kristina Lim and *Karen Nelson* will serve as co-chairs of the Membership Committee, and will be members of the League Board. *Mina Jenner* continues to process renewal notices and send the Board monthly reports. *Jane Coulter* maintains the membership database.

We had two new member orientations this year and are working on new ways to get our new members more involved with the League. We continue to use the reverse side of the renewal card to connect members with League work pertaining to their interests.

We had eight new student members join thanks to **the Eva Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities Award**. We are also looking for more ways to increase student involvement in the League.

The Membership Committee invites you to contact us with your interests and suggestions.

Kristina Lim, Membership Co-Chair

GO VIRTUAL THIS SUMMER!

Besides our own League's website (see front page), the websites of the Bay Area, California and the national Leagues 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>

Community College Action 2005-06

Let the good times roll!

Once again, the voters of Alameda County have come through for the Peralta Community College District. Although only a 55% Yes vote was required to pass Measure A, the actual numbers were decisive – just under 73,000 for, with fewer than 25,000 against.

The District will now have \$393 million as a reserve to upgrade and modernize the three older campuses and enough to fully furnish the brand-new Berkeley City College building.

With the capital funds to buy modern energy-efficient roofing, insulated windows, heating and cooling systems, lighting, and water-saving plumbing, the district will be able to use the operating funds it now must spend on maintenance and utility bills to provide additional classes and student services.

Construction at our beautiful new campus is almost complete as we go to press; move-in day is now planned for late July, and classes are scheduled to start on August 23.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at the new campus, 2050 Center St., at 10 AM on Tuesday, August 22, and everyone is invited. While small groups have been led through at various stages of the construction, we will be having a special tour for the League some time in November, once the students are actually in the building and the books are up on the library shelves. Those of us who have been around since this project began to take shape (before the turn of the century!) can scarcely believe how far we have come.

Our 2005-06 year was filled with activity. A grant from the Hewlett Foundation enabled the Berkeley and Oakland Leagues combined to underwrite a public forum on PTV, the Peralta TV station, about the three measures (Props 74, 75 and 76) affecting education on the Special Election Ballot of November 2005. All three

measures, which were opposed by the state League, went down to defeat.

In February, Student Ambassadors from Vista (now Berkeley City College) visited all the 8th graders at M.L. King, Jr., Middle School to talk about how they found themselves as college students, and urging the 8th graders to think seriously about their futures. A follow-up meeting in early March for parents provided an opportunity to discuss ways in which parents could help their youngsters achieve their goals and do well in high school.

In the wings at the state level, Senator Jack Scott has introduced SB 1709, which would not only provide greater funding stability for the colleges but would also require the state Department of Education to notify parents of all 6th, 8th and 10th graders of the many opportunities for pursuing education after high school, and ways to pay for advanced schooling. A slightly different version of the bill, SB 845, is now making its way through the Assembly. The state League has written in support of SB 845, and we'll be following its progress as it wends its way through the legislative process. Stay tuned.

Helene Lecar, Coordinator

"Scrip" Program

A hearty thank you to the League members who helped to distribute the Andronico's Scrip this year. They are *Tom Coulter, Allie Norton, Ginette Polak, Barbara Nelson, Barbara Stern, and Janet Strothman*. The purchase of Scrip contributed about \$3,550 to the League treasury. For each \$100 purchased, the League receives \$6. If you are not already participating in this program and would like to do so, please contact *Ruthann Taylor* by phone at 527-0673, or by e-mail at cetaylor7@comcast.net.

Ruthann Taylor, Coordinator

PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

2005-06

My warm and heartfelt thanks go to all LWVBAE members who worked to ensure that our League's Program events were effective and successful this year. Willing, dependable, and committed League teamwork was the key to the many accomplishments we're all proud of.

LWVBAE's 2005-06 Program activities kicked off on August 26, 2005 with the highly successful and festive Community Luncheon, chaired by *Joyce Jackson*. The committee did an outstanding job netting just over \$11,000 for the League's General Fund, while helping the League and community members, including local business people and representatives of UC Berkeley to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote, and the 85th Birthday of LWV. Two items highlighted the event: a timely speech by Cynthia Gorney, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, on the status of the U.S. print media as embodied in the Valery Plame affair; and the bestowing of the first two LWVBAE Distinguished Community Awards to member Eva Bansner, posthumously, and to Berkeley's excellent Youth Radio.

The Fall General Meeting in October at the Northbrae Community Church featured a panel of knowledgeable speakers on the November ballot propositions on which the League took either a pro or con stand. The delicious supper was catered by Fat Apple's.

Co-chaired by *Jinky Gardner* and *Cathy Lynch*, the Civics Education Study continued for a second year. The hard-working and focused committee interviewed superintendents and principals in the three school districts of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville and created questionnaires for specific grades in elementary, junior high, and high school. After analyzing the responses and writing a report,

the committee held consensus units in March. The resulting proposed Civics Education position was brought to the Annual Meeting in May and adopted by the members.

In September the State Energy Update Study got under way with the capable Co-chairs *Roselyn Rosenfeld* and *Patricia Kuhl* leading a large and dedicated committee. Over several months the committee made sense of lengthy and difficult materials to prepare two sets of consensus units for the members. A highlight of the study was the remarkable Renewable Energy Tour and Talks for Leaguers and friends at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in January, arranged by Dr. Arthur Rosenfeld, renowned expert on renewable energy. The units were held in February and the results sent to the state League.

The biennial LWVUS program planning unit was held in January, along with that for the Bay Area League. LWVBAE's program planning unit was held in April.

As the last program event of the year, the Annual Meeting was held in May at the Northbrae Community Church. Daniel Purnell, Executive Director of Oakland's Ethics Commission, spoke on the need for Sunshine Laws at the local level and shared his valuable experiences with the Oakland commission. A special supper was catered by Rick and Ann's.

The 2006 Community Luncheon Committee chaired by *Suzanne Chun* began its work in May and is busily accomplishing all the necessary tasks to deliver another wonderful League luncheon on August 24. Thus the circle of LWVBAE's Program year continues. The Board invites, in fact URGES, you to participate in the fun and worthwhile Program activities for the coming year. You'll be so glad you did!

Jo Ann B. Price, Program V.P.

ADMINISTRATION

2005-06 Report

Summer is almost here, and the Annual Luncheon Committee will be staffing the office for us at least twice a week from June 19 to August 14. They take phone messages and collect mail during this time.

This past year, we tried to cover the office every day and on many days we had a person scheduled both in the morning and the afternoon from the end of summer break to the election. In addition to our Board members, whom we asked to give at least one day a month, several non-board members regularly staff the office. These include *Georgia Babladelis, Suzanne Chun, Phoebe Watts, Jane Barrett, Ruthann Taylor, Vi Feinauer, Louetta Erlin, Lenora Young, Karen Nelson, Jo Ann Price, Marion Sherk, Candy Simonen, Sue Sutton, Renate Tubman, and Ginette Polak.*

We also have dedicated volunteers who help assemble the Voter each month. Our regulars are: *Georgia Babladelis, Claudia Berger, Gretchen Carlson, Suzanne Chun, Louetta Erlin, Angharad Jones, Althea Langston, Barbara Nelson, Sherry Smith, Barbara Stern, Carol Talbeck, and Teresa Wong.*

Our special assignment this year was to get the office rug shampooed. We found a company who uses "green" materials and gave us a special discount. The office carpet really looked great.

As usual, my special thanks go to *Karen Carlson-Olson*. I continue to be amazed by her dedication to the League. Karen works approximately 12.5 hours per week. Her tasks include: assisting Sherry with the multitude of e-mails, paying bills, answering phones, making deposits, keeping e-mail addresses current, filing items from mail and e-mail into League metal files and computer League files; keeping master file list updated; providing information to anyone who requests it; identifying items for purchase and buying them, and typing for board members. Karen also coordinates the

mailing of the Voter, getting it to and from the printer, making labels and ensuring we have enough hands to fold, label, and sort.

It is the responsibility of the Vice President of Administration to schedule the office volunteer coverage. For most of my two-year responsibility, *Ruthann Taylor* has managed this task. This December Ruthann recruited *Jane Barrett* to take on this monthly task. Without the help of these two women, we would have had many days without someone to staff the office. If you are interested in volunteering at the League Office, please contact *Jane Barrett* – 845-8055.

Diane Akers, Administration VP

VOTER SERVICES

2005-06 Report

Although last fall was supposed to be an "off year" - it wasn't. The statewide Special Election, Albany's two local measures, and the Emeryville city election kept us busy. We began election season by staffing tables at the Solano Stroll and the How Berkeley Can You Be Festival. We then trained a group of Pros & Cons speakers who addressed groups throughout our three cities. We kept all the usual places stocked with registration forms, and moderated a candidates' forum for Emeryville City Council candidates.

The June 6 Primary election proved easier. With only two state measures and Peralta Measure A, we had no local Pros and Cons to write, and groups to whom we usually speak did not want speakers. We limited our work to stocking the usual places with registration forms, and to delivering the printed LWVC Pros and Cons and the Easy Voter Guides to places where the public can find them.

This fall's General election will be more work. Enjoy your summer, then come back ready to research issues, write and edit, speak to civic groups, deliver registration forms, moderate candidate forums, and be poll workers.

Jinky Gardner, Voter Services VP

ASUC ELECTION 2006

This year's ASUC election appeared to conclude on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, with an electronic tabulation of ballots in Barrows Hall. For the 28th consecutive year, our League provided oversight services. I say appeared to conclude because, as of this writing, the Judicial Council is considering two student suits that have the potential for voiding the election and mandating a new one. Stay tuned!

As we did last year, the League provided a small number of roving observers to ensure that proper election practices were being followed at the 17 electronic polling stations located around the campus and in student dining commons; and, new this year, in the major campus computer labs where students could vote via the World Wide Web. We also supervised a provisional ballot box for use by students choosing to vote on paper; but, of the 10,873 ballots cast, only 1 was provisional. It seems that students have almost complete faith in electronic voting.

Beginning in March, League supervisors *Sherry Smith*, *Bill Chapman*, and *Jane Coulter*, worked with student Elections Chair *Jessica Wren* and consultant *Leslieann Cachola* as advisors on proper election practices. Our advice was required only occasionally, as the Elections Council set up what proved to be a smoothly run election.



Lenora Young supervises the Sproul provisional ballot box

For the first time this year, the ASUC Senate allowed voting via the World Wide Web. Two-thirds of the ballots cast came online. The remainder were cast at the traditional campus polling stations. While our expertise does not extend to Internet voting security, we were still able to offer useful advice on proper practices, which are as valid with electronic ballots as they are with paper ones.

Bill Chapman

MAY-JUNE DONATIONS

TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

Jean M. Allen

Marilyn Couch

Julie Shearer and

William Ellis

Heidi Gillies

Helene Lecar

Katherina Ostrander

Ursula Rolfe

Meredith Stout

Frances Townes

William Chapman

Elizabeth De Vogelaere

Phyllis Gaines

Patricia Kates

Allie Norton

Nancy Riddle

Marion T. Sherk

June W. Tichinin

TO THE LWVBAE TRIBUTE FUND

Jane and Tom Coulter

Dr. Joanne De Phillips

Winifred Mc Laughlin

Dirk Neyhart

Susan Pownall

In memory of Eva Brecher

In memory of Eva Brecher

In memory of Eva Brecher

In honor of Debbie Neyhart

In memory of Eva Brecher

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Georgia Babladelis

Stephanie Friedman

Elizabeth De Vogelaere

TO THE EVA ALEXIS BANSNER FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Horst Bansner

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

Julianna S. Dickey

Linda Lewin

Barbara Mishell

Katherina Ostrander

Heidi Seney

Marilyn Heilman

Jeanne McHugh

Robert Mishell

Nancy Pakter

Rosemary Stoller

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
KNOW YOUR BAY AREA DAY
Saturday, September 16, 2006

Challenges of our Regional Water Systems

Come learn about the politics of our water supply and the safety and security of our water systems, with a special look at the Hetch Hetchy upgrades now under way.

Sessions include:

- Challenges of Our Regional Water Supply Systems
- The San Francisco Water System, the Water Supply Improvement Program, and Emergency Water Supply Plans
- Political Concerns of the Regional Water Agencies, Emergency Water Supply Plans, and the Demographics of Water Users;
- The Economic Importance of Water to the Bay Area;
- Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency: Keeping the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on Track;
- Emergency Preparedness for the Water Supply: What If?

Come enjoy a day in San Francisco and learn about one of our most essential resources.

Marines Memorial Club
609 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415 673 6672

Registration: 9:00 a.m.
Program: 9:30 a.m.
Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.

To reserve your space, send your reservations via email or mail to Tam Hege, tamhege@aol.com or 80 Florada Ave., Piedmont, CA 94610.





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BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

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

JUNE

19 Mon. League Office closes for the summer. It will reopen August 14.

JULY

5 Wed. 7 - 9 pm LWVBAE Board Meeting (**tentative**—check with *Jinky Gardner*, President, at 548-5292)

AUGUST

2 Wed. 7 - 9 pm LWVBAE Board meeting (**tentative**—check with *Jinky Gardner*, President, at 548-5292)

14 Mon. League Office reopens after the summer break

24 Thurs. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm **Annual Community Luncheon** (details on page 1 of this VOTER)

SEPTEMBER

6 Wed. 7 - 9 pm LWVBAE Board Meeting (**tentative**—check with *Jinky Gardner*, President, at 548-5292)

16 Sat. 9 am - 1 pm "Know Your Bay Area Day", Marines Memorial, San Francisco. Topic: Hetch-Hetchy Improvements and Other Regional Water Supply Issues"