

THE V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

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President: Jo Ann B. Price

Summer, 1999

Editor: Bob Hawley

LWVBAE Annual Meeting Roaring Success

At a well-attended Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 5, 1999, at the Northbrae Community Church, members present unanimously:

- increased LWVBAE dues to \$50;
- passed the 1999-2000 LWVBAE Budget as amended;
- adopted three local studies -
 1. Housing Study, 2nd Year,
 2. Education Study, Community College Opportunities,
 3. Voting System Study of Instant Runoff Voting;
- re-adopted Local Support Positions as amended for clarity;
- applied Local Government Structure of Local Support Positions, section A, items 5 and 6 (holding local special elections by mail ballot), to Emeryville;
- elected the 1999-2000 LWVBAE Board of Directors.

Appreciation Awards to members for outstanding and extraordinary work on behalf of LWVBAE were presented to: *Bill Chapman* for designing, executing, and maintaining the LWVBAE WebSite; *Marj Rubinow* for many years of commitment and excellence in League activity, in particular chairing the Office Volunteer Committee; and *Jill Martinucci* for pioneering and chairing the League's involvement with BTV, cable channel 25, that resulted in 1998-99 with the LWVBAE series "City Conversations".

Following retiring President *Doris Fine's* annual report, incoming President *Jo Ann Price*, on behalf of the 1998-1999 Board, thanked *Doris* for her two years of effective dedication and hard work; wished her well in her new position as Government Director on the LWVC Board; and presented her with gifts.

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San Jose LWVC Convention 1999

LWVBAE congratulates and thanks the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County and the Convention Committee '99 with co-Chairs Betty Mann and Sally Remmers, for planning and executing a textbook convention for California Leagues on May 14-16, 1999. Our League also salutes the LWVC immediate past President Karyn Gill and the 1997-99 Board for having planned and presented the Convention Workshop Session, 1999-2001 Budget, and Program.

The workshops were so useful and interesting that delegates wanted to attend each one. Unfortunately, only two of ten were a possibility. LWVBAE made good use of the caucus opportunities provided to share information and lobby for our non-recommended program of Education as an Issue for Emphasis.

The two featured speakers, Honorable Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell, Superior Court Judge, Santa Clara County, and Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, President, LWVUS, were outstanding. Judge Cordell spoke of her background and experiences as a young African-American woman and what it took for her to get through high school and university before she was admitted to law school. She also related how, even today, when she arrives for judicial functions or social occasions, she is often mistaken by the service staff for a catering or staff employee and directed elsewhere. Her deep understanding of teen problems and what is necessary to get wayward youth back on track are great assets, though unusual, to have in a Superior Court judge. Santa Clara County is fortunate to have her on the bench.

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President's Column

"Building the Future ..."

What a wonderful group of women and men share membership in LWVBAE! We are Leaguers who are diverse and who want to make a difference in the political future of our town, our county, our region, our state, and our nation. We work to educate and empower citizens to care to advocate and vote about issues of government, social policy, and natural resources - and we have a good time while doing it!

Your new 1999-2000 Board of Directors pledge to work on your behalf to continue our League's long tradition of effective contribution to the civic well-being of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. There are times when we will be able to work as a Board or through League committees to deal with the challenges that come before us. But at other times we will have to call on you, as an individual member, to help the League fulfill some aspect of its mission. We trust you'll be available and forthcoming on those few occasions, such as the ASUC election, and look forward to working with you.

At the State League Convention in May, all Leagues were presented with a challenge to grow and become stronger, to consciously "build the future". This program offers eight ways to achieve that goal, only one of which is mandatory: Membership Growth of at least 5% by 1 April 2000. Can we do it? We're sure going to try!

Meanwhile, along with the League program adopted at our Annual Meeting in June, we'll be working on the seven other ways or objectives to strengthen LWVBAE. If you have ideas about a project that would help us fulfill one or more of these objectives, please call or fax me at 510/548-5206. I'd love to hear from you.

The remaining seven objectives follow, with one example each of possible activity:

- Member Enrichment - Offer training or educational seminars for members.
- Communications - Develop a new way to communicate with members and encourage more Board members to go online.
- Diversity - Aim for a 10% increase in existing diversity of membership; e.g., age, sex, race, disability.
- Citizen Education - Hold a series of forums on important issues at the city, county or state level in a location close to a newly targeted audience.

Board Briefs

The Board met on May 5, 1999.

A report to the Board by *Sherry Smith* about our participation in the recent ASUC elections was discussed. Some 70 of our members and their spouses filled the 100 jobs involved in monitoring the election. That means several persons filled a poll-watching slot more than one time. It is possible that ASUC will move to on-line voting at their next election and, if they do, our role will be very different. The Board moved to commend *Sherry* and her committee for their good work on the election.

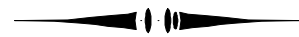
It was decided to ask for feedback at the Annual Meeting regarding effect of the change in office hours.

ABAG has developed a TV program called "Home Town Blues", which will be shown on station KTEH, San Jose (available from Berkeley's TCI cable system as channel 10). It is about housing and growth.

LWVC has protested the absence of a public interest member and the excess number of political campaign attorneys on the McPherson Commission, which was established to investigate and assess the effects of the Political Reform Act (PRA). The act calls for a public interest member.

Topics for the last two television programs in our "City Conversations" series are Economy and Employment (5/11) and a Budget Wrap-up (5/25).

-*Violet Feinauer*, Board Secretary



(President's Column Continued)

- Action - Involve more members in contacting elected officials regarding local, state, and national "alert" issues.
- Voter Service - Inform the electorate about issues facing them in the March 2000 primary, in some new way .
- Development - Institute a new ongoing fundraiser to make League finances more secure.

While we're contemplating the League year ahead and measuring what needs to be done, I wish you a pleasant summer with specific "down time" to rest, relax, and refresh. Then you'll be all the more ready, if not eager, to get involved in September.

HAPPY SUMMER!!!

-**J o A nn**

LWVBAE Environmental Concerns

Bay Trail Project: Halfway to Success

At the Environmental Concerns meeting on April 12, Janet McBride, Bay Trail Project Manager, gave us an update on the plans and accomplishments of the recreational corridor that will encircle the entire Bay Area. Starting with a quiz (with prizes!), then an excellent short video, she gave us a Fact Sheet about the San Francisco Bay Trail and a map of the Central East Bay section. The little maps are updated on the Internet [www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail]. San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide, published by UC Press in 1995, is highly recommended to enhance your explorations and enjoyment of the Trail.

Janet McBride informed us that 54% of the 400-mile trail is now complete. Established by the State Legislature in 1987, ABAG was directed to develop and implement the Bay Trail through 47 Bay Area cities. Segments of the Bay Trail in the Hayward and Alviso area of San Jose, at the southernmost part of the Bay, are complete. In our area, the finished segments are Gilman to Virginia Street, Cesar Chavez Park/Marina, Ashby Spit to Point Emery, and Richmond Point Isabel to Marina Bay. This summer the Ashby to Virginia Street gap and area around Golden Gate Fields in Albany should be completed. Some segments have pedestrian access only, with bikes going along a road for short stretches. Increasing advocacy of bicyclists have helped speed up the development of the trail and obtain access on the bridges. Plans are also under way to link the connection to the Ridge Trail in some areas.

The two key obstacles are funding and assuring that the Bay Trail does not have a negative impact on wildlife habitat. In the first year of the Regional Development Program, the Legislature allocated \$200,000 for 3 projects; in the second year, \$1 million funded 6 projects. The third year's \$5 million was vetoed by Gov. Wilson. Now SB494 (Figueroa, Perata) would appropriate \$5 million from the General Fund for the State Coastal Conservancy to extend the Bay Trail network, employing members of the California Conservation Corps whenever possible for trail construction, landscaping, and maintenance. McBride urged us to send letters of support.

-Ginette Polak

A Lesson in State Convention Tactics, or How to Get a Non-Recommended Item Adopted as an Issue for Emphasis

In December, LWVBAE reached consensus on supporting a restudy of LWVC's position on education as the major State "issue for emphasis." The study would include early childhood education, community colleges, curriculum requirements at all levels, teacher training and compensation, charter schools, and bilingual education. Although a majority of the other local Leagues also recommended education as an issue for emphasis, sub-topics varied, leading State to choose the next in line, sustainability, as its recommended item. Education was listed among the non-recommended items.

Not to be discouraged, our League mailed a flier to all California Leagues and to the State Board, stressing the need for the League to be at the table during this crucial period when the Governor and Legislature are putting so many reform bills in the hopper. We reserved caucus rooms at the convention, assuring that the caucuses would be announced in the convention packet; went to a pre-convention parliamentary briefing; and were ready during the opening session to move that non-recommended items be considered before recommended ones. The motion passed.

An average of twenty delegates attended our caucuses on Friday evening and early Saturday morning. We all agreed that a study wasn't necessary, that present State positions were adequate, that EdSource could provide us with fine research materials on current issues, and that we could network and relieve State of some of its burdens. However, we wanted State to be more active and to forward more information to local Leagues so that they could mobilize support or opposition to the numerous bills being proposed.

On Saturday morning, delegates voted to consider LWVBAE's item, which was eloquently and forcefully presented by *Doris Fine*. However, they also voted to consider an item proposing a simple majority vote on local school bond measures. Clearly, the convention would not approve both items. They had to be combined. It was at the banquet on Saturday evening that the deal got done. *Doris* and the proponent of the bond item found each other and agreed how to proceed. After another late evening strategy session to decide on essential points to be

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Membership

Joy Carlin, luminary of the Bay Area stage, has made a tape explaining the aims and purposes of the League. The tape has been duplicated and distributed to local Leagues statewide for use as a recruiting tool.

Happily, *Joy* is "good as new" following major surgery, and has "literally whipped my garden into shape."

Regina Minudri is in serious condition after having suffered a massive stroke. No visitors or flowers are permitted, but cards may be sent to her home address to be forwarded. Bulletins on *Regina's* condition are up-dated. We send her our hopes and prayers.

Susan Schwartz, co-president of Friends of Five Creeks, was among the volunteers who gathered to remove debris and plant native grasses along Blackberry Creek which makes its way to the sea through the site of the former Thousand Oaks School.

In Memoriam

We send our condolences to *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat* and *Ruth Loran*, their families and friends. Bio-chemist and UCB Professor Heinz L. Fraenkel-Conrat died in April; 1968 LWVB President *Bea* had collaborated in his work for many years. UCB Professor (1936-1972), artist, and author, *Erle Loran* died in May; he and *Ruth* were joint members of LWVBAE.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chairman

Tactics (continued from Page 3)

made on the convention floor, we were ready. On Sunday, the proposer of the bond item formally withdrew it and the education item was amended to include it. Three of those at our strategy session made deeply felt pleas for the issue, and within minutes the delegates overwhelmingly approved it.

"Education, with an emphasis on action at the state and local levels using current positions, giving highest priority to action on majority vote on bonds for local schools, and on information for local Leagues," is now an Issue for Emphasis for the next two years.

-*Lois Brubeck*, 1999 Action VP



Publications Corner



TELL IT TO WASHINGTON

(An LWVUS publication)

A Guide for Citizen Action Including Congressional Directory 1999-2000

"The letter sent by postal service, by fax, or by e-mail is still the most widely used form of communication with members of Congress...and the amount of mail on a particular bill frequently helps determine the legislator's position. In fact, some members use their mail count as the sole determinant when voting."

TELL IT TO WASHINGTON, published by the LWVUS, is the pamphlet that tells you how to communicate effectively and lists addresses of House, Senate, Cabinet and Supreme Court members, and other key Washington addresses.

You will want a copy for yourself and to give to those who ask what they can do to make a difference in government.

COST: \$2.50 including mailing and tax. Call to order a copy.

-*Lenora Young*, Publications Chair

Annual Meeting (continued from Page 1)

Then *Jo Ann* briefly thanked the members for the opportunity to lead LWVBAE before introducing the speaker, Carol T. Christ, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UC Berkeley. (Please see article on Page 13.)

Prof. Christ's thought-provoking talk entitled "Women and the University" was followed by a lively Q and A session. Members then broke for lunch, arranged and carried out by *Phoebe Watts*, *Ruthann Taylor*, *Louetta Erlin*, *Virginia Laurence*, and *Sara Mathews*. After pleasant conversation, a gourmet lunch, and announcements, the meeting was adjourned. If you were unable to attend and would like to hear Vice Chancellor Christ's speech, you may borrow the videotape by calling the League office (510) 843-8824.

- *Jo Ann B. Price*

1998-99 ANNUAL REPORTS
LWVBAE Officers and Members

•1998/99 President's Report•

What have you, our League members, accomplished this year? Can you be proud of your membership in the League?

Committees

The Housing Study under *Suzanne Adams* began the first year of a proposed two-year, in-depth review of housing policies and practices in our 3 communities. The Environmental Concerns Committee, led by *Eva Bansner* and *Gail Schickele*, expanded on our concern for improving housing by including presentations on ways to revitalize the downtown, avoid catastrophic fires, expand the Bay Trail, and generally encourage all the elements needed to build sustainable communities. The Action Committee under *Jo Ann Price*, heard regular reports on what Albany, Emeryville, and Berkeley are doing in planning, economic development, transportation as well as housing, and initiated actions to encourage better, more environmentally sensitive planning. The Bay Area Study Committee, led by *Jean Safir*, is exploring the regional impacts of local actions, enlarging our horizons as we think about the interaction among transportation policies, land use, zoning, and economic justice on all segments of the Bay Area region.

Last, but closest to my own interests, our Education Committee, chaired by *Lois Brubeck*, is involved in working to improve the Berkeley schools at several levels. Our members volunteer to tutor and mentor youngsters in the schools, monitor the 2x2 Committee, are members of the citywide Youth Collaborative, work with the Concerned Citizens for Berkeley High School, and serve on the community involvement arm of the Berkeley schools literacy program. We not only attend meetings, we write letters to the editor to awaken public concern on issues such as the achievement gap adversely affecting Black and Latino students, and we remind members of the Board of their responsibilities for all students. As a member of the Berkeley Alliance, a partnership among the University of California, the City, and the BUSD, the League is urging a citywide campaign to make sure all children learn to read by 3rd grade. The future of our community depends on how well the schools do their job, and who better than the League to help them do it!

Programs

Programs the League sponsored this year have dealt with several issues that concern us not only locally, but statewide and nationally. I'll mention only a few: Medicare, Juvenile Justice, and Welfare Reform. A forum on the future of Medicare, co-sponsored with several of our sister Leagues, brought together a panel of experts to discuss alternatives the public will need to consider in order to maintain this essential program. Medicare is the precursor of the kind of publicly-supported medical care this country lacks so that every citizen, not just the elderly, will have access to health care. The study of Juvenile Justice Dependency, the focus of the Fall General Meeting and subsequent UNITS, led to consensus. This was translated into a statewide position on ways to prevent child abuse and to attend more effectively to the needs of foster children subject to neglect, and was adopted at the recent State League convention. We co-sponsored a meeting with the Oakland League on what is happening with welfare in Alameda County.

Other Interests

Other interests on which we have taken action include lobbying to maintain hard-won women's reproductive rights; urging payment of the dues owed the UN; and working to reform campaign finance. *Therese Pipe* and her committee recently completed documenting the efforts of League members like *Felicia Bock*, whose daughter Audie was recently elected to the State Assembly, and former Council member *Gilda Feller*. This ongoing project's purpose is to record our League's earlier outstanding members whose work we carry on today.

Community and Voter Service

Under *Phoebe Watts*, our voter services in election year 1998 included over 20 presentations by the Speakers Bureau, 7 candidates' forums, and the distribution of thousands of Pros and Cons pamphlets on both state and local ballot issues. Our Web page

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President's Report -(continued from Page 5) had up-to-date voter information and links to help citizens inform themselves on candidates and issues. Candidate forums that were televised live were later shown several times on local cable stations just before election. Co-sponsored programs televised in Oakland on county and statewide offices and special districts were also repeated. Although we did not conduct mock elections this year, *Karen Carlson-Olson* worked with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters to recruit and train over 200 high school students to serve as poll workers on election day. In January we hosted a college student intern who spent 20 hours a week with us learning all about the League for credit. Recently, 2 high school students chose us as their "community service". Making ourselves available to young women is something we must do if the League is to survive.

Membership and Diversity

Despite a drastic drop in League membership nationwide, LWVBAE continues to hold steady, thanks to the efforts of our outreach and recruitment activities. This year we adopted a diversity policy. Thanks to *Carol Voisin* for her persistence in helping the Board understand what diversity can mean to us as individuals and to our mission as a League. A toolkit of ideas from National is now available to help us continue to reach out and work with community groups, young people, and others who will add vitality and diversity to our League.

Video Project

Finally, I am so proud of our video project, "City Conversations". *Jill Martinucci* and her team have produced 10 programs that look at the inner workings of City departments and the relationship between their services and their budget request. This was our response to the need to reform the Council's handling of the budget process, a source of civic embarrassment these last few years, as well as a way to inform our community how the City spends our money. We looked at how the City maintains our parks, paves our streets, patrols our neighborhoods, communicates with citizens, and more. This was "Know Your Town" with an edge. If you want to see for yourself what I have been describing, tapes of all these programs are available for you to borrow from the League office.

"City Conversations" together with all of our programs, combined with the work of our Board and that of our committees - these are what League is all

about. You have every right to be proud of what we have accomplished, and of your membership in the League of Women Voters. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as your President.

-*Doris Fine*, President 1997/99

●1998/99 Report: Administration●

Administration is responsible for our office, its staffing, general appearance, machines, and all the forms and supplies needed by League volunteers who come in to meet or work. Also, Administration is responsible for the production and distribution of the *Voter*, and other important work. All this requires the help of many people.

Of prime importance is staffing the office. *Marj Rubinow* has done this and deserves our VERY SPECIAL THANKS.! There were 235 shifts to fill. We are very grateful to all the members who said YES when *Marj* called (see the list below).

A hearty thanks goes to *Bob Hawley*, who again was the producer-editor for the *Voter*, and to our faithful proofreaders, *Evelyn Light* and *Marj Rubinow*. Our great thanks to the five stalwart *Voter* volunteers who collated, sealed, labeled, bundled, and otherwise got out the *Voter* every month under Linda Carothers' direction: *Allie Norton*, *Janet Strothman*, *Virginia Laurence*, and *Barbara Nelson*. (*Elizabeth De Velbiss* had to drop out last fall.) Our appreciation to those who filled in on tough days: *Eleanor Cox*, *Louise Larson*, *Pat Pope*, *Marj Rubinow*, *Meda Rechen*, and *Joanne Kowalski*.

More special thanks go to two individuals with special positions: *Allie Norton*, Distributor of voter registration forms, and *Lenora Young*, Publications Director. Besides keeping the publications display useful and up-to-date, *Lenora* contributed some outstanding book reviews to the *Voter* this year.

Lastly, throughout the year our Administrative Assistant, *Linda Carothers*, has successfully worked to make our office an attractive, clean, useful and happy place to work.

Office Volunteers

<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Jo Ann Price</i>
<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Meda Rechen</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Marj Rubinow</i>
<i>Peggy Anne Davis</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Yvonne San Jule</i>

Mari Fertig *Ginette Polak*
Emma Lue Kopp *Sally Severance*
Louise Larson *Barbara Stern*
Virginia Laurence *Janet Strothman*
Evelyn Light *Ruthann Taylor*
Karen Nelson *Lassie Ulman*
Allie Norton *Phoebe Watts*
Lenora Young

These office volunteers answered phones, forwarded messages, distributed mail, recorded money received, greeted visitors and more.

-*Marion Luten*, Administration VP 1998/99

1998/99 Report: Action

All League Board portfolios provide a satisfying year's worth of work, - but Action is "where the action is". The Action Team is an exciting group to work with, and coming to the Action Committee meeting each month on the third Wednesday is stimulating and informative. Listening to reports from the Chairs of Education, Environmental Concerns, Housing, Rent Control, Transportation, Local Government in Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, and State/National Issues, as well as from the representative to the Alameda County Leagues Presidents Council, the liaison to the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, observers of local/regional commissions, and any member who wants to bring a concern to the group, encourages lively discussion.

On the occasions when the group decides to recommend action to the Board, the discussion is thoughtful and considers whether one or more League positions are involved before the vote is taken. Often the group hears from outside speakers like commissioners and city hall/regional body staff people regarding a topic at issue. We also interview our state and national representatives annually, based on a kit sent to us respectively by the State and National Leagues.

This year the League took action on several positions by either sending a letter of concern or commendation, or appearing to give testimony. The Action Notebook in the office has copies of just under fifty letters reflecting our opinions. The following list of topics will indicate the breadth of our involvement:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- BUSD Goals Implementation
- 1998-99 Berkeley Budget Process
- Off-leash Dog Park at Cesar Chavez Park

- Timely Approval of Berkeley Library Project
- Reform of the Nation's HMO's
- BUSD's Early Literacy Plan
- Amendments to Reg. 1280, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
- Disclosure of True Sponsors of Political TV Ads
- County Measure W, East Bay Regional Park District
- 1999-2001 Berkeley Budget Process Guideline/Schedule
- IKEA Project, Emeryville
- BUSD Achievement Gap
- Women's Health Issues

This year, the Action Team has been effective and has stayed within the priorities set by our League, LWVC, and LWVUS. Taking into consideration that we are all volunteers with our own lives and priorities, it is amazing what our League accomplishes. Thanks to the entire Action Team for making this year a joy for me, and to each one for the selfless effort given as a gift to the League. The names of the people on the 1998/99 Team are:

Lisa Alfert, Member
Charlotte Benardin, State/National
Felicia Bock, International Relations
Lois Brubeck, Education
Eleanor Cox, Membership
Ann Crowe, Member
Margaret Dumas, International Relations
Doris Fine, President/Alameda County Council
Ruth Ganong, Albany
Erika Kunkel, Environmental Concerns
Virginia Laurence, Health/Welfare
Charlotte Lichterman, Women's Health
Marion Luten, V.P. Administration
Doris Maslach, Housing
Ginette Polak, Treasurer
Meda Rechen, Rent Stabilization Board
Marj Rubinow, Office Volunteers
Jean Safir, Program VP
Yvonne San Jule, LWVBA
Sally Severance, Member
Carrie Sprague, Member
Beth Springston, Emeryville
Phoebe Watts, Voter Service/Host
Lenora Young, Publications

-*Jo Ann B. Price*, Action VP 1998/99

•1998/99 Report: Community Services•

The League's Community Services activities in 1998-99 were dominated by two election events: the November general elections and the April ASUC student elections. They were preceded in September by our participation in the Solano Stroll Fair where volunteers at our day-long booth registered 33 new voters and awarded more than 20 prizes to winners of our original Elections Trivia quiz.

Then election fever set in. League speakers filled 20 speaking assignments under *Meda Rechen's* leadership. Seven candidates meetings were held: 2 with the Berkeley PTA, 1 with Lawrence Berkeley Lab, and 4 under our own sponsorship. All meetings were broadcast on B-TV channel 25 with the experienced help of League members of our volunteer TV staff. We also joined with the Piedmont and Alameda Leagues on several Candidates' Forums run by the Oakland League. We distributed 6000 Pros and Cons pamphlets to neighborhoods, churches, work places, etc., thanks especially to *Ruth Maguire*. On election day, our League office was staffed all day to answer questions; and on election night 10 League members helped the Registrar of Voters check ballot boxes.

In early spring, *Carol Voisin* moderated a debate on the UC campus between students representing the Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the Campus Republicans on the use of the death penalty. In April, the annual push to supervise the ASUC election went smoothly under ASUC Chair, *Sherry Smith*. Seventy League members (including 10 men) filled 95 slots for the 3 days at the voting booths, and the following 3 days in overseeing the vote counting. It was one our most successful and efficient fund-raisers. Throughout the year, *Allie Norton* and her assistants delivered voter registration forms to 25 sites in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville - time consuming work at post offices, schools, senior centers, churches, and other places.

The list of members involved in each of the above activities follows, except the ASUC participants listed in *Sherry Smith's* article.

Community Services Volunteers Solano Stroll

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Doris Mendell</i>
<i>Louetta Erlin</i>	<i>Ginette Polak</i>
<i>Doris Fine</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>

<i>Mary Hampton</i>	<i>Lassie Ulman</i>
<i>Mim Hawley</i>	<i>Carol Voisin</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>Elizabeth Lichtenberg</i>	<i>Lessly Wikle</i>

Candidates Meetings Moderators

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Fran Packard</i>
<i>Jane Coulter</i>	<i>Meda Rechen</i>
<i>Mim Hawley</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Carol Voisin</i>

Election Day Office Staffers and Ballot Supervisors

<i>Karen Carlson-Olson</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Beth Springston</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>
<i>Dan Luten</i>	<i>Lassie Ulman</i>
<i>Marion Luten</i>	<i>Lloyd Ulman</i>
<i>Allie Norton</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>Ginette Polak</i>	<i>Lenora Young</i>

B-TV Channel 25 League Staff

<i>Neil Goldstein</i>	<i>Kay Schwartz</i>
<i>Jill Martinucci</i>	<i>Lessly Wikle</i>
	<i>Masako Yamada</i>

Malcolm X Literacy Program

<i>Lisa Alfert</i>	<i>Amy Jacobsohn</i>
<i>Ida Braun</i>	<i>Sally Severance</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Anne Wallach</i>
	<i>Betsy Ward</i>



-*Lassie Ulman*, Community Services VP 1998/99

Christ's Talk (Continued from Page 13)

wealth/poverty, alumni status, etc. In addition, federal regulation mandate some things and encourage others relating to gender, race or ethnicity and this overrides state law. Decisions for student entrance or for faculty hires cannot be based upon gener, race or ethnicity, but the choice to design as diverse a pool as possible prior to decision can and should be made.

Professor Christ ended with a quote from Lillian Hellman to the effect that arguing about women's rights is like arguing about earthquakes.

-*Jo Ann B. Price*

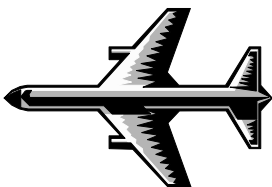
ASUC Election Volunteers Due Huge Thanks

Every year, the League's oversight of the student body election of the Associated Students of the University of California could not happen without the more than 70 volunteers involved. They supervise, staff the polling places and "election central" during the three-day run of the election, and then count the ballots for three more days! The election provides a substantial fund-raising opportunity for the LWVBAE, and so every volunteer's effort puts real cash into our coffers. Thanks to the following, we leaped once more into the breach this year and lived to tell the tale:

Polly Amrein, Jean Bass, Guy Benveniste, Jane Bergen, Ida Braun, Eva Brecher, Aida Brenneis, Cecile Briar, Frances Brown, Cecile Christian, Marilyn Couch, Jane Coulter, Tom Coulter, Eleanor Cox, Ann Crowe, Bob Culver, Bill Davis, Peggy Anne Davis, Louetta Erlin, Doris Fine, Vi Feinauer, Ruth Ganong, Heidi Gillies, Elaine Grossberg, Bob Hawley, Mim Hawley, Aune Hendrickson, Mary Jacobson, Pat Kuhi, Virginia Laurence, Louise Larson, Helene Lecar, Elizabeth Lichtenberg, Dorothy Lindheim, and Marion Luten.

Thanks also to: *Doris Maslach, Linda McKinney, Winifred McLaughlin, Doris Mendell, Jean Moses, Penelope Nellis, Barbara Nelson, Karen Nelson, Allie Norton, Nina Olson, Fran Packard, Judy Peck, Ginette Polak, Jo Ann Price, Louise Rasmussen, Barbara Renton, John Reynolds, Marj Rubinow, Jean Safir, Yvonne San Jule, Elizabeth Schaaf, Susan Schwartz, Sally Severance, Carrie Sprague, Barbara Stern, Joan Strasser, RuthAnn Taylor, Alice Thompson, Peggy Thomsen, Renate Tubman, Lassie Ulman, Lloyd Ulman, Juliet Viola, Pat Wadleigh, Phoebe Watts, Carol Weinmann, and Lenora Young.*

-Sherry Smith,
ASUC Election
Volunteers



•1998/99 Report: Development•

Development is responsible for public relations, membership, liaisons with the community, the Oral History Project and fund raising. The funding sources are membership, scrip sales, contributions to our annual fund drive, and spring ASUC elections at the University of California, Berkeley. These funds pay for voter services, our office in Berkeley, our "Smart Voter" web site and other educational costs.

Eleanor Cox, Membership Chair, reports 410 as the current membership of LWVBAE. Transfers from LWVUS and new student members augment other new additions. The "Getting to Know the League and You" orientation in the office on Saturdays is directed toward new and prospective members. *Mina Jenner* and *Nina Olson* keep our membership directory accurate and up to date. Office volunteers record some of their data.

Eva Brecher, director of grocery scrip sales, reports an income of \$6,095 for LWVBAE from purchase of \$111,740 worth of Safeway and Andronico scrip. One out of four members plus ten friends are customers. *Eva* and nine members took care of distribution and telephoning. *Eva* urges we promote scrip sales to our friends and relations.

Therese Pipe, Oral History Chair, and *Eloise Bodine* bound the manuscript of *Gilda Feller* interviews. Those of *Margaret Dumas* and *Felicia Bock* are in preparation. The video oral history of Beth Schickle is ongoing by *Gail Schickele*. The Bea Fraenkel-Conrat manuscript is on hold at this time.

Funds from the Vista College election and the ASUC of the University of California, Berkeley, netted more than \$6,000 for our League (see article, this page). Since the ASUC may conduct future elections by students voting on their computers, alternative LWVBAE funding is planned for 1999-2000.

Coordinator

All of these contributions to LWVBAE development are successes of League members. Recognition of the competent work of *Ginette Polak*, *Doris Fine* and *Lassie Ulman* is hereby honored.

-Karen Nelson, Development VP 1998/99

●1998/99 Report: Education●

In the fall of 1987, the Education Committee began a review of how decisions are made and carried out in the BUSD. *Irene Hegarty*, a former Director of BUSD, explained that the school board set itself too many goals, which ultimately had to be sacrificed to the crisis of the moment. Thus, for these past two years, our committee has tried to keep the district's eyes on one prime goal: reading and writing literacy for all third graders. After working through the summer with elementary school principals, Chris Lim, the new Assistant Superintendent, brought to the board an early literacy plan. The board encouraged her by funding some important teacher training, which the League supported. We continue to urge that the district set clear standards, tell parents plainly what is expected of their children at each level, and assess the outcome so that unskilled students are not passed on until they ultimately fail or drop out at the upper levels. We are now part of the district's literacy program committee, planning a community-wide drive to enlist businesses, churches, the university, city government and citizens in a campaign to make parents aware that their children must be able to read and write by the end of the third grade, and that they must create opportunities for their children to do so. We are calling upon League members to pitch in!

The committee has also been active with the Concerned Citizens for Berkeley High School, trying to ensure that the district support needed reforms to reduce the "achievement gap." Much depends on the success of our determined new principal, Teresa Saunders. We have written and spoken out in favor of seeking more qualified minority teachers, while demanding high standards of all the faculty. Our members have also been actively participating in the Berkeley Alliance, attending meetings of the Citywide Collaborative for Youth, working on the School-to-Career program, and volunteering at Malcolm X and LeConte schools. (See the following articles.)

-*Lois Brubeck*, Education Chair 1998/99

One Hour a Week Makes a Difference

On June 1, Carole Goyen's third graders at LeConte celebrated the reading and writing they had done with the team of LWV members who had met with them in "Literary Circles" for the Spring semester. They presented a radio play, enacted a series of folk tales they had written and recited some

of their own poetry. Their appreciation for the Leaguers was expressed in individual letters and drawings and capped by a dessert of strawberries and cream (the children waited for the Leaguers to take the first bites)! The lucky volunteers were *Jan Blundell*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Barbara Coleman*, *Winnie McLaughlin*, *Elizabeth Lichtenberg* and *Anne Wallach*.

-*Anne Wallach*

Early Literacy Volunteers

In 1996 LWVBAE responded to requests from teachers at Malcolm X School to provide volunteers to spend about an hour a week assisting in K-3 classes to help children improve their reading. Of the dozen of us who started then, about half are still participating; and some have moved to other schools to expand the program.

We have found the experience very rewarding - each time to be greeted enthusiastically by the children and the teacher, and to observe the progress of the children during the year. We have been particularly impressed with the dedication and warmth of the various teachers when we meet with them several times a year to discuss the program.

Many more teachers have asked us to have volunteers in their rooms, so we need to increase our ranks! The requirements are the ability to read and the willingness to commit about an hour a week (or more, if you wish) to read to or with specific children (depending on grade and ability).

If you think you might like to join our ranks or have a friend who might, call *Ida Braun* or *Anne Wallach* for more details.

-*Ida Braun*

●1998/99 Report: Program● Fall Membership Meeting

The first big event of the 1998-99 year was the Fall Membership Meeting in September at the Northbrae Community Church. The speaker was Pat Engelhard, Director of Children and Family Services for Alameda County. She spoke to us about the work of her agency and of the court system in caring for children who have suffered abuse or neglect. This provided an enormous amount of material to start us working on the Statewide consensus UNITS that took place in early October.

A delicious catered supper preceded a brief business meeting to inform members about the many projects under way

-(Continued next page)

for the coming year. Sixty-nine people attended, including 7 members of our sister Leagues in Oakland and Piedmont. Many thanks to *Ruthann Taylor* for making all the arrangements, and to all the others who helped make the meeting such a success.

Juvenile Justice UNITS

This was the second part of a State-wide study to update the LWVC positions on juvenile justice, the first (completed in 1997) addressing delinquency issues, and the second focusing on dependency issues of child abuse and neglect, foster children and the government agencies that deal with these concerns.

The LWVC study committee, chaired by LWVBAE past president *Pat Kuhi*, provided consensus questions for local Leagues to review and submit comments. After we held two UNIT meetings, the collation of our responses was transmitted to the State League. The consensus of all local League responses was brought to the delegates at the LWVC May Convention and was adopted as amended as a State position.

LWVBAE's study committee was chaired by *Lois Brubeck*, with members *Janet Strothman*, *Joan Strasser* and *Charlotte Bernardin*. Thanks to *Peggy Anne* and *Bill Davis* for sharing their home with us for one of the UNITS, to the Albany Public Library for giving us space for the second UNIT, and to *Sally Severance*, *Marilyn Couch*, and *Barbara Nelson* for being facilitators and recorders for the UNITS. A very special thanks is due *Sally Severance* for serving as UNIT chair for the year.

Environmental Concerns Meetings

Monthly gatherings on environmental concerns were some of the best-attended programs of the year. Co-chaired by *Gail Schickele*, *Erika Kunkel* and *Eva Bansner*, the committee brought in speakers on a wide range of subjects, including ecological community design, "green power," water quality and the "CALFED" program, the Bay trail project, sustainability and environmental justice, among others. Special thanks to *Eva Bansner* for having these meetings in her home.

Housing Study

At LWVBAE's 1998 Annual Meeting, members voted to undertake a new study to (1) expand our positions on housing to the three-city area, and (2) arrive at recommendations for housing policies for each city. The first year was devoted to gathering information about the housing policies and programs

in operation in each city. This was done by collecting and analyzing documents and by interviewing city officials and developers, including non-profits.

Guest speakers were invited to several of the meetings to broaden the group's understanding of the housing issues of our area. Speakers included the president and a board member of the West Berkeley Community Development Corporation; and *Dorothy Walker*, who spoke to us about her work at UCB in connection with the construction of student housing. The committee is led by *Suzanne Adams*. Members include *Diana Bilorsky*, *Eloise Bodine*, *Doris Fine*, *Ruth Maguire*, *Doris Maslach*, *Meda Rechen*, *Jean Safir*, and *Renate Tubman*.

Local Decisions/Regional Impacts Study

This is the local League component of a two-year Bay Area-wide study of the same name, aimed at heightening members' awareness of how land use decisions that are made by local governments can have significant impacts on their neighbors and on the region as a whole. Ultimately, the study will strengthen the Bay Area League's positions and their ability to advocate for better regional and local planning.

The study began with a kit prepared to guide our deliberations by the Bay Area League committee. *Jean Safir* chairs the group, and the committee consists of *Lois Brubeck*, *Lucy Buchbinder* and *Beth Springston*. The first UNITS are scheduled for July 13 and 15, just after the new program year begins.

Speaker Series

Three special events were scheduled during the year to cover a few of the many subjects of interest to our members. In November, Dr. Robert Stebbins, professor emeritus of UCB Zoology Dept., spoke to us on fire safety in Tilden Park, as a follow-up to the environmental concerns meeting on the same subject. He stressed the need for a comprehensive ecosystem approach to park management, rather than focusing on fire safety alone, and the special importance of following through on any management plan adopted.

In March, *Joan Ward* of the Diablo Valley League spoke to us about the problems and prospects for reforming Medicare. As the State League consultant on this subject, Joan was well equipped to bring us up to date on the proposals for "fixing" the system. These include cutting payments to hospitals, doctors, and other providers; raising the eligibility age from 65.

Program -(Continued from Page 11) to 67; raising payroll taxes that support the system; raising Part B premiums, and adopting a “voucher” or “premium support” plan. Lots of questions and comments came from the audience at this well-attended event.

In April, we joined with the Oakland League to sponsor a forum on the current status in the implementation of last year’s welfare reform legislation. Speakers from UC Berkeley School of Education, Alameda County Dept. Of Workforce & Resource Development, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and County Supervisor Keith Carson’s office gave us information about the progress and the limitations of the programs in place, and the prospects for future reform. Further meetings with Oakland LWV are planned.

-Jean Safir, Program VP 1998/99



LWVC Convention (continued from Page 1)

LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins explained how she became a League member in 1980, joining to get tickets to a presidential debate. Her theme was “Can the League be as powerful a force in the 21st century as it had been in the 20th?” Maintaining that this country needs the LWV because we are the “premier volunteer political organization of integrity that champions participation and involvement in government”, the president proposed that in order to remain viable we must change and do so in a dynamic and not incremental way. We must reach out to diverse audiences to avoid becoming a relic.

The future plan of LWVUS will be unveiled at National Council in Washington, D.C., in the middle of June. Four project areas will be emphasized: Project Citizen, Project Voter, Project Diversity, and Project Reform. They will define who we are as an organization and what we’re doing to fulfill the promise of democracy in our community, the nation, and the world.

Awards - Among awards presented for Action, Social Policy, Government, National Resources, and Development, LWVBAE won the best VOTER Award and *Bob Hawley*, our *Voter* Editor, was congratulated.

PMP Increase - The delegates voted to increase the per member payment assessment on local Leagues by \$3 per regular member as of July 1, 1999.

Program 1999-2001 - Non-recommended program items requiring a 2/3’s vote were debated and voted first.

- Education as an Area of Emphasis, giving the highest priority to action on legislation to change the local school bond passage requirement from 2/3’s to a majority, passed handily. This was the measure LWVBAE delegates brought to Convention.
- Election Systems Study was passed, contingent upon funding being obtained. It was announced that the Center for Democracy had pledged a \$5,000 seed grant.

Recommended Programs - Items that required a simple majority vote came next.

- Juvenile Justice Dependency position was adopted with clarifying amendments.
- Term Limits under LWVUS position was adopted as an Action Policy.
- Sustainable Communities was adopted with clarifying amendments as an Action Policy.

LWVC Legislative Priorities adopted in March 1999 were reviewed.*

- Government: Action to reform the initiative process, restructure the state-local finance system, and implement campaign finance reform.
- Social Policy: Action to support programs and policies which assure basic human needs are met, with emphasis on children and families and health care for all in California.
- Natural Resources: Support legislation that improves the environmental regulatory process and standards and that promotes natural resources preservation and enhancement and sound growth management practices.

* For legislative priorities within each program area above, call the LWVBAE office at 510/843-8824.

-Jo Ann B. Price

**“Women and the University”
Précis of Vice Chancellor Carol T. Christ’s Talk
At Annual Meeting**

When Carol Christ began her teaching career as an Assistant Professor at the University of California at Berkeley in 1970 after receiving a Ph.D. from Yale University, there were four women faculty out of eighty in the English Department. Today those numbers have changed to twenty-six women faculty out of fifty-four. This is indicative of two things: 1) women faculty members are making headway in some departments (though not in the physical sciences and political science, for instance), and 2) faculty numbers are shrinking overall, due to the use of teaching assistants to teach freshman courses.

Prof. Christ then stated statistics contrasting what existed at UCB in 1970 versus 1999 as regards women graduate students and women faculty to show specifically where progress has been made and where it has not. She then used her expertise in Victorian literature to note how the general outlook for women has changed. In Jane Austen’s novels and in her time, everything hinged on the heroine making the right marriage choice; and the story ended when that was accomplished. For a woman today, the story doesn’t end with marriage. Now stories also have a “work” plot. Two-career marriages have become common throughout American society, but particularly so in academia.

Professor Arlie Hochschild has written two important books on this subject: “Inside the Clockwork of the Male Career” and “The Second Shift”. The first relates how the time line of a successful man’s career traditionally depended on having a wife to maintain a family and social stability that allowed him the freedom to pursue his career. Her second book documents what has happened to the married career woman. In addition to her normal workday, she comes home to start her “second shift” with family and household responsibilities. In many two-career marriages, the male still has freedom to do as he chooses with his time away from work. In situations where the male accepts familial and household responsibilities, there is great pressure all around. We need to find a solution that allows two-career families to give “humane attention to family”.

In the final section of her talk, Prof. Christ enumerated the issues that face woman and the university, using UCB as the example.

· Women in the Sciences - There has been good improvement at the graduate level for women in Biology (50%), Public Policy (50%), Business Administration (33%). But in Physics, Chemistry, Math, Computer Science, and Electrical/Civil/Mechanical Engineering, there has been little or no progress. At the faculty level, women speak of the “Zero Club”, the “One Club”, “The Two Club”, etc., to denote the departments where women faculty are very few or non-existent. On the other hand, there has been a “sea change” in some departments, including those in the social sciences. This is not the case in higher education administration, although the UC system is far ahead of its counterparts on the east coast.

· Women in Curriculum - When Professor Christ first came to UCB, she was asked to give courses at the Free University. That concept had professors and others giving free lectures at casual locations on topics not offered at UC. In her case, this involved topics about the social, political, and historical meanings of woman’s situation from Victorian times to the present as depicted in literature. She was then invited by her department chair to give these courses on campus. A parallel situation was happening in other departments. While the University established a Women’s Studies Department, the goal was to integrate this information into the appropriate courses. The institutionalization of information about women’s contributions to society, the arts, and the sciences has not been consistent. Some fields have internalized this and changed from inside, while others keep this information on the margin.

· Sex Harassment - Early on at her time at UCB, Prof. Christ served as a sex harassment officer. She discovered first-hand how complicated this issue can be. While it seems to be changing as young men and women are sensitized at an early age to this issue, the older generations are usually unskilled in how to handle it. Men need to know how to deal with women as peers, business associates, and administrators and not as “dates” or social acquaintances. Women need to learn the skills to maintain appropriate boundaries with male colleagues, mentors, and administrators and not treat business relationships any other way. Education is needed all around in order to change the culture on this issue.

· Changes in Affirmative Action - In California, we still have affirmative action, though not in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity. It still exists in regard to athletes, geography,

-(Continued on Page 8)

CALENDAR

June

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

-- The LWVBAE Office will be CLOSED from June 19 through August 15 --

July

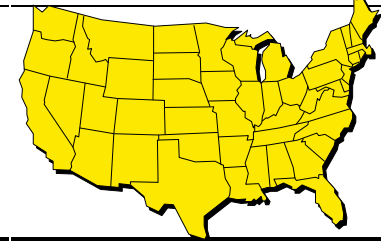
- 8 Thurs. 2-4 pm Housing Study Meeting (Adams)
- 9 Fri. 9 am-noon Alameda County LWV San Leandro (Price)
Presidents Council
- 9 Fri. 2-4 pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)
- 12 Mon. 1-3 pm Development LWVBAE Office (Wainwright)
- 13 Tue. 7:30-9:30 pm UNIT: Local Actions/
Regional Impacts (B. Nelson)
- 14 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee (Brubeck)
- 15 Thurs. 2:30-4:30 pm UNIT: Local Actions/
Regional Impacts LWVBAE Office (Safir)
- 21 Wed. 9 am-2 pm Board Retreat Emery Bay Clubhouse (Price)
- 23 Fri. 9:30 am-noon Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

August

- 6 Fri. 4 pm — Deadline for September VOTER — (Hawley)
- 12 Thurs. 2-4 pm Housing Study Meeting (Adams)
- 16 Mon. 10 am — LWVBAE Office Opens — (Polak)
- 20 Fri. 2 pm Voter Mailing LWVBAE Office (Carothers)
- 25 Wed. 9 am-noon Executive Committee (Price)

September

- 1 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (Price)
- 3 Fri. 4 pm — Deadline for October VOTER — (Hawley)
- 6 Mon. — LWVBAE Office Closed for Labor Day — (Polak)
- 10 Fri. 9 am-noon Alameda County LWV San Leandro (Price)
Presidents Council
- 15 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee (Brubeck)
- 16 Thurs. 11:30 am-
1:30 pm LWVBAE Fund raiser (K. Nelson)
Fall Community Luncheon (at the waterfront)
- 17 Fri. 2 pm Voter Mailing LWVBAE Office (Carothers)
- 23 Thurs. 5:30 - 9 p.m. FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SAVE THE DATE!



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