



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

September 2005

Editors: Chapman & Smith

FALL ELECTION-AND-OTHER-EVENTS SEASON BEGINS!!!

By the time you receive this *VOTER*, you will know if the State Special Election is still scheduled, BUT whether it is or not, there are some fun and interesting things to do this fall.

First, Emeryville has its city elections in what is usually an "off year", so we need some of you to help with the candidate forums we will run for the Emeryville City Council and the Emeryville School Board. Call *Phoebe Watts* at 525-6614 if you can assist. Also, we will need Pros and Cons issue researchers/writers and speakers to cover any Emeryville ballot measures that may emerge. To help with this, call *Jinky Gardner* at 548-5292. We are looking for you seasoned veterans who have done these jobs before AND those of you who want to get involved for the first time. There will be training for the speakers, and plenty of group support for the forum workers and issue writers. Jump into the action!

Also, for fun and to get the many faces of the League out to the public, join us at the Solano Stroll on Sept. 11, and/or the "How

Berkeley Can You Be?" festival on Sept. 25. At both these events, we will have booths where we register voters and get people excited about what the League does. You'll work in pairs so it's an opportunity to meet new friends or catch up with old ones. *THIS YEAR* we are looking to be in one or both *parades* as well, so any of you who are looking for a little exercise, join our "high steppers"! For either tabling or marching call *Jinky Gardner* at 548-5292.

Keep reading this article only if the State Special Election is "on". At least there will be no statewide candidates on the ballot so there will be no other candidate forums to run except the ones (you already signed up for) in Emeryville. But there will be possibly seven or eight state propositions, and perhaps some city measures in Berkeley and Albany. The State League will write the Pros and Cons for the state proposals, but we will still need speakers; and if any local measures get on the ballot, then we will need writers for those as well. For any of these jobs, again call me at 548-5292.

Jinky Gardner, Election Services Vice President

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FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Save the date!

Tuesday, October 11, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Just a few years ago, the League Board would take a summer break for a couple of months. We would put an outgoing voicemail message on the office machine that said "We're on vacation, but leave a message and we'll try to get back to you in a few days", and the League pretty much shut down in the fog of summer.

But that was back in the day.....

This summer, there is someone in the office nearly every weekday as the result of our moving the Annual Luncheon date into August, and the Board has not missed a monthly meeting as we gear up for the possibility of a special statewide election as well as monitoring local political developments.

We're also participating in the Solano Stroll and the "How Berkeley Can You Be?" festivities coming right up in September, so there's no rest as we keep our League face bright-eyed and out there.

I want to congratulate *Nancy Bickel*, who served as President of LWVBAE 2001-2004, for becoming the Chair of the Alameda County Council of Leagues of Women Voters. The Council will have much to do with possibly two statewide elections and local measures this program-year, and Nancy is just the person to lead the ACC through these interesting times.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see info on how you can get involved with election and other League activities this fall. I want especially to point out the opportunities presented by our vacancies in the positions of *VOTER* editor and "Smart Voter" coordinator. Each of these requires only basic computer skills and a willingness to work for a few days monthly. Each provides a great way to become more familiar with the work of the League and provides an extremely needed (and highly-regarded) product for the League.

Please call me at 548-1769 to learn more about these opportunities.

Sherry Smith, President

DOUBLE 85TH ANNIVERSARY! 2005 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

The members of LWVBAE are delighted to dedicate this year's Community Luncheon (Thursday, August 25, at the DoubleTree Hotel on the Berkeley Marina) to the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, and to the founding of the League of Women Voters.

Our Luncheon speaker is Professor Cynthia Gorney, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. Professor Gorney, whose articles regularly appear in the *N.Y. Times Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, *The Nation*, and other national media will speak on American journalism's current unhappy state of affairs.

This Community Luncheon, the sixth in a series that began in 2000, also inaugurates LWVBAE's "Spirit of the League" Awards. These awards honor a local individual or organization that embodies one or more of the core purposes of the League of Women Voters.

The first honorees are Eva Alexis Bansner, posthumously, and Youth Radio of Berkeley.

Eva was an outstanding LWVBAE member who was President of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area from 2002 to 2004 and whose life in every aspect exemplified her commitment to an environmentally sound world.

Youth Radio is a local educational organization that has nationwide impact in showcasing what teens are capable of in terms of producing excellent political broadcast journalism, as well as improving the educational opportunities for less privileged teens who might not otherwise have the chance to be exposed to such an enriching experience.

An added feature for luncheon attendees is the book stall, stocked in cooperation with Cody's Books with "need-to-get" political and social best sellers and historic tales of the suffragists. Hope to see you there!

Jo Ann B. Price, Program Vice President

BOARD BRIEFS

The following are highlights from Board meetings held April through August 2005:

April

Treasurer *Luanne Rogers* recommended that the Annual Luncheon always be held in the same quarter each year, allowing those revenues to be counted in every fiscal year, with no "skips" as occurred last year.

It was recommended that for Program activities we:

1. Retain all current positions.
2. Monitor city budget-making process for compliance with League positions and take action where appropriate.
3. Monitor the State special election, if one is held, and take action where appropriate.
4. Continue the civics education study for one more year, to come to consensus around new Support Positions.

VP Voter Services *Jinky Gardner* asked for a reconsideration of her suggestion at the March board meeting that the Civics Study be extended statewide. She understands that it is too early to begin the procedures, but hopes that the first steps can be taken at the State Convention.

May

Eloise Bodine and *Carol Stone* were present to report on the Eva Alexis Bansner Fund. The purpose of the Fund, which was set up following the recent death of member Bansner, is to award the money donated in her memory as a grant to a student who would study sustainable communities, reporting back to the League

President *Smith* reported that approximately 60 people in all attended the three City Budget Workshops put on jointly by the League and the City. Smith has been asked to summarize the meetings before the City Council on May 10.

June

There is a strong possibility that next year's ASUC election will be conducted on-line. If true, then this will be the League's last year of involvement serving as neutral third party.

President *Smith* and four other LWVBAE members attended the LWVCalifornia annual meeting as delegates, and *Smith* reported that an update of current energy policy will be studied this winter or spring.

July

At the July board meeting it was agreed that *Helene Lecar* pursue a joint meeting with representatives of the Piedmont, Oakland and Alameda League of Women Voters representatives and the Peralta Colleges Vice Chancellor Alton Jelks regarding strategic plans for the community colleges, using the existing state and local league positions.

August

President *Smith* reported that she had met with Dan Newman of the Berkeley Fair Elections Coalition regarding public financing of elections. They are keen to have the support of the League. We are in on-going discussions. Our League is also involved with efforts to move Instant Runoff Voting forward, monitoring and participating in development of county and statewide guidelines for voting machine certification and IRV elections procedures.

Angharad Jones, Secretary

FORMER PRESIDENT DR. BEA FRAENKEL-CONRAT

Dr. Bea Fraenkel-Conrat, a 50 year League member and President of the then-Berkeley League in 1968-69, passed away in July. Her 1997 oral history is available at the League Office.

Dr. Bea joined the League in the 1950s, influenced by early Berkeley members Dorothy Spitzer (President in the early 1960s), Connie Holton and Joyce Baldwin. Many of our members then were faculty wives like Dr. Bea, looking for outside interests while raising small children. Her League jobs included membership, treasurer, and moderating political meetings and an Administration of Justice Study. She was President during the National League's 50th anniversary; and later became involved in the larger community serving on boards and commissions, such as the Charter Review and the CETA commissions.

Dr. Bea Singer (as she was known professionally) was also a renowned UCB scientist, first in virology and, from the 1970s, overseeing a cancer research lab, where she made significant contributions.

Donations in her memory can be made to Cal Performances at Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, or to a charity of your choice. The League's Tribute Fund is also available for memorial gifts.

Therese Pipe, Coordinator of Oral History, LWVBAE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OUR NEW VOTER EDITOR?

General Responsibilities

Produce our newsletter, **The VOTER**, nine times each year (May, July and December excluded). Determine the general format, content and layout of each issue, subject to confirmation by the president. Edit all submittals for clarity and accuracy.

Specific Duties

The editor attends the monthly Board meeting to get a sense of what will be forthcoming from the president, VPs, and other sources; and to remind submitters about the deadlines. The editor may select, and the president may recommend, articles from other League publications or on-line sources for inclusion in **The VOTER**.

Layout is done using MS Word. You will have plenty of support in learning the mechanics of how the newsletter is produced. We have two very able proofreaders, *Evelyn Light* and *Marj Rubinow*. Office Manager *Karen Carlson-Olson* coordinates assembly and mailing, and two other members with specialized knowledge of the printing and on-line processes—*Bob Hawley* and *Bill Chapman*—are both generous in their assistance.

If you are interested or want additional information, call *Bill Chapman* at 527-0827.

DONATIONS DURING JUNE AND JULY TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Lilica Anderson</i>	<i>Jane Bergen</i>
<i>Judith Bloom</i>	<i>Peggy Casey</i>
<i>Doris Fine</i>	<i>Elizabeth Gleghorn</i>
<i>Judith & Gerson Goldhaber</i>	<i>Miriam Hawley</i>
<i>Susan Hone</i>	<i>Joyce Jackson</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Mary Lines</i>
<i>Suzanne & Christopher McKee</i>	<i>Sylvia McLaughlin</i>
<i>Fran Packard</i>	<i>Jo Ann B. Price</i>
<i>Ursula Rolfe</i>	<i>Roselyn Rosenfeld</i>
<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>	<i>Frances & Charles Townes</i>
<i>George Trilling</i>	<i>Dorothy Walker</i>
<i>Alba Witkin</i>	<i>Christina Maslach</i>
	<i>Zimbaro</i>

TO THE LWVBAE TRIBUTE FUND

Evelyn Light In memory of *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat*

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Marie La Garde Friends of the Albany Library

TO THE EVA ALEXIS BANSNER FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<i>Erika Kunkel</i>	<i>Helene Lecar</i>
<i>Therese Pipe</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
	Prepared by <i>Evelyn Light</i>

NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

<i>Ruth Hinkins</i>	<i>Regina Randolph</i>
<i>Barbara Sholtz</i>	<i>Jocelyn Shoup</i>
<i>Meryl Seigal</i>	<i>George Trilling</i>
<i>Elise White</i>	

Harriet Nathan: League President in 1954-1955

The death of Harriet Nathan on July 24 in Oakland at age 85 saddened all who knew her. She was a League member for 59 years, and an active leader for 20 of those, primarily in Berkeley. Her work on study committees, looking into the role of county and regional special districts for land use, air quality and rapid transit sparked her interest in regional governance. This led to her leadership on the regional committee that worked to establish the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area.

As a UC student, Harriet majored in journalism and was the first woman managing editor of the *Daily Cal*. With a Master's in journalism, she worked for UCB's Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) and Regional Oral History Office (ROHO). At IGS, she became a crackerjack editor, writer of monographs and of a 1986 book, *Critical Choices in Interviews: Conduct, Use and Research Role*. At ROHO, she is credited with having produced some 25 to 30 oral histories.

With the help of other Berkeley League members, she was instrumental in establishing the Women's Center on campus. In January 2000, as she retired from UCB, then-Chancellor Robert Berdahl presented her with UC's highest award, The Berkeley Citation, for distinguished and exceptional service to the university, the League of Women Voters and the community. *Ora Huth*

LWVBAE SEEKS "SMART VOTER" COORDINATOR

Our League needs an interested member to coordinate our "Smart Voter" project, for the coming election and beyond. Here is the job description:

The tasks performed by the local Smart Voter coordinator are:

1. to send letters of invitation and instructions for using Smart Voter (found on the Smart Voter Team pages) to all candidates for offices in our League's territory. (When the certified candidates' lists for Alameda and Contra Costa counties become available, the League's County coordinator, Bonnie Hamlin, makes the assignments, particularly for those candidates who are running for offices which are in the territory of more than one League.);
2. to follow up with those candidates via phone and Email to encourage them to participate in Smart Voter;
3. to publicize the Smart Voter Web site in our League's territory using materials provided by Smart Voter (posters and book marks); and
4. to communicate with Bonnie Hamlin about candidate events sponsored by our League, or, if you are computer savvy, to add that information, and links to newspaper articles about the races, to the Smart Voter Web site.

As County Coordinator for Alameda County, Bonnie offers instruction on how to be a local coordinator - pointers on how to use the online information the Smart Voter team has prepared, hands-on examples of adding info to the web site. Several years experience with Smart Voter helps her answer questions which may come up (and she is a very nice person).

The amount of time the job takes depends on

- the number of races and candidates in LWVBAE's territory in a particular election
- the candidates' responsiveness to our invitations to participate
- the interest of the local coordinator in learning how to add info to the web site vs. sending Bonnie Email about it and having her do it (it is *not* necessary to know HTML to add information to the Smart Voter Web site – it's a matter of entering info in forms, for the most part)

Ideally, the local Smart Voter Coordinator should be comfortable with using a computer to go online to read the Smart Voter "How To" material and to download the formatted letter of invitation and the instructions to candidates; but if the coordinator is not, those form letters can be sent to him or her for duplication and mailing.

The local coordinator does not need to do all the above tasks him- or herself. Working on Smart Voter can be a team effort in a local League just as it is within the County and State. The more people there are involved, the stronger the program will be. One person can do the candidate outreach, another the P.R., and a third the computer aspects of the job, for example. Or one person can send out the initial letters of invitation, another do the follow-up calls and Emails, and so forth.

Does this appeal to you? Please contact me at 548-1769 if you are interested.

Sherry Smith, President





LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National.

Dues and contributions

to the League are not tax deductible.

Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible, to extent allowed by law.

AUGUST

- 15 Mon. LWVBAE Office reopens
- 18 Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Action Committee *P. Watts, 525-6614*
- 25 Thurs. 11:30am **Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon**
Doubletree, Berkeley Marina *J. Jackson, 527-0191*

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Mon. League office closed for Labor Day
- 7 Wed. 7-9pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
D. Akers 527-1288
- 10 Sat. 9:30-3:00 LWVC Regional Fall Training Session *S. Smith, 548-1769*
"(Re)Tooling for League"
Hyatt Residence, 620 Sand Hill Rd., Palo Alto
- 11 Sun. 10:30-5:00 Solano Stroll (volunteers needed
in shifts for League table) *J. Gardner, 548-5292*
C. Stone, 549-0959
- 12 Mon. 7:30:9:30 Environmental Concerns *P. Watts, 525-6614*
- 15 Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Action Committee *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 19 Mon. noon Deadline for the October *VOTER* *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 24 Sat. LWVBA Know Your Bay Area Day
"Reforming the California
Environmental Quality Act" *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 25 Sun. How Berkeley Can You Be? *J. Gardner, 548-5292*

OCTOBER

- 5 Wed. 7-9pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 7 Fri. noon Deadline for the November *VOTER* *B. Chapman, 527-0827*