

The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY
and EMERYVILLE



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October, 2000

Editor: Bob Hawley

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★
November 7, 2000 ★
★ ELECTION ISSUE ★
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HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

***The League needs you! Know the issues! Know the candidates!
Get a friend to register! Take a friend to vote!***

- ★ *Arrange an Issues Forum for your neighborhood or District.*
- ★ *Work with the League's Speakers Bureau on Issues.*
- ★ *Help with the League's Candidates Meetings.*

★ *Work at the polls on Election Day.*

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GET INVOLVED !!!

This election, as with every election, the **League of Women Voters remains non-partisan.** That is, the **League never supports or opposes a political party or a candidate.** The League has two areas of activity at election time: **Voter Service and Action.** **Voter Service** is educational and objective in content and aimed at making voters knowledgeable about the issues and the candidates, as well as registering voters and getting them out on election day. **League Action** involves a stand for support of or opposition to issues on which the League already has a position that was arrived at after a period of in-depth study and discussion. League Action is not undertaken lightly, and only after Board discussion and a vote. On the other hand, just because the League has a position on which to base a stand on a given ballot measure is not reason enough to take a stand. This is basic background for understanding how the League has come to take a stand on some of the measures on this November's ballot.

--(Continued on Page 5)

President's Column
Kudos For The Annual Luncheon
and ...
The League's Shining Season

Hearty thanks and solid pats on the back to *Ruth Ganong* and *Karen Nelson*, the two dedicated and hard-working Co-chairs, and to everyone who helped to make LWVBAE's 2nd Annual Community Luncheon a substantive and financial success. Prof. Bruce Cain, our speaker, provided such wonderful insights into the U.S. presidential election process that no "political junky" went away unsatisfied. Of course, we'll do it again next year!

The election season is upon us again, and it's basic League of Women Voters territory. It's when we truly shine. We're embarked on an intensive and demanding month and a half of activity as we take on the tasks of voter registration and voter education on the issues facing us on the November 7, 2000, ballot. This October issue of the *VOTER* is devoted to election information - so please keep it handy as a reference as we go through the next 5+ weeks.

Be sure to target one or more colleagues, friends, or relations who may need your support in getting registered and/or out to vote on November 7 or in getting and returning a timely absentee ballot. The League office has a supply of voter registration forms and also "Take a Friend to Vote" reminder postcards for your use. Don't be shy, people will be grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Along with the election information available in this *VOTER*'s articles, we have included:

- the state League's *Pros & Cons* publication on the eight state ballot measures;
- LWVBAE's city/county *Pros & Cons* publication;
- a League Action insert;
- LWVBAE's 2000-2001 Directory of League leaders and activities.

Please seriously consider giving 2 hours or more of your time prior to October 10 (the registration deadline) to staff a League voter registration table at the locations mentioned in the article on Page 1. **You may sign up by calling the office or Phoebe Watts, Voter Service Chair, at 525-6614.**

-(Continued in next column)

Board Briefs

At its August meeting, the Board:

- Reviewed our Nonpartisan Policy and accepted the resignation of Ruth Ganong as Local Action Chair for Albany until after the November election;
- Reviewed our Policy on Diversity and guidelines on joining a coalition and meetings with other organizations;
- Voted to recommend the consensus on Vista Community College study for adoption;
- Discussed LWVBAE community services and voter service plans for this fall;
- Ratified the Executive Committee's decision to sign the Berkeley Public Library Bond Measure on the November ballot;
- Endorsed the Gann re-authorization measures on the Berkeley ballot (Library, Parks, Emergency Medical Services);
- Voted NOT to sign ballot arguments on the two Berkeley School measures;
- Heard reports on the 2nd Annual Community Luncheon, Fall General Meeting, and other ongoing activities.

-*Ginette Polak*, Acting Recorder

...

It does us all good to participate at least in some small way in our League's effort to make democracy work better in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. We also need members to be trained to speak on the ballot measures in the community at our Issues Forums for local organizations. The requests for speakers become more frequent the closer we get to November, so we can always use and train more volunteers in October. In addition to educating voters and being fun, these outreach opportunities are really uplifting, give one a sense of a job well done, and foster League esprit de corps. I highly recommend the experience!

-**Jo Ann**

Mock Election 2000

National Student/Parent Mock Election

To Be Held on Thursday, November 2, 2000

LWVBAE will be cooperating with the Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville Unified School Districts and the PTAs to offer Mock Election 2000 to the high schools in the three cities, as well as to a few selected lower grade schools in Berkeley. *Helene Lecar*, Education Director, is working on the Berkeley effort, *Karen Carlson-Olson* is dealing with Albany, and *Helene* is recruiting an Emeryville member to handle that city's high school.

Mock Election is a tool to teach students about the process of voting, of involvement, and of democracy at work. It's especially important because it gives students and their parents a sense of the power of participation. This is a free project that does not require that parents be citizens or registered to vote in order for their children to participate. It's nonpartisan and nonprofit. The National Student/Parent Mock Elections is administered by the University of Arizona, School of Public Administration and Policy.

The three basic elements of this program allow it to be as simple or elaborate as each teacher and his/her pupils want it to be. It involves:

- School registration
- Classroom or school discussion/activities
- Voting on Mock Election Day.

LWCEF has selected three state ballot measures for teacher focus and student voting. These are Prop. 36: Drug Treatment Diversion Program; Prop. 38: School Vouchers; and Prop. 39: School Facilities 55% Local Vote. Locally, only Berkeley has any school-related measures: AA, a bond measure for school capital repairs and rebuilding, and BB, a parcel tax measure for school repair and maintenance. Of course, the students will also be voting for local, state, and national candidates.

We will be using the state League's *Easy Reader Voting Guide*, a pro & con publication, and our *Local Pros & Cons* as learning tools in all the classrooms. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVEF) is serving as the California State Coordinator for Mock Election 2000 in California. Secretary of State Bill Jones is the Honorary Chair. Mock Election Day will occur on Thursday, November 2, 2000, and CNN will broadcast the nationwide candidate results that evening. We are negotiating with local media to do the same for the local issues.

-(Continued in next column)

Smart Voter Update

Many of you know that Smart Voter offers voters a unique ballot lookup and election material on local to statewide candidates and ballot issues. But did you know that Smart Voter also leads to many other election sites? Smart Voter offers *Pros & Cons* on the state ballot measures in English and Spanish; the *Easy Reader Voter Guide* in four languages; questions and answers on voting information; and links to a host of other sites. Explore these and more at www.smartvoter.org, the voter's one-stop election site.

The University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication invited Smart Voter to staff a booth on Democracy Row at the Democratic National Convention. Smart Voter volunteers distributed thousands of bookmarks and pins and demonstrated Smart Voter on a large screen TV. It was great publicity for Smart Voter and the League.

Smart Voter is a charter member of another highly visible election site: Web, White & Blue, a nonpartisan site sponsored by the Markel Foundation. In 1998, WWB sent more visitors to Smart Voter than any other website. It is found at www.webwhiteblue.org. (Excerpted from LWVC material.)

-*Sherry Smith*, LWVBAE Smart Voter Coordinator



Something New for the League! T-Shirts and Tote Bags

Short Sleeve - \$15 Long Sleeve - \$20

Tote Bags - \$18

Shirts are available in medium, large,
and extra-large

Call the League office at
(510) 843-8824 and reserve your
T-shirt and tote bag today!

To learn more, visit the project's web site at
www.mockelection2000.net.

(Excerpted from LWVC material.)

-*Helene Lecar*, Education Director

Second Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon

Jo Ann Price presided at our Second Annual Community Luncheon, which netted over six thousand dollars for LWVBAE. Bruce Cain, director of Institute of Government Studies at UCB, inspired the "local politerati" to gear up for election 2000. (*Daily Planet* reporter Josh Parr thus named our 135 attendees, including elected officials, University representatives, business leaders, members, and supporters.)

The electoral college, redistricting, and campaign finance reform were tied, by Cain, to the process and outcome of elections. Buoyed by the sparkling address and probing queries, those fortunate to be there set out in a spirit of renewal.

Thanks to the LWVBAE, other League, and community members who attended and to those who gave so generously to make this fund-raiser a financial success.

Those who got it done include *Ruth Ganong* and *Karen Nelson*, co-chairs, with *Jo Ann Price* in a committee of *Sherry Smith*, *Mary Wainwright*, and *Beth Springston*. Getting out the invitations were *Lois Brubeck*, *Evelyn Light*, *Virginia Laurence*, and *Marj Rubinow*. The following helped with arrangements to make the event go well: *Jane Barrett*, *Ginette Polak*, *Guy Benveniste* and *Ruthann Taylor*. Tradition is now set with plans being made for the next lunch.

-*Karen Nelson*, Special Events Director,
and *Guy Benveniste*

Orientation Coffee

For New and Prospective Members
Saturday, October 28, 10 am to Noon
LWVBAE Office

To assist member understanding about how our League operates and to meet a few leaders on our Board of Directors, the Membership Committee invites those interested to come to the League office, 1414 University Avenue, Berkeley, on Saturday, October 28, from 10 AM until noon. The entrance to our upstairs office, Suite D, is next to the parking lot entrance to Andronico's store.

Bring your questions! Consider bringing along a friend who may be interested in joining the League!

Please let us know that you will attend by phoning me by October 24.

-*Ginette Polak*, Membership Director

Second Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon Donors

<i>Denny Abrams</i>	<i>Judith Innes</i>
<i>Ginger & Moshe Alafi</i>	<i>Charlotte Loeb</i>
<i>Polly Amrein</i>	<i>J. M. Lutz Associates</i>
<i>Dorothy Balangero</i>	<i>Jean Moses</i>
<i>Peggy Casey</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Chez Panisse</i>	<i>Nina Olson</i>
<i>Joan Collignon</i>	<i>Clara Pellegrino</i>
<i>Ann Crowe</i>	<i>Jo Ann & Buford Price</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Dee Scalopino</i>
<i>Troy Duster</i>	<i>Ted Schultz</i>
<i>Grace Fretter</i>	<i>Virginia Simburg</i>
<i>Grace Gildersleeve</i>	<i>Rosalind Singer</i>
<i>Mim Hawley</i>	<i>Doris White</i>
<i>Ora Huth</i>	<i>Lessly Wikle</i>
	<i>Barbara Imbrie</i>

Speaker Series

Transportation Crisis

Thursday, October 12, Noon to 2 PM
**Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room Marin
& Masonic Avenues, Albany**

Come hear Stuart Cohen speak on "What Are The Real Solutions To the Transportation Crisis?". Mr. Cohen is head of Transportation Choices at the Bay Area Transportation and Land Use Coalition, a coalition that includes the Bay Area League.

Parking is available in the lot behind the Albany library, or take AC Transit to the Masonic Avenue stop on Solano Avenue and walk a (long) block to the corner of Masonic and Marin.

-*Janet Strothman*

Our Flowers Get Good Use

We are happy to report that the handsome flower display provided by Lee's Florist at our Second Annual Community Luncheon was taken to our oldest member, *Regina Rose*, who celebrated her 103rd birthday at a party on Sunday, August 27. Regina remained active until five years ago. We wish her a good 104th year!

-*Karen Nelson* and *Guy Benveniste*

Help Make Democracy Work

(Continued from Page 1)

Berkeley *Daily Planet* and Berkeley Community Media Co-sponsoring LWVBAE Events

LWVBAE is pleased to announce that the Berkeley *Daily Planet* is co-sponsoring all our Issues Forums and Candidates Meetings, and Berkeley Community Media is co-sponsoring our Candidates Meetings televised over BTV, cable Channel 25. (Please see the LWVBAE Oct.-Nov. 2000 Election Calendar of Events on Page 8 of this issue.)

LWVBAE November 2000 Election Activities Need Your Help!

Our League is working on a number of activities for the November 2000 election in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville and we need the help of all the members we can get! Please call the office or Phoebe Watts, Voter Service Chair (525-6614, or e-mail phobewatts@cs.com), to learn the specifics and volunteer for one opportunity or more to help make democracy work. Following is a brief description of those activities.

Election Activities

- Voter Registration: We'll be registering voters through the **Oct. 10 deadline** at: neighborhood and city Fall events; supermarkets on weekends; Sproul Plaza; UC Residence Halls, Sororities/ Fraternities; Berkeley Flea Market on Saturdays; downtown BART Plaza on Thursdays, 11 am to 2 pm. League supplies the libraries, post offices, banks, and other institutional locations with boxes of voter registration forms. Call the office with suggestions for locations to put the forms or to pick up forms for your use.

- Pros & Cons Publications: To help voters **understand the measures** on the November ballot and the consequences of a yes or no vote, the League researches and writes a balanced presentation of each measure on the ballot, with both pro and con arguments. The state League puts out the publication on the state ballot measures and our local League writes the information for the city and county measures. Both are in newspaper format and LWVBAE distributes them widely throughout our cities. Call the office to reserve and pick

up packages of 10 or more.

- Mock Elections and Easy Readers: With the co-sponsorship of local PTAs, the League will be holding Mock Elections at the **high schools in our 3 cities**, as well as at selected other schools.

In connection with these events we supply *Easy Reader Guides*, a simplified version of the *Pros & Cons* that also include a photo and abbreviated information on each candidate.

- Candidates Meetings: We are sponsoring candidates meetings for the State 9th Senate District and 14th Assembly District; Peralta Community College District Trustee Area 4; Berkeley City Council Districts 2,3,5,6; BUSD and AUSD Boards of Education; and Berkeley Rent Board.

All of these will be co-sponsored by the Berkeley *Daily Planet*. Four of these candidates meetings will take place **live** on BTV, Channel 25, with the co-sponsorship of Berkeley Community Media, on four Thursday evenings in October: Districts 2 and 5 together; Districts 3 and 6 together; BUSD School Board candidates another evening; and finally the Rent Board candidates. These live shows will be taped for airing several more times before the election. (Please see the **LWVBAE Oct.-Nov. 2000 Election Calendar of Events** on Page 8 of this issue.) Call the office and check the Berkeley *Daily Planet* as more events will likely be added.

- Issues Forums: LWVBAE has a **Speakers Bureau** of trained Leaguers who make objective pro-and-con presentations of all the ballot measures for the Nov. 7, 2000, election to any community group that makes a request in time for the League to make the appropriate arrangements. Call the office to schedule a presentation for your group or to check on the dates and locations available for you to attend. Also check the Berkeley *Daily Planet* for daily listings in October.

-Jo Ann B. Price, President



Donors Through August

In Memoriam

General Fund

*Suzanne Adams*¹
*Virginia Blacklidge*²
*Violet Ginsburg*²
*Evelyn Light*²
Adelia Lines
*Allie Norton*²
*Patricia Pope*²
*Mary Clark Sellife*²
Ruthann & Clyde Taylor
Mary Wallmann

We send our condolences to Sigmund Cohn upon the death in August of *Joan Cohn*, his wife of 57 years. *Joan* was a retired Oakland teacher, a strong advocate for the environment, co-author of "Recycling For Math", and the mother of Chris, Rusty, Abby and Eric, and grandmother of seven. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

-*Eleanor Cox*

In Memory Of:

- 1 - *Meda Rechen*
- 2 - *Jean Dehlinger*

Welcome To New Members

Charlotte Loeb
Patricia Selmanoff

Personals

Cecile Christian is serving as one of several editors of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley periodical PATHWAYS.

Many of our League tourists and travelers have returned to their homes. Among those are *Helen Wachs* who has returned from Australia, *Nina Olson* who caravanned through the mid-west, and *Marion* and *Dan Luten* who vacationed at the family cabin at Higgins Lake in Michigan.

Pictures made by photographer *Meredith Stout* at the Womans Daytime DropIn Center in Berkeley were featured by the Berkeley *Daily Planet* of August 24. *Meredith* and poet *Zelma Brown* have created MY SISTER, MY SISTER, a multimedia performance scheduled as a fund raiser for the center.

The family of *Jean Safir* has grown by one. *Jean* become mother-of-the-groom (Adam) in September.

Sherry Smith is serving as foreman of the Alameda County Grand Jury. The one-year term of the present body of jurors will terminate June 30, 2001.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Corresponding Secretary

In Memoriam

Dorothy Field, a nationally and internationally respected gerontologist and long-time League member, died September 28 in Berkeley. She was 74. She was Director of the Berkeley Older Generation Study, at the University of California, Berkeley. She was widely known for her studies of older people and the attributes they held in earlier life that contributed to a serene old age. She received her Ph.D in developmental psychology at the University of London in 1975. *Field* was also an Adjunct Professor at Penn State University and the University of Georgia, as well as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Bonn, Germany, before returning to Berkeley. She is survived by her companion of 18 years, Ivan King, and her four children, Graham Moody III of Loleta; Stuart Moody of San Rafael; Kate Moody of Kula, Hawaii; and Carlin Mills of Bloomington, Indiana.

Dorothy was active politically in school issues in the late '50s and early '60s. She worked on school tax and bond issues and helped to elect Berkeley School Board members including Carol Sibley, Judge Spurgeon Avakian, Reverend Roy Nichols and U.C. Professor Sherman Maisel. The most pressing problem of that time was the de facto segregation that existed that led to different curricula in the three junior high schools. *Dorothy* attended Smith College and was one of a group of alumnae of the "Seven Sisters" eastern women's colleges who interviewed and recruited women students in this area.

-*Ruth Ganong & Doris Maslach*

November 7, 2000, Local Ballot Measures Action

LWVBAE recommends the following votes on County, School, and City of Berkeley measures:

County

Measure B	Measure B would authorize continuing the 1/2 cent transportation sales tax during implementation of Alameda County's 20-year Transportation Expenditure Plan which includes expansion of BART in Alameda County, expansion of Altamont Commuter Express service, expansion of countywide express, local and feeder bus service, I-880/I-580/I-680/I-238/Route 92 improvements, extension of special transit services for seniors and persons with disabilities and improvement of pedestrian/bike safety. A Citizens Watchdog Committee is to audit all expenditures. Defeated in 1998, the Plan was revised and now has broad backing including the Sierra Club and many transit groups, who are engaged in an all-out drive to get the necessary 2/3 vote.	SUPPORT
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School

Measure AA	Measure AA would authorize The Berkeley Unified School District to issue \$116,500,000 in bonds to repair, upgrade and add new classrooms to address overcrowding and facilitate reduced class sizes, increase seismic and fire safety, replace deteriorating floors, windows, restrooms and roofs, upgrade school kitchens, and modernize science labs. Measure A funded only the most urgent seismic upgrades, and increased student population is putting stress on facilities. A 2/3 vote is necessary.	SUPPORT
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City of Berkeley

Measure P	Measure P would authorize the City to issue up to \$5,200,000 in bonds to renovate, expand and upgrade Branch Libraries. This authority is needed to qualify for state library improvement funds, and the bonds would be issued only if matching funds from the State or some other source provide at least 65% of the cost of the improvements. Measure S included no funds for the Branch Libraries and upgrades are needed. A 2/3 vote is needed.	SUPPORT
Measure V	Measure V would re-authorize the City, over a four-year period, to spend the Library Tax approved by voters in 1988. Required by state law, this re-authorization entails no new taxes. The moneys are needed to continue the many valued programs and services that were restored after the drastic cuts caused by Proposition 13. A majority vote is needed.	SUPPORT
Measure W	Measure W would re-authorize the City, over the next four years, to spend the proceeds of the Parks Maintenance Tax as approved by voters in 1997. As with Measure V, this is required by state law and entails no increase in taxes. A majority vote is needed.	SUPPORT
Measure X	Measure X would re-authorize the City, over the next four years, to spend proceeds of the Emergency Medical Services Tax, as approved by voters in 1997. As with the above two measures, this is to comply with state law and entails no tax increase. A majority vote is required.	SUPPORT
Measure Y	Measure Y would amend the rent ordinance to restrict a landlord's ability to evict for landlord/relative occupancy. We oppose the seriously flawed process by which the City Council placed this measure on the ballot and believe it is biased against small property owners. A majority vote is required.	OPPOSE
Measure Z	Measure Z would empower any federal, state or local public entity to develop, construct or acquire an additional 500 units of low-rent housing in the City of Berkeley for persons of low income. This is simply enabling Measure Z legislation, and any specific project would still need City Council approval. Without public funds, the private market will not produce the housing greatly needed by low and moderate income people. A majority vote is required.	SUPPORT

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

September

27 Wed. 9 am-noon Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

October

4 Wed. 9:15 am-noon Board Meeting Emery Bay Clubhouse
Emery Bay Drive @ 53rd Street (Price)

6 Fri. **Deadline for November Voter** (Hawley)

9 Mon. LWVBAE Office closed for Columbus Day

10 Tues. Deadline for registering for November 7 General Election

12 Thurs. Noon-2 pm Speaker Series Albany Library, Edith Stone Rm. (Strothman)

12 Thur. 7-8:30 pm Berkeley School Board Candidates Meeting (Watts)
On B-TV with live audience

16 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)

17 Tue. 7-10 pm Albany School Board and City Council Candidates Meeting
Albany Community Center (Carlson-Olson)

17 Tues. 7:30-9:30 pm Berkeley School Board Candidates Meeting, Malcolm X School
-Simultaneous Spanish Interpretation (Watts)

18 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee LWVBAE Office (Brubeck)

19 Thur. 7-8:30 pm Berkeley City Council Candidates for Districts 2 and 6,
at B-TV with live audience (Watts)

24 Tues. Noon-2 pm Ballot Measure Pros & Cons for LWVBAE Members & Friends
Chinese Community Church, 2117 Acton St. (Watts)

25 Wed. 4:30-6 pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

26 Thur. 7-8:30 pm Berkeley City Council Candidates for Districts 3 and 5,
at B-TV with live audience (Watts)

28 Sat. 10 am-noon Orientation Coffee LWVBAE Office (Polak)

30 Mon. 7:30-8:30 pm Berkeley Rent Board Candidates Meeting
at B-TV with live audience (Watts)

November

1 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting Albany Library - Edith Stone Room (Price)

7 Tues. 7 am-8 pm **ELECTION DAY 2000** LWVBAE Office (843-8824)

13 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)

14 Tues. Noon-2 pm Speaker Series Albany Library, Edith Stone Rm. (Safir)

