



THE

V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

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President: Doris Fine

October, 1997

Editor: Bob

MADELEINE ÉMILIE TRAYNOR (1906 – 1997)

Lifetime Member of the League of Women Voters

A Recollection by Peggy Anne Davis

When member Madeleine Traynor gave a generous gift to the League Foundation a few years ago, then President Phyllis Clement asked me to interview Madeleine with the purpose of publishing a “profile” to share with other League members and to help promote the annual essay project Madeleine requested the League to sponsor. Then began many long afternoons spent in Madeleine’s book-crowded home and rose garden listening to Madeleine’s carefully prepared reminiscences and her eloquent hopes that the League, with her help, would continue to educate and encourage citizens to participate in the American democratic process.

Most of her memories, indeed her current life, revolved around her deceased husband, Roger Traynor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California (1964–1970), whose privacy, along with her own and her family’s, she was still protecting fiercely long after his death in 1983. Madeleine made it clear from the start that she had never before given such interviews. So – we proceeded – carefully.

The gift, she said, was given in the name of her beloved French godmother–aunt, “Nan,” Léonie Coursinoux–Soulages, who reared her after her mother died when Madeleine was three. (We were to later learn that she did not want her own name connected to the essay project; it was to be named after her godmother.) Born and reared in San Francisco, she spoke of a happy childhood rich with visitors and relatives from Europe and conversations at home about the likes of Goethe, Rilke, and Victor Hugo.

She attended Girls’ High School and made a strong claim that her early single–gender education made her strong in math and other so–called “male” subjects. Later, she attended U.C. Berkeley by ferry boat or train until “Nan” moved to Berkeley and Madeleine could live in her house. Always a good student, she won many awards at U.C., a teaching fellowship in economics, and the privilege of giving the commencement address when she graduated. A Master’s degree in political science soon followed, then an exchange fellowship in Switzerland.

After a brief sojourn in New York City and New Haven, she returned to Berkeley to resume her growing friendship with Roger. They married in 1933 and had three sons, the youngest of whom died at age 14. In 1956, Madeleine received her own law degree from Boalt Hall. Meanwhile, she and Roger had become active in community groups, such as the Emerson PTA, Boy Scouts, and of course, the League of Women Voters–of which Roger was also a member. Madeleine never practiced law.

–Continued on Page 7

HELP WANTED

Our League urgently needs a part–time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Minimum ten hours per week; flexible schedule; needs computer skills (Windows 95); works well with people; salary dependent upon qualifications; car to run errands is desirable. Please bring or send a brief resume to LWVBAE, 1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley, 94702 or send a FAX to 843-8828.

President's Message

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of my Board for their hard work since taking office as together we planned and put in place this year's program. In July, believe it or not, everyone gathered for a brainstorming session to take stock of our organizational strengths and weaknesses, to generate fresh ideas and to renew our dedication to the League's mission. That meeting produced so many insights and proposals that I had to ask a committee to review them all so that we could focus on a clear set of recommendations that would guide us and future Boards in setting our tasks and measuring our results. The committee, chaired by Jo Ann Price, recently brought its recommendations to the Board, and we were able to make some immediate and important changes in our policies and procedures that will help us as an organization to "make a difference." After all, that is what League is all about.

As an example, every year when a new Board is elected, we will hold a joint meeting of new and old Board members, with the old members providing their successors with reports on what went well, and recommendations for how we can do even better. Also, we are going to try assigning to each Board member about 20 of our current members (that means you), in order to connect us with all of you, sharing what we are doing, answering your questions, and encouraging your participation. We realize that, for many of you, membership means support for our mission of informing and educating citizens, but we hope that more of you will join those of us who help carry out that mission.

So, thank you, Board members, and all of you who volunteer your time and talents to make this an organization of which you can be proud to be a member. As the League saying goes, "together we can make a difference."

-Doris

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August Board Briefs

The monthly Board meeting was held at the South Berkeley Library on 8/6/97.

Regina Minudri is taking a leave of absence as Community Services VP to serve as temporary head of the San Francisco Public Library.

LWVBAE will participate in both the Solano Stroll (9/14) and "How Berkeley Can You Be?" (9/28).

The Board agreed to sign a contract with UC Student Services to monitor a Campus Fee Referendum provided our conditions are met.

The Board recommended approval of the by-laws changes at the Fall Membership Meeting.

LWVBAE has a new Internet server and e-mail address: lwvbae@pacbell.net.

The fee for personal use of the office fax machine is now 50 cents per page plus any long distance phone system charges.

Yvonne San Jule will chair the 97/98 Budget Committee. Members of the committee are *Jane Bergen, Marion Luten, and Ginette Polak*.

Decision-making within BUSD, from the School Board to the site level, will be this year's focus for the Education Committee.

Doris Maslach is chairing a committee which will do "Research for Action" regarding Berkeley's rent control.

The Board appointed an ad hoc committee to propose action based upon the Board's July 9 brainstorming session.

-Jill Martinucci, Acting Secretary

September Board Briefs

The Board met on Wednesday morning, 9/3, at the South Berkeley public library.

It was reported that the speaker at our Fall Membership meeting (Dwight Steele) will tell us about the work in establishing the Eastshore Park. League members at the meeting, who worked for the park, will be recognized.

A search committee was appointed to find a replacement for *Janet Strothman* who has resigned, effective 9/30, as our office manager.

A new Section Club at UCB has been proposed and plans for it are being made.

-Continued on Page 3

Sept. Board Briefs – *Continued from Page 2*

“Making Democracy Work” projects involving high school students in both Albany and Berkeley are being formed.

New League members will be identified at the membership meeting on 9/18 so that longer-time members can welcome and become acquainted with them.

We’ve been asked to hold a candidates’ night in Emeryville for school board and city council candidates and will do so.

The recipient of the Soulages Writing Project award given this year will be Ann Swidler, who is the author of several widely discussed books. You will be hearing more about this later this year.

–*Violet Feinauer*, Secretary

Recent Donors

Our thanks to the following contributors:

General Fund

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Jane Bergen</i> | <i>Anita Navon</i> |
| <i>Cecile Christian</i> | <i>Fran Packard</i> |
| <i>Elaine Grossberg</i> | <i>Estate of Jane T. Paxson</i> |
| <i>Wilma Jordan</i> | <i>Ruth Rosenfeld</i> |
| <i>Lorraine Knight</i> | <i>Sally Severance</i> |
| <i>Pat Kuhl</i> | <i>Rosalind Singer</i> |
| <i>Barbara Macnab</i> | <i>Helene Strauss</i> |
| <i>Piero Martinucci</i> | <i>Mary Wallman</i> |
| <i>Harriet Nathan</i> | <i>Barbara Wardwell</i> |

Foundation

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Jane Bergen</i> | <i>Ladonna Stoppel</i> |
| <i>Ann-Marie Hogan*</i> | |
| * In Memory of <i>Loretta Hogan</i> | |

**Members and Membership
Pieces, Bits, and
News You Can Use
Pieces**

Welcome to new member *Dildar Gartenberg* and to rejoined members *Nancy Fitzgerald* and *Sandra Bender*.

Published: *Anne Henderson* in the San Francisco Chronicle, August 21, Open Forum, Put Campaign Information On-line*.

Interviewed: *Regina Minudri* in the San Francisco Chronicle, August 21, Acting City Librarian Correcting Mistakes* and Turning A New Page*.

* Copies of these articles are in our League Office or can be read in your local library.

New Place of Employment: *Eloise Bodine*, LWVBA Office

Bits

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Members 9/1/97: | 412 |
| Highest number of members 9/1/96 to 8/31/97: | 430 |
| Current number of women members: | 358 |
| Current number of men members: | 54 |
| Members who joined 9/1/96 to 8/31/97: | 25 |
| From Berkeley: | 16 |
| From Albany: | 6 |
| From Emeryville: | 2 |
| From Kensington: | 1 |

News You Can Use

We will be recruiting student members who are enrolled at least half time at an accredited institution. Dues of student members will be subsidized by LWVUS in the amount of \$10. Student members will receive all services afforded to non-student members. Please call our office (843-8824), FAX us (843-8828), or e-mail us at lwvbae@pacbell.net if you are interested in helping with this new outreach program.

Thank you for your many kind words about the Membership Report. The continuance of the report depends entirely upon members reporting news about themselves or other members. Please call me at 526-2970.

–*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chair



Juvenile Justice

If you have ever parked in an unfamiliar mall and returned to the frightening sight of several youthful gang members surrounding your car, or have had your heart broken by tragic stories about abandoned (even dead) or abused children, you know why juvenile issues are a "hot button" in California.

Pursuant to that, LWVCA received a \$35,000 educational grant to study Juvenile Justice in two parts: Delinquency issues, and the plight of dependent children.

Our own *Pat Kuhi* is the LWVCA state chair of the LWVCED Dependency study, and conducted her first meeting on 9/13/97. This is an exciting topic, and our committee represents people from the entire coastline. There will be much more forthcoming as this study progresses. A detailed delinquency study has been achieved.

On The Forefront

LWV Alameda County stands alone in the state by forming its own inter-league Alameda County Committee on Juvenile Justice! Our first meeting focused on "front end" services for youth, safe places for children in danger, viable adult-child relationships, and community based services.

The most immediate and visible result: Kay Emanuelle of the Fremont LWV has been appointed to the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Commission!

If you are interested in getting involved, please call LWVBAE (843-8824).

—*Joan Blanchard Berzins*

Environmental Concerns Meetings

Monday, October 20, 1997 – Growing Food In The City, Patrick Archie, Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative. Meet at 7:15 pm, 1340 Arch St., Berkeley (Home of *Eva Bansner*)

Monday, November 17, 1997 – Blueprint For A Sustainable Bay Area, speaker from Urban Ecology. Meet at 7:15 pm, 1340 Arch St., Berkeley

No Meeting in December, 1997

Topics for 1998 and exact dates to be announced

Contact *Erika Kunkel*

Accolades For The League

Once again, League members have won the admiration and respect of a community. This time, it's El Cerrito, where a community planning process for development around the Del Norte BART station is in progress. In the past, issues about the station development have been marked by controversy. But on Saturday, September 6, LWVBAE facilitators, together with a League member from Piedmont, smoothed the process and helped El Cerrito residents to calmly consider a range of development possibilities.

The expertise our members have gained from years of leading discussions and from our knowledge of what it takes to reach consensus was evident on that day, as they organized small group discussions and kept participants productively on track. League members who generously gave their time and talents to this effort are:

Eva Bansner

Peggy Anne Davis

Tam Hege (Piedmont League)

Jill Martinucci

Lenora Young

LWVBAE was asked to help with the El Cerrito meeting because only two of our members are from El Cerrito and LWVBAE is not identified in any way with the factions that divide the community on development issues. Of course, the high regard for League members' ability to be fair and even-handed in dealing with community concerns was the primary reason the League was identified to work on this. Thanks, and kudos, to everyone who took part.

—*Mim Hawley*

Goodbye, Janet!

Five years ago, *Janet Strothman* took on the job of LWVBAE Office Manager. She is now leaving this position, ...a great loss! But she remains a dedicated League member. We appreciate her sunny presence in the office and her indefatigable attention to the demands of the job: getting out the *Voter* and Board Packets, buying supplies, coaxing the copier to copy, always something. WE THANK YOU, JANET, for all that you have been and done over the years! We wish you the best.

—*Marion Luten*, for all of us

Some Information on the Status of Berkeley Rent Control

To begin providing the background necessary for League members to understand the complex issues involved in rent control in Berkeley, LWVBAE's Committee on Rent Control offers the following information in advance of its full report due in November. This material concerns the population regulated by Berkeley's rent control law and is found in the October 26, 1995, report "Issues and Options for Rent Increase Standards Under Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Ordinance" by Kenneth K. Baar.

-Doris Maslach, Rent Control Committee Chair

The Size and Characteristics of Rent Controlled Stock

The following table provides the distribution of units by building size. Data in the following tables are based upon 19,759 units which have been registered since rent control began in Berkeley in 1978.

Rent Controlled Units by Units per Building

| Units per Building | No. of Units |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 - 4 | 5,912 |
| 5 - 10 | 5,227 |
| 11 - 15 | 1,948 |
| 16 - 20 | 1,640 |
| 21 - 25 | 1,294 |
| 26+ | 3,738 |
| Total Units | 19,759 |

1,104 rent controlled units are single family dwellings; these units will become exempt from rent control upon vacancy or in 1999, whichever occurs first, except when the unit has been occupied by the same tenant since Dec. 31, 1995. In addition, several hundred apartments which have been converted to condominiums will become rent control exempt.

Turnover in Ownership of Rent Controlled Units

Approximately 58% of units under rent control have been sold since rent regulations went into effect.

Acquisition Date of Rent Controlled Units

| Purchase Date | Pct. of Units |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1959 or earlier | 7% |
| 1960 - 1969 | 11 |
| 1970 - 1974 | 7 |
| 1975 - 1979 | 20 |
| 1980 - 1984 | 12 |
| 1985 - 1989 | 18 |
| 1990 - 1995 (June) | 24 |



Publications Corner



FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS of the CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

In 1994, a California Constitution Revision Commission was appointed by the governor and legislature to examine the structure of state government with a view toward increasing accountability, to analyze the configuration of state and local government duties and responsibility, to review the state budgetary process, and to consider the feasibility of integrating community resources, in an effort to reduce duplication and increase the productivity of local service delivery.

Eighteen months later (in 1996) the final report was completed. The efforts to revise the state Constitution and some of the recommendations of the Commission are supported in LWVC Positions. Among these recommendations: establishing long-term and performance measures to ensure that the level of government which provides the funding for a program also administers and provides the services for the program; and requiring a majority vote for the budget.

There are also a number of recommendations which may spark disagreement among Californians of all political parties, including the requirement that the governor and lieutenant governor run on the same ticket; that the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the state Treasurer, and the Insurance Commissioners be appointed by the governor instead of being elected; that the state budget be balanced; and the terms of the UC Regents be reduced to 10 years from 12, with no reappointment permitted.

In all, there are 35 recommendations. A copy of the report is available in our League office on the Publications Shelf.

The LWVC Government Director has written that a California Governance Consensus Project (of which the LWVC is a member) is meeting to determine which of the issues are "saleable" and can be placed on the 1998 ballot as initiatives. You will want to read this publication to become fully aware of all of the reforms recommended by the Constitution Revision Commission.

-Lenora Young, Publications Chair

Transportation Issues (From LWVBA)

The Bay Area is currently making transportation decisions that will greatly impact our quality of life in the coming century.

Alameda County's Measure B, which established a half-cent sales tax allocated to transportation improvements, is due to expire in 2002. The reauthorization process began this year in order to place it on the ballot as early as 1998. The original measure had very little public input and heavily favored highways over public transit. A special Expenditure Plan Development Committee (EPDC) consisting of 40 members chosen from public applicants by the Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTA), the agency administering the measure, is in the process of recommending projects to the Measure B Steering Committee. (Issues concerning the fairness of the composition of the committee were addressed in a letter from the County Council). Upon learning that the Steering Committee had taken air quality and land use off the table for rating of projects, we spoke before them about the primary importance of both issues. In a letter read to the EPDC, when they were considering "set asides" for public transit, we argued for funding that would not only be sufficient to restore (AC Transit's) bus service to previous levels, but could enhance bus use as an attractive alternative to auto travel. The Steering Committee has set October 1, 1997, as the deadline for EPDC to produce a draft list of programs and projects. Four public forums are to be held in different parts of Alameda county during September.

On the other side of the bay, a proposal that has major importance to the Bay Area is the 1.2 mile CalTrain Downtown Extension that is threatened with derailment. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) spent about \$5.5 million on the Draft EIS/EIR report with only about \$500,000 slated for the final EIR. But the JPB may not go forward with its completion because the San Francisco Board of Supervisor's vote (7-1) approving its completion was vetoed by Mayor Brown and the JPB failed to override his veto. After consultation with the LWVSF, we presented a letter in favor of the completion of the EIR and later sent letters to all the members of the SF Board of Supervisors and to the Mayor. This is much more than the expansion of one system because it would terminate at the location of the present Transbay Terminal and could share

facilities with SamTrans, Muni, AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit, and connect via an underground moving sidewalk, to BART at the Embarcadero station. We are within inches (or, at least, 1.2 miles) of having a regional transportation system connected at its hub. It would then be possible for people traveling between the East Bay and the Peninsula, and between Marin County and the Peninsula, to leave their cars at home and use public transit.

A bill in the state legislature, AB 595(Brown), has the potential for providing more funding for regional transportation projects. It would authorize the MTC to impose a regional gas tax of up to 10 cents per gallon if approved by the voters. The funds would not be spent for highway expansion. Some eligible projects are local streets, public transit, and rail extension. After receiving permission from LWVC, LWVBA sent letters supporting the bill. It has passed the Assembly and the Senate Transportation Committee: the bill is presently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Joyce Roy, LWVBA Transportation Chair

LWVC Adopts Diversity Policy

In July, the LWVC Board adopted the following Diversity Policy:

The LWV, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, age, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The LWV recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing needs and conditions.

The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its board, staff and programs.

—Doris Fine, LWVBAE President

Electric Restructuring: Is California's Legislation In the Public Interest

(Traynor – Continued from Page 1)

AB 1890 was the outcome of mammoth lobbying by utility and special interests. This legislation will partially deregulate California electric utilities beginning in 1998. It implements open competition of electric generation and access to the high-voltage power line transmission grid which was mandated by the federal Energy Policy Act of 1992. The purpose was to create benefits for all ratepayers.

Consumer groups filed a legal protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on June 6. The protest points out that the utilities and big industrial customers have the money, rules, information, and the sophistication to use them to manipulate prices at the expense of ordinary consumers. Small consumers, who use about one-third of the state's electricity, have only two votes on the 26 member board that will administer the restructured electric market system.

AB 1890 was to provide all customers with a so-called "choice." Large utility users will be able to negotiate substantial reductions in their electric rates because of their buying power. But what "choice" will the ordinary consumer have? Meanwhile, other states have and will be implementing similar legislation, and some are calling California's legislation a model for the country. Washington representatives drafting national restructuring legislation wisely stated in a recent C-Span program that they should perhaps wait to see if some of the experiments, such as California's, prove to be of benefit to the small consumer, not just big businesses, before enacting a federal bill.

A well-attended caucus held at the LWVC convention in April produced recommendations that LWVC take certain actions regarding electric restructuring. The outcome is that at the state level, an Electric Restructuring Committee has been formed to educate League members and the public on this issue. If any member would like to participate or would like further information, you may call the state League office or sent e-mail to 73503.2016@compuserve.com.

–Adapted by *Doris Fine* from an article in the LWVC Update by Karen Johanson, Chair, LWVC Electric Restructuring Committee. A complete version of this update is available in office.

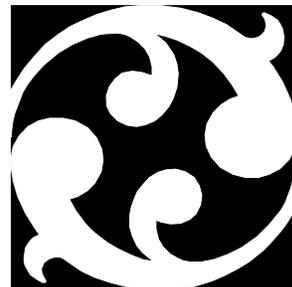
Madeleine pored over the draft of the profile. I revised it with her corrections. Again—meticulous, exacting as she was in our talks—she revised the revision. More talk. More revisions. Revisions by telephone.

She plied me with papers and books—mostly by or about Roger, many of them articles about the political corruptions she abhorred. She showed me photographs, but not many. I was ushered into Roger's study, saw the tiny room she slept in on the first floor of the large old house that carried so many memories. The dining room was stacked high with books and journals, the halls lined with overflowing bookshelves. Even the kitchen table where she now ate all her meals was covered with the papers and books she was reading at the time. When the weather was good, we sat at a table in the garden so that we could enjoy the roses that Roger had planted. Through it all, Madeleine admonished me how important was their privacy—Roger's, hers, their family's—both before his death and since.

Finally, the profile was finished – and attractively printed. Hardly a word remained that was mine. Madeleine then extracted a promise that it would not be released to the media. The League honored that promise, although we had planned to use it in connection with the essay project. A couple of years ago, Madeleine phoned to ask me for the copies, and I delivered the box to her shortly after. Now, only a few copies remain in our League files.

Always courteous, always gracious, passionately committed to reform of a political system dependent upon vast sums of money, Madeleine will not soon be forgotten by any of us.

–Peggy Anne Davis



CALENDAR

September

– Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated –

- 27 Sat. 9 am–2:30 pm Bay Area League Day (in Cupertino) (*San Jule*)
 28 Sun. 10:30 am How Berkeley Can You Be? Parade (*Bodine*)
 Meet at corner of Addison and California Streets.
 Wear white shirt and navy slacks.

October

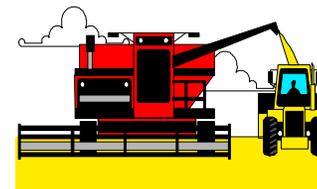
- 1 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (*Fine*)
 3 Fri. 4 pm Voter Deadline League Office
 15 Wed. 9 am Action Committee (*Price*)
 16 Thurs. 7:30 pm Rent Board Action Cmte. (*Maslach*)
 20 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (*Kunkel*)
 “Growing Food in the City”
 23 Thurs. 7 pm Education Committee (*Brubeck*)
 Please call to confirm time and date
 29 Wed. 9:30 am Executive Committee (*Fine*)

November

- 5 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (*Fine*)
 17 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (*Kunkel*)
 “Blueprint For A Sustainable Bay Area”

HELP REALLY WANTED

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