

THE V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94702-1509 Tel: (510) 843-8824

Fax: (510) 843-8828 E-mail: lwvbae@pacbell.net Web Site: home.pacbell.net/lwvbae

President: Jo Ann B. Price

October, 1999

Editor: Bob Hawley

Housing Decisions Facing Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville

The housing shortage in Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville comes from four main sources: the desirability of the location within the Bay Area, a growing number of jobs in Emeryville and Berkeley, the reputation of the school system in Albany, and the lack of enough housing units provided by UC Berkeley for the more than 30,000 students who attend the university. Housing is tight even in neighboring Oakland, which used to absorb a greater number of UCB students. Currently, some are renting new units in Emeryville. In addition, our three cities which have long been considered bedroom communities for people who work in San Francisco, are now being populated by people who work in Silicon Valley. This level of demand has steadily driven up prices for both rental and ownership housing in our area, but more steeply in the last five years.

A fair amount of residential building has occurred in Berkeley and Emeryville during the last ten years, especially compared to the previous fifteen. Then, the number of housing units in Berkeley actually declined, and Emeryville had only begun its program. During this period, Berkeley has added 1,714 units, including the University's addition of 300 beds. By the end of 1999, Emeryville will have completed 765 units. In Albany, however, little new housing has been built. In these three communities, the builders interviewed by our Housing Study Committee see a practically unlimited demand for new housing as long as the economy thrives, both ownership and rental, both subsidized and market rate.

While the three cities share the problem of demand being greater than supply, the responses to the need vary with the attitudes of citizens, the space available for building, and the city processes and fees which must be met before building can begin. A thumbnail sketch of each city will show the major incentives and constraints for additional housing.

Emeryville had been a heavily industrial location twenty years ago, and was faced with vacant or underutilized industrial buildings. This small city (1.2 square miles) with a small population (3,712 in 1980), many of whom had worked in the local industries, enlisted its residents to participate in city planning activities. They envisioned the city they wanted Emeryville to be: densely populated, mixed uses around neighborhood hubs; diversity of race, social class and age; mixed rental and ownership housing; transportation that would make a car unnecessary for most daily activities; parks, recreational resources, and retail stores to serve daily needs. The City declared 95% of the land a redevelopment area, which enabled Emeryville to take an active role, through its planning and regulatory commissions, in rewriting its zoning ordinances and procedures to make this vision a reality.

Emeryville used redevelopment and housing funds from the federal and state governments to assist developers to create housing that was affordable for very low, low, and moderate income citizens, as well as for those able to afford market rate. They also aggressively sought and found businesses - light

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President's Column

The Richness of the League Experience

Being a member of the League of Women Voters is a beneficial experience that can be as simple or as multi-layered as you choose. You can write your annual dues check and then sit back happy in the knowledge that you're supporting: "a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy". In this mode you will also receive excellent information on issues facing government at the local, regional, state, and national levels. By merely reading this information, you will become better informed to lobby personally and make the electoral decisions before you.

On the other hand, you may choose to get involved with League study, action, program, voter service, community service, membership, or leadership B or some combination of the above. League committees dealing with these listed activities provide worthwhile opportunities to educate the public, as well as League members in areas of League positions and policies. Anyone who has served on a League study will vouch for the thoroughness and open-mindedness with which a subject is researched, analyzed, and propounded in a nonpartisan way to League members for their discussion and decision as to whether an official position on the topic will be adopted.

Part of the League experience for members is to attend a UNIT meeting to hear and discuss the information gathered by League committees. This opportunity to discuss current issues is invigorating and educational, and League moderators ensure that no one monopolizes the meeting. It's a chance to test your ideas on a topic and adjust or enhance them. It's a privilege of League membership.

Other opportunities offered include observing a governmental body dealing with issues of concern to you, with the requirement that you report significant actions to the League. You may do this at the local city council or commissions in Berkeley, Albany, or Emeryville; the Alameda County Board of Supervisors or commissions; and the regional bodies that regulate Bay Area planning and environmental quality, such as the Association of Bay Area

Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). League Observers play a major role in helping the League fulfill its "watchdog" role, as well as its action goal. Government bodies need to know the League is watching and will speak out forcefully on issues.

Still more opportunities exist to help educate citizens about the full spectrum of the democratic process. League outreach to non-citizens, new citizens, and jaded citizens is very important to help the electorate be knowledgeable about, and shoulder the responsibility of citizenship by becoming voters who understand and care about the electoral process and its role in keeping our democracy healthy, strong, and responsive.

Your League experience should be what you want it to be. You should have the opportunity to help further the League's mission by working in areas of interest to you. The Board is working on a Placement Program to help each of you decide how active a role you want to play in League and give you complete information about the possibilities. For instance, you can choose: call for spot jobs; don't call at all; interested in Housing issues; will help with large meeting arrangements; will help plan Speaker Series; will work with Voter Service; will observe the Planning Commission; will do graphics for the *Voter*; will work on community forums; etc. LWVBAE welcomes member interest and encourages you to make of your League membership all that you want it to be. I look forward to hearing from you !

— Jo Ann

LWVBAE Office Closings

The Board approved closing the LWVBAE Office for the following holiday periods during 1999/2000:

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Nov. 24, 1 pm - Nov.26 S Thanksgiving

Dec. 20S31 - Winter holiday season

Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr.

 Birthday observed

Feb. 21 - Presidents Day observed

May 29 - Memorial Day observed

Board Briefs

The Board met at a new location, the Emery Bay Clubhouse in Emeryville. Each Board member has a list of members to call for the Fall General Meeting and subsequent events. A motion to close the League office on specific holidays passed. See Page 2 of this *Voter* for the dates. An Ad hoc *Voter* Committee was set up to make recommendations re: readability, access to information, and simple monthly identity. The Community Luncheon was reported as a good success and important beginning for making this an annual fund-raiser. The Board expressed its appreciation and thanks to the Committee.

A campaign to get League information to the community will be crafted and implemented. "Who Represents Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville" will be updated after the November election and distributed with the December-January *Voter*. Any changes after that will be entered on the League's website and corrected by label on the publication. Speaker Series topics and speakers were announced for November 4 on redistricting and December 16 on family violence. There will be discussion UNITS on housing November 9-10.

Critique of the 2nd Draft of the Berkeley General Plan will be in the League office on October 7. A motion passed agreeing to the concept of sending a letter to the BUSD Board re being precise in stating the new retention policy to everyone in Berkeley, including parents, and publicizing this policy early and often. The new Albany Superintendent of Schools will be interviewed. There will be a UCB election re a sports fee in November that the League will help with. The SmartVoter Project is being negotiated with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. "Building the Future" material sent to LWVC was distributed.

The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 6, 9 am to noon, at the Emery Bay Clubhouse.

-*Violet Feinauer*, Board Secretary

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – NOT
FOR WOMEN ONLY !**

UCB Election Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to monitor a referendum election at Cal on November 9, 10, and 11. The single issue on the ballot will be a student fee increase to raise funds to repair the Recreational Sports Facility and intramural playing fields on campus, as well as to increase funding for club team sports and varsity women's sports.

Compared with the annual ASUC election in April, fewer polling places will be used, polling place hours will be shortened, and the ballot counting will be electronic. The League will be asked to provide at least 50 polling place monitors over the three days. LWVBAE will be paid for this service.

Please call *Sherry Smith* after September 20 if you could do one or more 4-hour shifts on November 9, 10, or 11.

-*Sherry Smith*, UC Election Coordinator

Voter Service

Only Emeryville, of LWVBAE's three cities, will have an election in November, 1999. Three of five City Council seats are in contention. Two incumbents S Ken Bukowski and Nora Davis S are running, plus new candidates Ruth Atkin, Trigvie Derr, and Arthur Hoff. This is a citywide election, with the top three vote-getters being elected. The League will sponsor a candidates' meeting on Thursday, October 7, at 7:30 pm, in the Emeryville City Council Chamber. *Phoebe Watts* and *Sherry Smith* are arranging the meeting. If you would like to help on that night, please call one of them.

-*Phoebe Watts*, Voter Service

Health & Welfare Subcommittee Meeting

The Action subcommittee on Health and Welfare will meet Friday, October 1, at 1:30 pm in the LWVBAE office to bring members an update on Alameda County Welfare Reform (CalWORKS) and the status of Proposition 10 (Families First).

-*Virginia Laurence*, Health/Welfare Director

Inaugural Community Luncheon Well-received

Thursday, August 26, 1999, will be remembered happily for a long time by those who attended our League's Inaugural Community Luncheon at the Radisson on the Berkeley Marina. The Luncheon Committee's hard work paid off handsomely in good will and League funds, and provided a solid beginning for an activity we hope will be a League tradition.

Karen Nelson, Luncheon Committee Chair, met for five months to plan the event with committee members *Ruth Ganong*, Board Director for Albany, *Beth Springston*, Board Director for Emeryville and Treasurer, and *Jo Ann Price*, President; and with *Mary Wainwright*, Development VP, after she came on the new Board and joined the committee in June. Consulting with the Oakland and San Francisco Leagues about their successful annual luncheons, the committee received much good advice.

The choice of speaker could not have been better. The League, the communities, and the University attendees were delighted to hear from former UC Berkeley Chancellor I. Michael Heyman about the personal side of his tenure as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC since 1993. League members *Marylyn Coons* (graphic designer) and *Kristina Kai-ming Lim* (teenage artist) played a key role in assuring that the invitations beautifully reflected the spirit of our League. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the luncheon such a success.

Listed below are the Sponsors and Patrons who generously donated to the Luncheon.

Donors

Anonymous	Suzanne & Chris McKee
<i>Jane Barrett</i>	<i>Kitty McLean</i>
<i>Charlotte Bernardin</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
Joyce BraySFessler	Rachel Rupert
Helen Break	Ruth Scheer
<i>Joy Carlin</i>	Ted Schultz
<i>Peggy Casey</i>	<i>Rosalind Singer</i>
<i>Arrietta Chakos</i>	<i>Ladonna Stoppel</i>
<i>Peggy Anne & Bill Davis</i>	<i>Ruthann & Clyde Taylor</i>
<i>Wilma Jordan</i>	<i>Elsa Trantor</i>
Richard Kassis	<i>Lassie Ulman</i>
Barbara Licht	<i>Carol Weinmann</i>
Charlotte Loeb	<i>Alba Witkin</i>
Kim Longworth	

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Redistricting After The 2000 Census

Speaker Series: November 4, 10 am-12 noon

Subject: Redistricting after the 2000 Census

Place: Berkeley Chinese Community Church,
2117 Acton Street, Classroom Building
(1 block west of Sacramento and
1 block south of University Avenue)

Speaker: Karin MacDonald,
UCB - IGS Graduate Student

After the next national Census, California is expected to gain additional seats in Congress due to added population since 1990. At the same time, changes in population distribution within the State will necessitate redrawing of Assembly and Senatorial districts. This will be the start of a highly political process to redraw Congressional, Assembly and Senatorial districts. The parties and their candidates may see redistricting as a way to strengthen or weaken their prospects and are likely to try to influence the process. When judges and commissioners get involved, they may be tempted to support those who appointed them or helped them get their jobs.

Karin MacDonald has been studying the process and will help us understand what is likely to unfold. She may also be able to guide us in figuring out how the League can bring more light and less heat to the subject. Please join us and BRING A FRIEND.

The church is wheelchair accessible and is served by AC Transit buses #67 and #51, among others. The church also has a large parking lot, with spaces reserved for disabled drivers.

-*Jean Safir*, Program VP



Patrons

Denny Abrams
Ginger and Moshe Alafi
The GUS Team
The Peralta Community College Dist. Board
Jo Ann & Buford Price

Floral Centerpiece by Lee's Florist

Warm Words of Praise For The League from Berkeley's Mayor

Following are the gracious words of welcome and praise offered to the community gathered at LWVBAE's Community Luncheon on August 26.

"It is my great pleasure on behalf of the City of Berkeley to welcome you here today to the League of Women Voters' First Community Luncheon, an event which we hope will be repeated year after year for years to come. It is great to see such a fine turn-out on this warm summer afternoon — great, not only because this is a wonderful event, but because the City of Berkeley gets a percentage of the gross revenue taken in by this hotel! So, thank you for coming, and please, come again anytime and bring several friends. Mayors do have to keep an eye on the bottom line!

"This afternoon promises to be very pleasant indeed - friends we haven't connected with for a while, interesting conversation, good food and the opportunity to hear the thoughtful remarks of a world-renowned Berkeley resident...

"It has always been true that cities faced extraordinarily difficult problems and challenges. Today, these problems and challenges seem to be more complex than ever before. The policies of Washington and Sacramento are played out not in the offices and halls of those policy makers, but instead the results are right here on our streets and I know, first-hand in my office. The problems cross jurisdictional lines between cities, counties, and states and their solutions require the partnership of everyone working together from individual neighborhoods to the Congress, from the corner store to the CEOs of giant corporations.

"Fortunately, in this great mass of complexities we have a dedicated group of mostly women, but some men as well, who voluntarily help us keep it all straight, not only getting our facts straight, but keeping our processes honest and lawful. Very wisely, but sometimes much to our great consternation, this group of dedicated people keeps above the fray. They plan events where we can learn, but also where we can come together in fellowship, and also learn, and contribute to the process of building community at the same time. That dedicated, committed, watch-dog group is, of course, the League of Women Voters. I'd like to conclude my remarks by asking you to applaud
-(Continued at right)

"City Conversations" Examines Berkeley's Boards and Commissions

Hundreds of Berkeley citizens are asked each year to advise the city of Berkeley. Do the dozens of boards and commissions on which they serve provide the most effective means of citizen participation? Do the City Council and city staff listen to their recommendations?

"City Conversations," produced by LWVBAE, began its second season of 30-minute video programs with a look at Berkeley's boards and commissions. Tuesday, September 14, Sherry Kelly, Berkeley City Clerk, and Mary Ann McCamant, Vice Chair of the Berkeley Planning Commission, talked with host *Lessly Wikle* about how the commissions work, how they contribute to the Council's decision-making, and how useful they actually are.

Tuesday, September 28, Council Member Kriss Worthington and former City Council member Don Jelinek discussed the effectiveness of this kind of citizen participation. Subsequent programs will involve interviews with a variety of current city commissioners as we continue to explore the relationship between citizens and government.

You can watch "City Conversations" at 6:30 pm just before Berkeley City Council Meetings, Tuesdays on BSTV, Berkeley cable channel 25. It is shown again on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.

If you've missed our cablecasts, request a video copy of "City Conversations" from the League office. If you have questions, suggestions, or would care to join us in our journey through video communications, call me. We look forward to your input.

-*Jill A. Martinucci*, Video Project Chair

the wonderful people of the League of Women Voters for not only their fine efforts in putting on this event - but also for the excellent work they perform for the community year in and year out. Thank you."

-Shirley Dean, Mayor

☞ **Reminder** ☞

**Local Decisions - Regional Impacts
September 28 and 30 UNIT Meetings**

The September 1999 *Voter* included a yellow flyer with background and information on LWVBAE UNITS in late September. Please refer to the flyer and to the September section of the October *Voter* Calendar for details. Additionally, the following information from *Yvonne San Jule*, LWV Bay Area Local Decisions/Regional Impacts Study Chair, should be helpful in considering your discussion of the issues at the UNIT meetings.

Yvonne writes that, based upon the responses so far from the 21 local Leagues comprising LWVBA and further research, the LWVBA Study Steering Committee is looking at the kinds of institutional arrangements needed to plan and implement regional strategies that can ensure that local decisions will have minimal and appropriate regional impacts rather than detrimental ones. These include:

- Regional urban growth boundaries (UGB) and critical areas protection, with higher and mixed-use developments around transit stops within the UGB.
- Better integration of transportation with regional comprehensive planning and extension of transit access to the currently under-served and transit-dependent.
- A regional, affordable housing allocation plan.
- Some form of regional tax base sharing to help equalize the benefits of recent growth in property or sales tax bases.
- Regional review of major development projects, transportation, and open space investments and environmental documents for consistency with regional comprehensive planning.

These UNITS need your considered thought and involvement. Look forward to seeing you there.

-*Jean Safir*, Program VP

Personals

The Berkeley Daily Planet of August 20 featured *Masako Yamada* on the front page. *Masako* is shown operating broadcasting equipment during filming of a Berkeley School Board meeting. She also works the Berkeley City Council and Rent Board meetings for BSTV.

Meda Rechen has acquired the title of Great Grandmother with the arrival of Trinity Marie Wiedenmeyer in Kansas. Trinity will visit with *Meda* in October.

Virginia Laurence, Professor Emeritus, Doctor of Social Welfare, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Diplomat, has been awarded Pioneer Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers at their recent celebration of the Association's 100th Anniversary. *Virginia* was recognized because of her work promoting counseling for students in public schools.

Charlotte Lichterman, our League's consultant on women's health issues, was feted by friends and relatives on August 29 in San Leandro at an 80th birthday party hosted by the Oakland/East Bay Chapter of the National Organization of Women. A framed proclamation from Senator Don Perata honored her many accomplishments, including those with the League of Women Voters.

Marion Luten broke her hip on the last night of August. She is doing well after surgery. *Dan Luten* followed *Marion* for his own hip surgery the first part of September, but his had been previously scheduled. Both will recuperate at the Elmwood care center.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Correspondence Secretary

Donors Through August

General Fund

Elaine Grossberg

Harriet Nathan

Sally Severance

Patricia Spear

Foundation

Doris Fine

*Kurt Schoeneman**

Mary W. Wallmann

* Non member

Housing Decisions (continued from Page 1)

industrial, service, and a variety of retail businesses in several market places. They have built more than 650 units of housing, almost doubling the population (7,300 in 1999), and developed more than that many jobs. Traffic has remained reasonable, with 2,000 workers who commute taking public transit, and many younger workers find housing in the city. Local merchants, employers, and the City of Emeryville collaborate in funding a free shuttle service that connects several bus lines with AC transit and BART in routes that touch all major activity areas.

Albany is relatively simple to explain for the opposite reasons. It is largely a built-up, bedroom community of 17,770 residents in an area of one square mile, with a stable number of jobs; there are 7,468 housing units, 53% single family housing, of which 54% are rental. Local business is primarily retail. Traffic flows out mornings and in at evening time. The main impacts are on San Pablo and Marin avenues. There are a few infill sites but these are too small for larger multifamily housing. Some secondary units would be possible, but zoning ordinances that require two off-street parking spaces for each unit would have to be changed. The community does not want more density and there are no visible citizen groups pushing for more housing.

Berkeley, a city of 10 square miles, has 108,909 residents (1999 estimate), including more than 12,000 students. Of 46,219 housing units, 45% are single family, 21% 2S4 unit buildings, and 34% buildings of 5 or more units; 56% of all these units are rental. Berkeley has a liberal reputation, but it is a city full of contradictions. Everyone gives lip service to diversity, but no neighborhood wants any additions which might bring economic diversity to them. There is resistance expressed to new multifamily units, because of both the greater density and suggested higher buildings.

Most who work or study here cannot live here for both monetary and supply reasons. Thus the traffic problems along all in-and-out routes are very heavy twice a day, and parking near activity centers for workers or residents is very difficult. Berkeley itself has reasonably good public transit access to its main activity areas but outlying communities don't, so people use their cars to get

to town. The City's building permit approval process is twice as expensive and many times as long and tortuous as that in neighboring cities. Few builders are tough and persistent enough, or backed by enough money to live through it. Although Berkeley has added many units in the last ten years, the current planning proposal to increase densities along transit corridors is provoking negative comment.

In order to meet the region's projected population increase, later this year the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will publish a suggested target or "fair share" of housing to be added in each of these cities over the next ten years. This state-mandated regional planning would help to prevent the disappearance of open space in all California counties by increasing density within incorporated areas. In turn, increased density will increase the tax base of cities, enliven retail businesses and recreational opportunities, and support increased public transit. That's a cart that follows the horse of density. But it can have these positive effects only if we plan for it. We must:

- develop neighborhoods thoughtfully around hubs that induce walking and face-to-face encounters;
- preserve recreational space near residences;
- encourage aesthetic building designs that complement their architectural surroundings;
- revise city ordinances and procedures to support these changes.

Emeryville appears to have this vision and has acted upon it, while Berkeley and Albany have yet to step up to the plate for full and thoughtful discussion.

Discussion UNITS for the Housing Study will be held on November 9, noon to 2 pm at the Albany Public Library (Marin at Masonic S bag lunches okay), and on November 10 from 7:15-9 pm at the home of *Diana Bilovsky*, 2022 Francisco Street.

-*Suzanne Adams*, Housing Study Chair

**FINANCIAL REPORTS TO MEMBERS
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE
FUND BALANCES**

Fund	Balance 7/1/98	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 6/30/99
General Fund*	\$55,286	\$52,557	\$40,548	\$67,295
Tribute Fund	5,021	75	670	4,426
Endowment	<u>39,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,100</u>
TOTAL Funds	\$99,407	\$52,632	\$41,218	\$110,821

* General Fund includes Current Operating Fund, Lease Deposit, and Misc. Assets

COMBINED ASSETS

	On 7/1/98	Increase or (Decrease)	On 6/30/99
Checking Account	\$ 4,717	\$ (1,724)	\$ 2,993
Money Market Fund	31,422	6,207	37,629
Benham GNMA Fund	30,744	953	31,697
AmerCent. Eq Growth	30,864	5,885	36,749
Other Assets*	<u>1,660</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>1,753</u>
FUND BALANCES	\$99,407	\$ 11,414	\$110,821

* Other Assets includes Stamps, Post office Deposit, Lease Deposit, Computer value, etc.

Ginette Polak, 1998/99 Treasurer

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY FOUNDATION
FUND BALANCES**

	Balance 7/1/98	Changes	Balance 6/30/99
Checking Accounts	\$ 3,240	Contributions + \$3,154	\$ 657
Money Market	10,625	Investments + 7,070	7,986
AmerCent. Income/Growth	29,435	To LWVBAE - 8,834	34,996
AmerCent. Balanced	17,193	To Sec. State - 10	18,234
FUND BALANCES	\$60,493	Increase \$1,380	\$ 61,873

Heidi Gillies, 1998/99 Treasurer

League News: LWVUS, LWVC, LWVBA

LWVUS Information

- **Student Rebate Program**

Begun after the 1996 national convention as a pilot program, the LWVUS Student Rebate Program is now fully available and rebates \$11 per bona fide local student member. Criteria: the member must be an undergraduate or post-graduate student at least half time at an accredited institution.

- **Future of the League of Women Voters**

The culmination of the League-wide, more than two-year future planning process will be included as the centerfold in the September/October "National VOTER".

It emphasizes impact, visibility, and organizational development as tools to bring about the League's strategic vision of helping citizens to fulfill the promise of democracy.

- **LWVEd Fund Decision to be 501(h) s a Lobbying Organization**

The 501(h) election does not affect the LWVEF's status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization or the tax deductibility of contributions to the LWVEF. The law gives charities that have made the 501(h) election greater latitude to educate the public on issues, including those that are the subject of legislative action, without classifying those expenditures as lobbying. Under the election, lobbying is measured by the organization's expenditures, not by its overall effort.

LWVC Items

- **Free Air Time for Candidates**

LWVC has been invited again to partner with the California Channel to tape interviews of all bona fide candidates for the March 2000 California Presidential Primary. League members will conduct the interviews, with all candidates being asked the same questions within the same time frame. The LWVC Board will develop the questions in cooperation with the California Channel. The videotapes will be made available to all cable stations requesting them, and audio tapes will be provided to public radio stations. Providing free air time to all bona fide candidates furthers the League's goal of campaign finance reform.

- **SmartVoter**

The State Board reaffirmed its commitment to SmartVoter in July. The hope is that all Leagues will decide to work with SmartVoter to increase the opportunity for all voters to be informed fully via the Internet.

- **"Log On, Sign Up" for College Students**

In San Mateo County, the Elections Office has joined with the California Voter Foundation and the LWVED Fund to create a new opportunity for college students to become voters. San Mateo County has arranged for Internet Providers (ISPs) and colleges to add a link to the National Voter Registration Form. Internet users can download the form, fill in the blanks, and mail it to the California Secretary of State's Office.

- **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Grant to LWVC of \$300,000**

LWVC applied to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for a grant to help build League capacity and infrastructure in the context of informing communities about sustainability. The Foundation awarded LWVC \$300,000 over three years to enhance the work of the entire League while moving forward on our Issue for Emphasis: Sustainability. The first year's effort will include web site work geared particularly to younger citizens and diverse constituencies, as a way to increase awareness of public policy issues among members of society that the League does not readily reach. In the second and third years, the Foundation has challenged the League to match a total of \$150,000 to demonstrate we are eager to participate in this building effort as we continue our important public policy work.

- **LWVC Resource Directory**

The new and useful LWVC "Resource Directory" is now in the LWVBAE office for Board and members' use.

LWV Bay Area Briefs

- **Dot Nelson Award**

The first recipient is Arliss Ungar of the LWV Diablo Valley. A member of the LWVBA Water Committee for over twenty years, she played a critical role in Bay Area action and represented LWVBA on the San Francisco Estuary Project Management Committee.

-(Continued on Page 10)

League News (Continued from page 9)

- **Bay Area "Decision Makers"**

This LWVBA publication will be printed free by California Casualty and available at Know Your Bay Area Day. It is a perfect resource to use as a PR gift for government officials and community organizations in every League's area. It will also be available on LWVBAE's web site and will be updated there as necessary.

- **Letter of Commendation to Mayor Willie Brown**

A letter of commendation to San Francisco Mayor Brown is being sent to thank him for his leadership in creating a regional transportation hub at the San Francisco Transbay Terminal. The letter will also include an urgent reminder that the Final EIS/R on the Cal Train Extension Project needs to be completed. It is now more than a year overdue.

(From LWVUS, LWVC, and LWVBA sources)

-Jo Ann B. Price, President

"Not for Ourselves Alone: the Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony"

KQED, Channel 9 (PBS) will air this exciting new documentary by Ken Burns on **November 7 and 8**. You may remember Burns as the documentary film maker and producer who brilliantly brought "The Civil War" and "baseball" into the nation's living rooms.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were two of the most influential citizens our country has known. They fought for over 50 years to repeal laws that allowed slavery and barred all women from public speaking professions, property ownership, child custody, and the vote. Women were enfranchised in 1920 by the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, more than a decade after the deaths of Stanton and Anthony, and 144 years after the Declaration of Independence. Information from LWVUS says: "The film illustrates how the woman suffrage amendment has served to shape contemporary social and economic trends, and why it was such an important landmark in United States history."

-Jo Ann B. Price, President

Waterfront Update

The League has followed the progress for an East Bay Shoreline State Park since spring of 1983. At that time, Santa Fe Railroad (later Catellus) had proposed massive hotel and condominium development in the cities of Emeryville, Berkeley, and Albany. Last year the East Bay Regional Park District completed the purchase of 5 miles of shoreline, making the park land secure. A further step has now been taken as California Transportation Commission has awarded Berkeley \$3 million to build an 800Sfoot bridge over IS80 west of Aquatic Park to the natural shoreline. The City will add \$1.4 million. The bridge will have two 4-foot bike lanes and a 5Sfoot wheel chair and pedestrian lane.

The East Bay Regional Park District supported Berkeley's bid to connect the natural shoreline with urban amenities, especially the thriving 4th Street shops. The bridge will be built on empty land on the west side of the freeway and lowered into place. The opening will be December 2000 .

While progress has been slow, the steady and constant action by many groups and individuals including the League has made it possible. It is proof that citizen action can truly get results.

-Meda Rechen, Waterfront Consultant

Thanks, Tom !

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and the author of the Declaration of Independence, has left a formidable legacy to the nation in many areas including government, architecture, invention, law, and politics. He also offered sage personal advice as exemplified in the following rules he wrote in a letter to a young relative. (His order.)

- Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
- Never trouble another for what you can do for yourself.
- Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.
- We never repent of having eaten too little.
- Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
- Take things always by their smooth handle.
- When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

This is excellent advice no matter the year or century, and applicable in professional or personal life. Thanks, Tom!

-JBP

Action Notes

- The September 7 BSTV program on Berkeley's new General Plan, announced in the past *Voter*, was canceled because the Plan's second draft is not to be ready until October 1. All interested League members are urged to get a copy of the second draft of the plan from the Planning Department at 2118 Milvia Street, or read it in the library, or at the League office, and come to a meeting at the League office to discuss it on Thursday, October 7, from 10:30 am until noon.
- The Alameda County Children and Families First Commission has now been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, to implement a system of information and services to promote, support, and optimize early childhood development from prenatal to five years of age. Money is provided by Proposition 10, the tobacco tax, and Alameda County is expected to receive about \$20 million annually. Program areas include child care, parenting, tobacco and substance abuse prevention, social services and health care. Chaired by Supervisor Wilma Chan, the nine-member commission includes two Berkeley residents: Linda Olivenbaum, former director of Lakeshore Children's Center, and Rocio de Mateo Smith, executive director of the Developmental Disabilities Area Board 5. Information on the program can be found on the web at <www.ackids.org>. All League members interested in this program and related issues are invited to a meeting in the League office on Friday, October 1, at 1:30 pm.
- Education was adopted by the state League convention as an Issue for Emphasis for the coming two years. Fortunately, we have a wonderful source of information on education policy issues - EdSource. An independent, non-profit organization, it was formed 22 years ago by the LWVC, the American Association of University Women of CA, and the state PTA. It has become a trusted source of non-partisan, objectively analyzed, clearly written information on California's K-12 policy and school improvement issues. Governed by a diverse 19-member Board of Directors, it includes seats for the founders. Our current League representatives are Gail Dryden, State President, and Mary Lynne Ishikawa, Social Policy Director.

-(Continued at right)

Albany News

- Gary Mills, the new school superintendent has arrived, and enthusiasm and energy permeate the new administrative leaders in the Albany Schools. In spite of the difficulties of closing and tearing down the high school because of earthquake dangers, and an expanded elementary population necessitating the building of a new middle school, the future looks bright.

In late August, the State Allocation Board gave the go-ahead approval to rebuild the high school, providing \$20.6 million of the required \$31 million. In 1994, Albany voters passed a bond issue that will make up the difference and eventually provide some additional money for modernization of the elementary schools.

The new superintendent's emphasis will be on communicating with the community, particularly on curriculum development and coordination. Gloria Galindo is the new principal at Albany High School. She is assisted by two new assistant principals, Randall Booker and Amy Hansen. The new middle school principal is Mark Stephenson.

- Homeless people living in the Albany landfill area have been moved out of fears for their safety from the poorly constructed landfill. Albany worked closely with an Oakland agency called Operation Dignity, which provided counseling and placement for many of the residents. The city also provided temporary dormitories for the residents near Golden Gate Fields. The East Bay Regional Park District will eventually manage the area, but it must be made safe first.

-Ruth Ganong, Albany Director

EdSource issues eight or more publications annually; holds an annual spring conference open to the public in northern and southern California; has two Web sites and an informal telephone and e-mail information and referral service. In 1998, it developed a comprehensive Handbook for Understanding California's School Improvement Issues, targeted to community leaders. Individuals making presentations on current education policy issues will find it a source of helpful information. You may contact EdSource at 4151 Middlefield Road, Suite 100, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4743, call 650-857-9618, or reach them on the Web at <www.edsource.org>. -Lois Brubeck, Action VP

CALENDAR

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

September

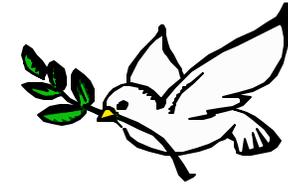
- 28 Tue. 2-4 pm Regional Impacts Discussion UNIT, Albany Library
Marin @ Masonic, Edith Stone Room (Safir)
- 29 Wed. 9 am-noon Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)
- 30 Thurs. 7:30-9:30 pm Regional Impacts Discussion UNIT (Safir)

October

- 6 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting Emery Bay Clubhouse
Emery Bay Drive at 53rd St., Emeryville (Price)
- 7 Thurs. TBA Berkeley General Plan Review LWVBAE Office (Brubeck)
- 7 Thurs. 7:30 pm Emeryville Candidates' Night
City Council Chamber, Emeryville (Smith)
- 8 Fri. Noon — Deadline for November VOTER — (Hawley)
- 11 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)
- 14 Thurs. 2-4 pm Housing Study (Adams)
- 16 Sat. 9:30 am-4:30 pm Public Financing of Elections, Conference sponsored by
Common Cause, LWVBA cosponsor, location tba (Price)
- 19 Tue. 7:30 pm Community College Study (Lecar)
- 20 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee (Brubeck)
- 21 Thurs. 10 am Education Committee (Lecar)
- 21 Thurs. 7:30 pm Program Planning Team (Safir)
- 27 Wed. 9 am-noon Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

November

- 2 Tue. Emeryville Election Day
- 3 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting (Price)
- 4 Thurs. 10 am-12 noon Speaker Series: Redistricting Berkeley Chinese
Community Church, 2117 Acton St. (Safir)
- 4 Thurs. 2 pm Housing Study (Adams)
- 5 Fri. Noon — Deadline for December/January VOTER — (Hawley)
- 8 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)
- 9 Tue. through 11 Thurs. Special UC Election UC Berkeley Campus (Smith)
- 9 Tue. 12 noon-2 pm Housing Discussion UNIT Albany Library, Marin &
Masonic, Edith Stone Room (Adams)
- 10 Wed. 7:15-9 pm Housing Discussion UNIT (Adams)
- 11 Thurs. All Day Office Closed in Honor of Veterans' Day (Polak)



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