

President: Nancy Bickel

Dec. 2003 – Jan. 2004

Editor: Jean Safir

FUNDRAISING APPEAL LETTER

During the coming month, all League members and friends will be receiving a letter that describes the good works and budgetary needs of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. As League members know, the dues pay for only a portion of the expenses of League activities, and so we must engage in additional fundraising efforts to be able to continue our effective work on behalf of good government and educating citizens on issues that affect all of us at the local, state, and national levels.

Please watch for this appeal in the mail. We ask that you consider making a generous contribution to keep the League working to get the word out on the importance of voting and details about election issues, as well as taking stands and campaigning to further our goal of a better, more informed community.

-*Sherry Smith*, Vice President for Outreach and Development

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MARCH 2 BALLOT MEASURES

Thursday, January 22, 2004, 7 p.m.

Berkeley Main Library

Anne Henderson, former LWVBAE president and state League government chair, will speak on the two measures that will be on the March 2 ballot, both supported by the state League (LWVC.) Proposition 55 is a proposal to sell bonds to support school construction. Proposition 56, the Budget Accountability Act, is an initiative constitutional amendment to change the state legislature's voting requirements for adopting a budget from 2/3 to 55%. The League helped collect signatures to get this measure on the ballot.

Join us on Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m. at the Berkeley Main Library in downtown Berkeley. In addition to Anne, we will also hear from a member of the Prop. 56 coalition campaign. This will be someone who will speak to us about the effects on dependent populations from major budget cuts resulting from actions taken by 1/3 of the legislature.

We will also discuss local and county measures on which the League has taken positions and ways that we can all take action.

Be there. Get active.

- *Eloise Bodine*, for *Lois Brubeck*, Program VP

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Wearing a button reading "Votes for Women," a black lace jacket and hat that had been worn by her mother-in-law — an active campaigner for women's rights in San Francisco — long-time Leaguer *Elizabeth De Velbiss* brought tasty baked goods to the tea celebrating the opening of the "Early Women of Berkeley" exhibit at the Berkeley History Center.



As *Jane Coulter*, in '20s style dress, and I, in a big straw hat, walked over to the League panels, *Jane* spotted a picture of five young swimmers of the Berkeley Women's City Club team. "That's me," she exclaimed. She and her sister had been members of the team in the 50s. Dressed in a charming and authentic 1920s silk dress, *Karen Nelson* admired the photo and chatted with *Ginette Polak* and *Bill Chapman*. *Bill* captured these photo ops, and gave us the accompanying photos.

Curator *Phyllis Gale*, who organized the exhibit on behalf of the Berkeley Historical Society and the Berkeley branch of the American Association of University Women, introduced the exhibit. *Phyllis* worked closely and generously with our League history committee over several months to develop our entries, as well as working prodigiously up to the last minute on every detail of text, pictures and mounting of the whole exhibit.

Other members of the League committee and contributors to the LWVBAE exhibit — *Gaby Morris*, *Sarah Miyazaki* and *Therese Pipe* — browsed the exhibit. *Therese* displayed the oral history of *Beth Schickele*, which she finalized in time for the exhibit, as well as the just completed history of *Felicia Bock*, in-progress oral histories of *Ruth Jackson Ganong* and *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat* (Dr. B. Singer) and completed histories of *Sally Severance*, *Gilda Feller*, *Margaret Dumas* and *Margaret Gordon*. Current member *Gail Schickele*, *Beth's* daughter-in-law, *Gail's* son *Nightrain* and other family members were also there to view the exhibit.

Our greatest kudos go to *Joe Ryshpan*, historian and attorney, who researched the League records at the Bancroft Library over several months and wrote the League panels for the exhibit. *Joe* has ties to the League and to distinguished women: his late aunt *Sybil Dinaburg* was a lively contributor to the League over many years, and his mother, *Cicely Ryshpan*, now 99, spent most of her career as an economist at the World Bank. *Sybil* and *Cicely* were lifelong friends of my late mother *Miriam Kramer* and my aunt *Lucy Kramer Cohen*, now 97. Thanks to these historical family ties, *Joe* was kind enough to contribute his skills to the League.

You can see a sample of *Joe's* efforts in the related story on page 3, but I urge you to attend the exhibit and savor it as a whole.

- *Nancy Bickel*, President



From left, *Ginette Polak*, *Nancy Bickel*, *Jane Coulter* and *Karen Nelson*.

1946: THE LEAGUE FIGHTS FOR A NON-POLITICAL CITY MANAGER

When Berkeley's City Manager announced his resignation on December 17, 1946, the League was plunged into a struggle to preserve the form of the city-manager system it had worked so hard to establish.

The resignation, which was to take effect on January 15, 1947, had been rumored for some time, and plans had been made on all sides. The League was ready with a letter, which it presented at the meeting, urging the Council to use the merit system in finding a replacement. The Council was ready, too. By unanimous vote, it set 5 o'clock on the next afternoon as the deadline for applications and agreed to meet on the 20th to make the appointment. The newspapers reported that the Council had made up its mind to appoint the Mayor, Fitch Robertson, as the new City Manager.

On the 20th, when the Council met again to make the appointment, the League presented another letter, criticizing the Council for not taking the time to take applications or give them careful scrutiny. The League insisted, as it continued to do throughout the controversy, that it did "not support or oppose any individual candidate." The Council then unanimously appointed Robertson as City Manager. He was to be succeeded by the Vice Mayor, [and League member], *Carrie Hoyt*, who had been a member of the Council since the adoption of the council-manager system in 1923. *Hoyt*, who was over 80, stated that she would not seek reelection in the upcoming election.

To find out how the League triumphed in this exciting glimpse of "**her**story," visit the exhibit:

EARLY WOMEN OF BERKELEY (1878-1953)
Berkeley History Center (Berkeley Historical Society) in the Veterans Memorial Building, 1931 Center Street. Phone (510) 848-0181. Thursdays through Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm. through March 27, 2004. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible.

LOOKING FOR HASSLE-FREE HOLIDAY GIFTS?

Gift certificates redeemable at your favorite stores or web-sites are the solution! Make your life easier and benefit the League at the same time! For details, contact Eva Brecher at eva_brecher@yahoo.com or 527-1997

SPEAKER SERIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004, NOON TO 2 PM

Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue at Masonic

"Senior services and the philosophy of geriatrics" will be the subject of this Speaker Series meeting. Ellen Bloomfield from the Emeryville Senior Center, Aisha Boykin from the Albany Center and Lisa Ploss from a Berkeley Center will speak to us on those subjects and answer your questions.

The public is invited to all of our Speaker Series meetings, so please invite a friend to join you. You may bring lunch; juice will be served.

For more information, call 843-8824.

- *Doris Mendell*, Committee Member

DONATIONS in October

To the General Fund

<i>Joyce Baldwin</i>	<i>Babette & Herbert</i>
<i>Mary Breunig</i>	<i>Maccoby</i>
<i>Marylyn Coons</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schaaf</i>
<i>Todd Smith</i>	

To the LWVB Foundation

<i>Regina Beatus</i>	<i>Babette Maccoby</i>
<i>David L. Bradford</i>	<i>Barbara Renton</i>
<i>Pat Welch</i>	

- *Evelyn Light*

BOARD BRIEFS

At its meeting on September 11, the Board

- approved funds for setting up our own web page (lwvbae.org) and obtaining more electronic storage for the site;
- reviewed Election Services plans for the Recall Election;
- discussed financial, program, and membership matters.

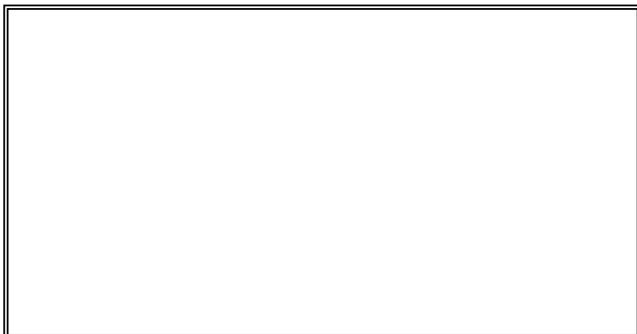
At its meeting on October 9, the Board

- discussed withdrawing from the Citizens for Eastshore State Park coalition;
- discussed sending a letter in support of low-income housing in Berkeley;
- voted to present retiring Berkeley City Manager *Weldon Rucker* with a letter of appreciation, membership in LWVBAE and an LWV T-shirt;
- thanked *Allie Norton* for her 12 years of distributing Voter Registration cards and *Phoebe Watts* for her efforts to provide LWV information on the ballot issues for the October 7 election;
- heard reports of recent and ongoing LWVBAE activities.

--*Ginette Polak*, Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<i>Susan Booth</i>	<i>Toni Garrett</i>
<i>David Bradford</i>	<i>Amy Gorman</i>
<i>Mary Breunig</i>	<i>Steven Schwartzberg</i>
<i>Gretchen Carlson</i>	<i>Weldon Rucker</i>
	<i>Fumiyo Uchiyama</i>



"IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY"

Bay Area League Day

Friday, January 30, 2004, 9:30 am - 3:00pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland
14th and Castro Streets, Oakland
(next to I-980, four blocks from BART
12th Street station)

Explore the contorted picture of state and local government finance from perspectives of city, county, district and state representatives.

Weigh in on proposals for reform from LWVC, Public Policy Institute of California, California Tax Reform Association, League of California Cities and more.

Cost to cover morning snacks, box lunch, rent and printed material: \$35.

Call LWVBAE office to register and to car-pool:
843-8824

NEW MEMBER WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

Calling All New Members and all those who have missed a chance to attend an Orientation meeting! Come to the **League office at 7:30 pm on Monday, January 26**, and find out what we do, how we do it, and how you can join in the work and the fun.

The office is upstairs above Andronico's market at the corner of University Avenue and Acton St. Come to the parking lot at the rear of the store, to the door on the right of the store entrance. Buzz "LWVBAE" pad on the wall for entrance.

There will be light refreshments and some of our active members to meet.

Jinky Gardner, Membership Chair, 548-5292

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS HEARS ABOUT SEAFOOD SAFETY

A presentation by the Monterey Bay Aquarium and their program "Seafood Watch" was the topic of LWVBAE Environmental Concerns September meeting. A slide show presented by Serena Pring explained various methods of fishing, with contamination and "bycatch" among the perils. "Bycatch" is fish caught in the net with the targeted fish, which are picked out while the "bycatch" often suffers before being thrown back to the ocean. "Bycatch" for shrimp may be ten fish per shrimp.

Consumer choices make a difference, Pring stressed, by choosing from Seafood Watch's Best Choices list to support those fisheries and farms that are healthier for ocean wildlife and the environment. Ask questions when shopping or eating out. Where is the seafood from? Is it farmed or wild caught? How is it caught? If they're not sure, chose something else, says Seafood Watch. Best choices include wild-caught salmon (CA, AK); canned salmon; trap-caught shrimp; squid; farmed abalone; caviar; clams; mussels; oysters; striped bass; sturgeon; tilapia; Rainbow trout; U.S. farmed catfish; Dungeness crab; sardines; Rock/Spiny lobster (CA, Australia); white sea bass; halibut (Pacific); and troll or pole-caught Albacore / Bigeye / Yellowfin tuna. Avoid Beluga/Osetra/Sevruga caviar; Chilean sea bass; Atlantic/Icelandic cod; imported King crab; Lingcod; monkfish; Orange Roughy; Rockfish/Rock Cod/Pacific snapper; farmed & Atlantic salmon; sharks (except U.S. West coast Thresher); imported shrimp; wild-caught sturgeon; Atlantic swordfish and Bluefin tuna.

- *Gail Schickele*, committee member

IN DECEMBER, a HOLIDAY PARTY (potluck) at 1340 Arch Street, 7:30 pm, on December 8.

IN JANUARY, Environmental Concerns will meet on Monday, January 12, same place.

Watch for e-mail announcements.

- *Carol Stone*, co-chair, 549-0959

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES: IS THIS THE ANSWER?

We're still working on deciding what actions our League should take about the emerging problems relating to the new voting machines. How can we be sure that electronic voting is safe and secure from manipulation? The issues are complex and difficult to resolve. Some of the material that is available on the web can be helpful in coming to grips with the issues.

The National and State Leagues have been concentrating on implementing the Help America Vote Act [HAVA] that was intended to address many of the problems of the 2000 election. The LWVUS, LWVC and LWVBAE policy positions on elections and voting are available on their websites under "Where We Stand" or "Positions".

NPR ran an excellent series: **Whose Democracy Is It?** You may still be able to catch it at: <http://www.npr.org/programs/specials/spotlight/collaboration.html>

Whose Vote Counts: The Promise of Electronic Voting is particularly relevant. You can either read or listen to the programs at <http://www.americanradioworks.org/>.

Help America Vote Act: HAVA Implementation Resources and **DRE Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines** http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/hava_resources.html

Recommendations on Implementation of the "Help America Vote Act" at http://www.lwv.org/where/promoting/votingrights_hava_recom.html

Some League members are circulating a letter to LWVUS urging voter verified paper. See www.leagueissues.org or our own November Voter.

- *Nancy Bickel*, President

- *Phoebe Watts*, Election Services VP

CALENDAR

 Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated 



December

- 1 Mon. 2-4 pm Education Committee LWVBAE Office Gardner, 548-5292
 - 4 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee 1419 Grant (Watts) Safir, 524-9088
 - 8 Mon. 7:30 pm Environmental Concerns: Holiday Potluck Party
1340 Arch St. (Bansner) Stone, 549-0959
 - 11 Thurs. 6-8 pm Board Meeting LWVBAE Office Bickel, 526-4055
- 20 to January 4, 2004 - LWVBAE Office Closed for Christmas and New Year holidays -

January 2004

- 5 Mon. 2-4 pm Education Committee LWVBAE Office Lynch, 527-2173
- 8 Thurs. noon-2 pm Speaker Series Albany Public Library Mendell, 843-8824
1247 Marin Ave. at Masonic
- 8 Thurs. 6-9 pm Board meeting / Pot Luck 1033 Colusa Bickel, 526-4055
- 9 Fri. noon Deadline for February VOTER jeansafir@att.net Safir, 524-9088
- 12 Mon. 7:30 pm Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (Bansner) Stone, 549-0959
- 15 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee 1419 Grant (Watts) Lecar, 549-9719
- 22 Thurs. 7 pm March 2 Ballot Measures Berkeley Central Library Bodine, 845-0974
Shattuck & Kittredge Ave.
- 26 Mon. 7:30 pm New Member Orientation LWVBAE Office Gardner, 548-5292
- 30 Fri. 9:30a -3p Bay Area League Day: "It's All About Money" Office, 843-8824
First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 14th & Castro Sts., Oakland

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip and mail this information to us with your check for 
annual dues made out to: \$55

LWVBAE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Joining the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Ave., Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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