Monday, October 9, 2017: Edward Burgess on Clean Energy Policy and Strategy
Focused on both strategy and technology, Edward Burgess addressed what some key states, including California, are doing about clean energy at a time when the U.S. has withdrawn from the Paris Climate accord. Senior Manager at Berkeley-based Strategic Consulting, Burgess collaborates with organizations to identify and deploy successful ventures in clean energy and advanced grid technologies. Burgess helped shape Western state regulation and policy related to energy portfolios standards, distributed generation and transmission planning. His presentation provided an overview of how the role in collaborations with government agencies on energy policy in the Southwest. His work is relevant to League efforts to limit greenhouse gases and global warming. LWVBAE has been working to modify our cities utility tax structures in order to discourage natural gas usage and encourage less-polluting electricity.

Monday, November 13, 2017: Ariene Blum: Tackling Toxics for Healthier Products
Biophysical chemist, author, and mountain professional, Ariene Blum, is the Executive Director of the Green Science Policy Institute and a Research Associate in Chemistry at UC Berkeley. The Institute brings together business, government, scientists and citizen groups to support chemical policies to protect human health and the global environment. Blum’s research and policy work has contributed to preventing the use of flame retardants, heavy metals, and other toxic chemicals. As a chemistry professor of molecular biology, Blum's work includes efforts to develop safer alternatives to endocrine disruptors and plasticizers. This presentation will describe new strategies to tackle pollution from bisphenol A and other endocrine disruptors, with a focus on public health, science, and advocacy.

Wednesday, December 13, 2017: UC Berkeley Distinguished Professor of Energy Daniel Kammen
Pictured with Gill Schieklo and Carol Stone
Dr. Daniel Kammen, distinguished policy expert on energy and climate change, reported on the rapidly evolving environment in which Kammen is the founding director of the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL), Co-Director of the Berkeley Institute of the Environment, and Director of the Transportation Sustainability by Research Center. Dr. Kammen has served since 1999 as a co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He serves on the Advisory Committee for Energy & Environment for the X-Funds Foundation.

February 12, 2018: Anya Halpern-Laff: Impacts of Industrial Agriculture
Anya Halpern-Laff, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Food Forward Farming Coalition (FFFC) spoke on the devastating impacts of industrial agriculture, related legislation, and proposals to the Berkeley City Council to update our Climate Action Plan. FFFC is an educational non-profit committed to empowering people to save the environment, animals, and our own health through daily food choices. Halpern-Laff earned her JD at Stanford Law School and practical law and resolution in NY and CT. A longtime social justice activist and educator, she has focused on criminal justice reform, education equity and animal rights. In addition to her work with FFFC, Halpern-Laff is co-executive director of Ethics in Education Network advocating for ethics-centered curricula that instills lifelong habits of rigorous and open-minded ethical inquiry.

Special Event: March 12, 2018: Climate Change & Labor: Challenges & Opportunities
LWVBAE Climate Action Team and Environmental Concerns partnered with Citizens Climate Lobby to meet with union members for a discussion on the transition to a low-carbon economy at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 34 just northeast AT&T Park in San Francisco. Moderated by BlueGreen Alliance West Coast Director 18 Tenges with the audience Q&A. The community meeting is focused on the need to address climate change and union interests in becoming more green if the jobs are there. On the panel were: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 565 Business Manager Victorario; United Auto Workers (UAW) Internatinoal Representative Suan Reul in the Bay Area because of Tesla, a non-union company fighting efforts to organize; Justice Coordinator for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Margaret Young; and UC Berkeley Climate and Jobs Research Specialist Beverly Jones.

April 9, 2018: Berkeley Energy Commissioner Janet Stromberg: Energy Commission Overview
Berkeley Energy Commissioner Janet Stromberg offered an overview of the Energy Commission. Stromberg has a distinguished professional and volunteer background in environmental issues. She is a co-founder and board member of 350 Bay Area, an active group working on climate change. She retired as a supervising engineer at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District after 26 years and previously worked as an engineer at US Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 PG&E.

Indian People Organizing for Change (IPOC) Founder Corinna Gould and Author-Editor Melanie Margolín discussed the Berkeley Shelly Island historic site and the proposed development on the Spencer's parking lot area. Gould, spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lota Lota, born and raised in Oakland, works to preserve and protect the ancient burial sites of her ancestors in the Bay Area. IPOC is a community fighting to protect the Bay Area Shellylands, sacred burial sites of the Ohlone Nation dating to 5,000 BCE and a landmarked site since 2003.

A new state law (Sen. Scott Wiener, D. SF) SB535 allows a streamlined approval process for zoning-compelling projects that provide at least 50 percent affordable housing. At the time of this presentation, they hope to renew to construct 264 apartment units, half of which would be available to households earning 80 percent of area median income.

Molino Margolin is the author/editor of several books including The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay area, named by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of the ten best books of the 20th century by a writer. He's former executive director of L.U.V., an independent nonprofit publisher and cultural institution in Berkeley, overseeing publication of hundreds of books and other creative works; Native News from California, devoted to the history and ongoing cultural concerns of California Indians, and Bay Nation. Devoted to the natural history of the San Francisco Bay Area.

MEETING PLACE: Belmont Village, 1100 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 7:30 p.m.
FREE parking garage available, tell the front desk you are for the LWV meeting
Monthly Meetings Second Mondays September through May (subject to change)