



League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS SPEAKER SERIES

MEETING PLACE: Belmont Village, 1100 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 7:30-9 p.m.
FREE parking garage available, tell the front desk you are there for the LWV meeting
Monthly Meetings Second Mondays September through May (subject to change)

Archive: LWVBAE Environmental Concerns Speakers Series 2017-18



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Burgess addressed what some key states, including California, are doing about clean energy at a time when the U.S. has withdrawn from the Paris Climate accord.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 Strategen Consulting, Burgess collaborates with organizations to identify opportunities, evaluate risks, and launch successful ventures in clean energy and advanced grid technologies. Burgess helped shape Western state regulation and policy related to energy portfolio standards, distributed generation and transmission planning. He's both developed educational materials and played a key 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: Arlene Blum: Tackling Toxics for Healthier Products

Biophysical chemist, author, and mountaineer Arlene Blum, PhD, 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 citizens 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 and other harmful chemicals in children's sleepwear, furniture, electronics, and other products world-wide. Blum's current work is focused on a new approach to identifying and avoiding toxic and dangerous chemicals by evaluating the most dangerous classes of chemicals rather than the current approach of testing chemicals one by one. Author of *Annapurna: A Woman's Place* and *Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life*, Blum led the first American – and all-women's – ascent of Nepal's challenging Annapurna 1 and the first women's team to climb Denali.

Wednesday, December 13, 2017: UCB Distinguished Professor of Energy Daniel Kammen

Pictured with Gail Schickele and Carol Stone



Dr. Daniel Kammen, distinguished policy expert on energy and climate change, reported on the recently concluded Bonn Climate Conference. 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 Research Center. Dr. Kammen has served since 1999 as a contributing or coordinating lead author on various reports 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-Prize Foundation. SEE kammen's twitter, @dan_kammen for updated information.

February 12, 2018: Amy Halpern-Laff : Impacts of Industrial Agriculture

Amy Halpern-Laff, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition (FFAC) spoke on the devastating impacts of industrial agriculture, related legislation, and proposals to the Berkeley City Council to update our Climate Action Plan. FFAC 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 practiced law and mediation 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 FFAC, 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 abutting AT&T Park in San Francisco. Moderated by Blue Green Alliance West Coast Director JB Tengeo with audience Q&A, the 90-minute meeting fostered agreement on the need to address climate change and union interest in becoming more green if the jobs are there. On the panel were International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 565 business manager Victor Uno; United Auto Workers (UAW) International Representative Susan Reed in the Bay area because of Tesla, a non-union company fighting efforts to organize; Justice Coordinator for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Marguerite Young; and UC Berkeley Climate and Jobs Research Specialist Betony 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 and PG&E.

Monday, May 14, 2018:

Corinna Gould and Malcolm Margolin: Proposed Development on Berkeley Shellmound Historic Site

Indian People Organizing for Change, (IPOC) Founder Corinna Gould and Author-Publisher Malcolm Margolin discussed the Berkeley Shellmound historic site and the proposed development on the Spenger's parking lot area. Gould, spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, born and raised in Oakland, works to preserve and protect the ancient burial sites of her ancestors in the Bay Area. IPOC is currently fighting to protect the Bay Area Shellmounds, sacred burial sites of the Ohlone Nation dating to 5700 BCE and a landmarked site since 2003.



A new state law (Sen. Scott Wiener, D, SF) SB35 allows a streamlined approval process for zoning-compliant projects that provide at least 50 percent affordable housing. At the time of this presentation developer plans were to construct a 260-unit apartment complex, half of which would be affordable to households earning 80 percent of area median income.

Malcolm 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 100 most important books of the 20th century by a Western writer. He's former executive director of *Heyday*, an independent nonprofit publisher and cultural institution in Berkeley, overseeing publication of hundreds of books and creation of two quarterly magazines: *News from Native California*, devoted to the history and ongoing cultural concerns of California Indians, and *Bay Nature*, devoted to the natural history of the San Francisco Bay Area.



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