



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)
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Archive: LWVBAE Environmental Concerns Speakers Series 2015-16



Tuesday, September 15, 2015: California Natural Resources Agency JR DeLaRosa

California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary for Climate Change JR DeLaRosa reported on the California Climate Change Symposium co-hosted in Sacramento with CalEPA and the Nobel Prize-winning Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Symposium included cutting edge climate research; discussions of the current drought and potential impacts on agriculture; sea-level rise and storm surge in San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and measurement of carbon emissions from major cities.

Monday, October 12, 2015: Malcolm Potts on Population – Why the Elephant in the Room is Our Friend

Malcolm Potts is a Cambridge trained obstetrician and reproductive scientist; the first holder of the Fred H. Bixby endowed chair in Population and Family Planning at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health; and co-director of the Berkeley International Group (BIG) with Dr. Julia Walsh. While he was the first Medical Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation for a decade, he introduced family planning methods into scores of developing countries. As CEO of Family Health International (FHI), he launched the first large scale studies of maternal mortality, which helped start the worldwide Safe Motherhood Initiative. Potts has published ten books and over 200 scientific papers. His recent books include *Queen Victoria's Gene*; and *Ever Since Adam and Eve: The Evolution of Human Sexuality*; and *Sex and War: How Biology Explains War and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World*.

Monday, November 9, 2015: Dick Strong Addresses Soil Sustainability in an Era of Climate Change

Dick Strong "Voice of the Soil" is a soil scientist with extensive experience taking soil samples in many countries. He addressed organic vs. conventional farming among other soil issues. He was a soil scientist for the US Soil Conservation Service, Director of Commodities for the California Farm Bureau, and helped start the Farmer's Market movement in Northern California with the American Friends Service Committee.

Monday, December 14, 2015: Movie - Naomi Klein: This Changes Everything: Capitalism Vs. The Climate



Annual Appetizer and Dessert Pot Luck featured a **FIRST RUN** Movie Screening of **This Changes Everything**. Inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller *This Changes Everything*, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

Monday, January 11, 2016: UN Paris Agreement Climate Talks with Tom Kelly and Claire Greensfelder

The historic Paris Agreement Climate Talks concluded with much political celebration in the landmark agreement on Climate Change with 195 Nations setting a path to hold temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius, albeit an equal if not greater amount of criticism was rendered for not going far enough. While Agreement provisions holds countries accountable for their commitments, asks greater investments to help developing countries build low-carbon economies and calls for a 5-year review process, there are no legally binding emissions targets, as had been set by the 1992 Kyoto Protocol. We heard first-hand reports from Tom Kelly, founder and executive director of Kyoto-USA, a non-profit that encourages local governments, school districts and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and Claire Greensfelder, from the Women's Global Call for Climate Justice, a coalition of 24 international environmental, women's and human rights networks from across the world. Both were in Paris in December for the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) climate talks and shared what it was like both inside and outside the official meeting.

February 8, 2016: Jerry Kent, former Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District

How the East Bay got its Eucalyptus and Pine Forests and The Benefits and Responsibilities of Owning Urban Forests
 When early White settlers came to the Bay Area they were enamored with its climate but missed the tall hardwood trees of the East Coast and launched large scale tree-planting projects across the region that have become our neighborhood forests. The eucalyptus tree planting project was abandoned shortly after the turn of the century when it was discovered the trees did not produce quality lumber, but the forests are still with us, creating fire hazards and ecological concerns that East Bay residents must face. EBRPD former Assistant GM Jerry Kent addressed East Bay Hills vegetation and fire history, including introduction and proliferation of blue gum eucalyptus trees across the East Bay and how the planting of the fast-growing Australian tree has transformed the natural ecology of the Bay including the fire landscape.

Monday, March 14, 2016: David Lewis, Executive Director Save the Bay:

A Tribute to Save the Bay co-Founder Sylvia McLaughlin (12/24/1916-1/19/2016)



David Lewis spoke to us about Sylvia McLaughlin and her founding of Save the Bay in 1961 as well as the ongoing work of STB and CESP (Citizens for East Shore State Park), where Lewis also is on the Board. Expounding on their ongoing work and McLaughlin's involvement, Lewis recalled this stalwart environmentalist's accomplishments noting them in honor of International Woman's Day. McLaughlin was a long-time member of the LWVBAE and a great supporter of our Environmental Concerns group. She hosted several of our meetings at her home and is a "Spirit of the League" honoree. The widespread use of 'speak softly and carry a big stick' that began with American president Theodore Roosevelt may easily have been applied to McLaughlin along with one of her noted adages, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia_McLaughlin

<https://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Sylvia-McLaughlin-co-founder-of-Save-the-Bay-6775366.php>

Monday, April 11, 2016: Sarah Diefendorf: "Messaging the Environment" - LWV on Climate Change

Sarah Diefendorf, Executive Director of the Environmental Finance Center West, Dominican University of California and University of Maryland. Her work with indigenous people in California, New Mexico, Arizona, Hawaii, and Nevada promotes green business enterprises, improves capacity for long-term sustainability, and protects their sovereignty. Diefendorf supports Tribal efforts to develop integrated waste programs, transfer stations, and recycling programs and recently has been funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help develop a Tribal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment program for the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition. Internationally, Diefendorf works on three waste reduction projects in Mexico: 1) helping the Tijuana Compost Center develop a sustainable business and marketing plan to divert food and green waste from local landfills; 2) assisting USEPA with community outreach and education in Mexicali to help border neighborhoods protect their local watershed; and 3) developing a sustainable materials management symposium to be held in the border region in fall 2015. She serves as a national Leadership Trainer for the Environmental Finance Center Network (a community of ten universities throughout the United States) and in that capacity has provided multiple workshops for water systems, elected officials, and other government representatives from small and rural communities across the country. Since 2001, Diefendorf has worked as a Grassroots Capacity Building Trainer for the League of Women Voters of the United States and has worked with marginalized communities in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Armenia, Jordan, Tunisia, and Jamaica. Sarah is a past president of the San Francisco League, a past 2nd vice president of the National League, and currently serves on the California LWV State Board. She is Board president for the Carbon Cycle Institute working to promote use of compost as a carbon sequestration tool in the US and abroad. Diefendorf serves as an expert witness on the USEPA Environmental Finance Advisory Board.

Monday, May 9, 2016 A Conversation with: Dr. Margaret Paloma Pavel and Carl Anthony

Dr. Margaret Paloma Pavel is President and founder of Earth House, a multicultural media and learning center for environmental and social justice based in Oakland, California to build healthy and sustainable communities through publication and distribution of books, trainings and facilitations. Earth House works internationally, nationally, and regionally consulting to individuals, communities, and organizations. Dr. Pavel's organizational clients reflect her core values commitment in areas of health, sustainability, education, and social justice. She authored the books *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty* as well as *Breakthrough Communities Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*.

Carl Anthony is Founder of Breakthrough Communities, a project of Earth House Center to build multiracial leadership for sustainable communities in California and the nation. He has been a Senior Ford Foundation Fellow at U.C Berkeley Department of Geography working on a book, *The Earth, the City and the Hidden Narrative of Race* examining the connections between fields of environmental justice, community development and the changing face of global urbanization. Prior to his present role, Anthony served as Acting Director of the Ford Foundation Community and Resource Development Unit with a \$39 million annual budget and supervisory responsibility for all the Foundation's Program Officers in fields of community development and environment and development.