

The Voter

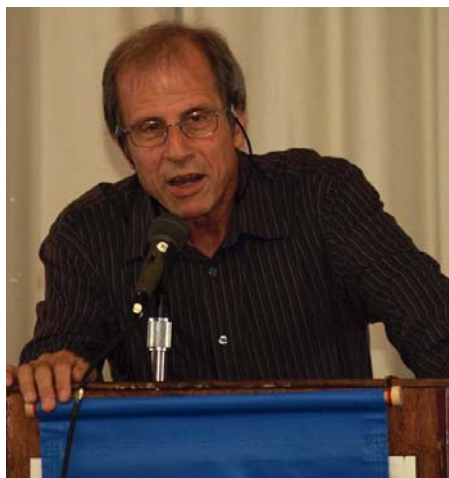
League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville



OCTOBER 2008

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Michael Krasny addresses more than 200 annual luncheon guests at Hs Lordships on August 21.

See pages 4 and 5 for more photos.

CALL FOR ELECTION SEASON VOLUNTEERS!

Labor Day is past, and election season is in full swing. As you can tell from *Phoebe Watts'* and *Lois Brubeck's* **Not a President's Column** on page 2, our League needs your help to fulfill our traditional roles in voter education and as facilitators for voter registration. If you have the desire, interest and time, please heed their call.

In addition to the activities Phoebe and Lois list, we have also been called on to help out in this fall's student government election at Berkeley's Willard Middle School on **October 22**, and in the mock general elections at Albany High (also on **October 22**) and Berkeley High (**October 30**).

The **Willard** election on **October 22** requires League volunteers to fill 3 shifts of three persons each: 8:30 – 10:45, 10:30 – 12:45, and 12:30 – 2:45. Those who volunteer will hand out ballots, supervise the ballot box, and tabulate the votes. For answers to questions, or to sign up, please contact *Helene Lecar* (hlecar1@ix.netcom.com or 549-9719).

Also on **October 22**, we will need volunteers to supervise student voters and election workers at **Albany High's** mock presidential election. Again, there will be three shifts: 8 – 10:30, 10:30 – 1, and 1 – 3:30. Those who volunteer will work alongside Albany PTSA volunteers to sign in student voters, supervise the ballot box, supervise the transfer of voted ballots to the counting room, and supervise student workers as they count ballots.

Our role in the **Berkeley High School** mock election on **October 30** will be similar, except that we will count the ballots and report the results instead of supervising student workers. The shift hours at BHS on **October 30** are the same as those at AHS on **October 22**. For questions about either of these two mock elections, or to sign up for one or more shifts, please contact *Bill Chapman* (bill@classroomtools.com or 527-0827).

(continued on p. 2)

NOT A PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Do you know that:

...a 17-year old, who will be 18 by election day, may register to vote?

...a felon on parole may NOT vote, but a person on probation MAY vote?

...that registration closes on October 20?

...that you can check the Alameda County website to find out whether you are registered or not?

AND that there are 27 measures that we are called to vote for or against on the November 4 ballot, plus candidates for local, regional, state and national offices?

Voter Registration

Help us at the Spice of Life Festival:

We will have a table at the festival, on October 19, the last day before the close of registration. Please help out for an hour or two, passing out registration forms and the Pros and Cons. Call the office to sign up.

Before that date, we encourage you to pick up some forms and Pros and Cons at the League office just to have with you to hand out when the occasion arises.

The Speakers Bureau:

Help is on the way. LWVBAE trained speakers, organized by *Eloise Bodine*, will present the pros and the cons of the multiple and confusing ballot measures on October 7, at the Albany Library. This is for League members and the community at large. The League will also send speakers to other locales as requested. In the past, we have spoken to community and church groups, senior centers, workplaces, homeowners associations, PTAs, student organizations and school classes. You are invited to offer any suggestions for such talks. Remember that many people cast absentee ballots early, and so the sooner these talks are given, the better. You may also go along with a speaker if you would like to see how the job is done. Then you, too, might decide to try doing such presentations in the future! Contact the office for further information.

Candidates Forums:

We have taped candidates forums for Berkeley mayor, city council, rent and school board races. They will be aired often and various hours. The schedule is on the LWVBAE website. Notification

THE VOTER

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The VOTER is free to members, \$10/year for non-members. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website at lwvbae.org.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

of times and places of live candidate meetings in Berkeley and Albany are on the website as well.

Get ready and vote!

Phoebe Watts and Lois Brubeck
Co-chairs, Election Services

ELECTION VOLUNTEERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Berkeley City College is also focusing on the elections, although the activity times have not yet been set. Their student government and student ambassadors will be helping people on campus register and learn about the issues, and we have been asked to help train the trainers. If you are available for a one-to-two hour session as a resource for future college registrars, please call or e-mail *Helene Lecar* (hlecar1@ix.netcom.com or 549-9719).

Finally, remember to encourage your eligible, unregistered friends and relatives to register to vote by **October 20**, and to cast your ballot on **November 4**. For information regarding the issues and candidates on your ballot, be sure to visit <http://www.smartvoter.org/>, and don't forget that our league web site (<http://lwvbae.org/>) will contain links to the printed league materials that you've come to rely on – "Pros and Cons", detailed analyses of state ballot measures, and "Vote with the League" flyers.

Bill Chapman
Civics Education Action Committee

WWW.SMARTVOTER.ORG FOR BEST ELECTION INFO!

The best Web site of all for comprehensive, nonpartisan election information is the Smart Voter site, www.smartvoter.org, a service of the League of Women Voters.

The site answers all questions about voter registration, the next election, and changes in voting procedures.

And to see all the candidates and issues that will appear on YOUR ballot, you'll just need to type in your street address and ZIP code, and all will be revealed to you, complete with links to candidate information and ballot measure descriptions.

And if you have a nagging question you need answered about any election held in the last 10 years, the site includes historic ballot measure and candidate archives going back to 1998.

Informed voters can find out virtually all they need to know at this great League-sponsored site. You'll be doing your friends a real favor by referring them to this online fount of information.

Sherry Smith
Smart Voter Coordinator

THE TOPIC: OIL

Severin Borenstein, Professor of Business Administration and Public Policy in the Haas School of Business at UCB, and the Director of the U.C. Energy Institute, will speak about: "Cost, Conflict and Climate: U.S. Challenges in the World Oil Market" at the Monday, October 13, meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee. This important meeting will be at the home of Art and Roselyn Rosenfeld, 160 Southampton Ave. in Berkeley, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Severin Borenstein is an economist and expert on Energy Policy and Climate Change who has been the Director of the University of California Energy Institute (UCEI) since 1994. UCEI is a multi-campus research unit of the University of California system. Since its inception in 1980, UCEI's mission has been to foster research and educate students and policy-makers on energy issues that are crucial to the future of California, the nation, and the world.

Carol Stone
Environmental Concerns Committee

UK'S PROPOSED TRANSFERABLE ENERGY QUOTAS DESCRIBED TO CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM

Adam Donnan of the Institution of Environmental Sciences, London, spoke to the League's Climate Change Team at our August 20th meeting, at the invitation of *Jan Blumenkrantz*. The topic was Transferable Energy Quotas, or TEQs.

TEQs are a method of allocating, or rationing, carbon-emitting energy. The scheme is being considered currently by the United Kingdom's (UK) Parliament. It would guarantee reduction of UK's carbon emissions by at least 60% (from 1990 levels) by 2050. A steeper reduction may be necessary.

How it would work. Every year TEQs would be issued, with 40% going to adult UK citizens and 60% being offered for tender (quotas offered for bid). TEQs would be required for purchase of any energy in proportion to the amount of carbon it emits. The number of TEQs offered would be ratcheted down each year to reach the desired goal. All entities in Britain, including government, business and all organizations, would be required to present TEQs for purchase of carbon-emitting energy. Unlike a tax, this scheme would put government in the same position as citizens, organizations, and businesses. In addition, TEQs provide a predictable path so that businesses and consumers can logically plan ahead.

Mr. Donnan was optimistic that the TEQ proposal would be passed in parliament for implementation in 2012. For more information on TEQs visit <http://www.teqs.net/>.

Linda Swift and Jan Blumenkrantz
Co-chairs, Climate Change Team

NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome
To New Members:

<i>Sonja Artle</i>	<i>Almalee Henderson</i>
<i>Jill and Ken Berrick</i>	<i>Sarah Robinson</i>
<i>Eleanor Chandler</i>	<i>Claudine Torfs</i>
<i>Mary Foote</i>	

To Returning Members:

Emmy Davis
Alma Gardner
Linda and Tim Perry

OVER 200 ENJOY 9TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON



For captions, color and more photos, see the album at <http://lwvbae.org/>

SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE

LWVBAE Community Luncheon

Thursday, August 21, 2008

11:15 a.m.

WELCOME AND REGISTRATION

Visit Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts Book Display

12:00 noon

INTRODUCTION OF

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Sherry Smith, Luncheon Co-Chair

"SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE" AWARDS

Luanne Rogers

For her lifelong community service

Albany Education Foundation

Berkeley Public Education Foundation

Emery Ed Fund

SchoolCARE, Albany

For their support of the public schools in our community

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Michael Krasny

KQED-FM "Forum" Host and

Professor of English, San Francisco State University

"Election Year Impressions from Behind the Mike"

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM ENDS



FOUNDATION SUPPORTS LEAGUE'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Our League is one of the few that has its own Foundation, established in 1992 to support the educational program of LWVBAE.

Other Leagues have arrangements with the State League whereby people wanting to make tax-deductible contributions contribute to the State Foundation, and their donations are earmarked for use by the League for which the contribution was intended.

Ours provides for a more straightforward donation, made directly payable to the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation. The reason for the name difference between our Foundation and our League is that the Foundation was established before the "Albany & Emeryville" was added to our "sphere of influence", and, due to expense, we have not altered the Foundation's name.

Rest assured that all contributions to the Foundation benefit the League program in all three of our cities.

Since its establishment in 1992, the Foundation has been administered by a five-member Board, each member serving a maximum of two 2 year terms, comprising members of the League. Many of these Board members have been former LWVBAE Presidents. The current Board includes *Nancy Bickel, Eloise Bodine, Shireen Burns, Tom Coulter, and Sherry Smith.*

Under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) under which it is incorporated, the Foundation can provide funds for the League's voter education services like the development, printing, and distribution of "Pros and Cons" and the "Easy Voter Guide" publication, providing nonpartisan election information to the public. Expenses we entail in such projects as assisting high school students with mock elections and in providing information regarding voter registration can also be reimbursed to the League through Foundation underwriting.

The Foundation relies primarily on the generosity of League members for its support. The Foundation can be and has been the beneficiary of legacies by way of designation in wills and

trusts. Some members who have passed away have asked that the League and the League Foundation be the recipients of memorial gifts in their name, and we are extremely grateful for their thoughtfulness in making this request of their friends and relatives.

Gifts made payable to the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation can be sent to the League's office address, 1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley 92702. If you wish, you could clip this article and keep it with your estate planning files.

The Foundation provides needed, regular support to the work of the League, and we deeply appreciate the gifts of those who help sustain our ability to underwrite these important public services.

Sherry Smith
Foundation President

RUNNING ON EMPTY... MANAGING OUR CITIES WITHOUT A STATE BUDGET



Join the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and budget officers from our three cities as we consider what is involved in surviving this year's budget impasse.

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, September 9, 2008 12:15 to 2 PM

in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Public Library, Masonic Ave. and Marin Ave.

LWVBAE at 843-8824, office@lwvbae.org

AUGUST DONATIONS

TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Jane Bergen
Ken Berrick
Robert J. Breurer
Ann and George Crowe
Andrea Foley
Angharad Jones
Annette Lys
Julie Nachtwey
Allie Norton
Linda Perry
Jo Ann Price
Christine Rosen
Meredith Stout
Ruthann Taylor
Elsa Tranter
Renate Tubman
Lassie Ulman
Kathleen Wright*

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Nancy and Peter Bickel
in memory of Luanne Rogers
Eva and David Bradford
Ann and George Crowe
Shirley Issel
Julie Nachtwey
Louise Rasmussen*

Many thanks for remembering your League.

Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

SB840, THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE ACT, ON GOVERNOR'S DESK

SB840 passed both houses of the California legislature, and, as of this writing in early September, is now on the governor's desk. This bill, strongly supported by the California League of Women Voters, guarantees comprehensive health insurance coverage to every California resident, allows patients to choose their own doctors and hospitals while saving consumers,

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

BOARD 2008-2009

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	JEAN SAFIR
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(NON-BOARD PORTFOLIO)	
Climate Change Team:	JAN BLUMENKRANTZ
(NON-BOARD PORTFOLIO)	LINDA SWIFT

businesses, taxpayers and state as well as local governments millions of dollars.

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed a nearly identical bill in 2006, stating that he could not support a "government run healthcare system". However, the truth is that SB840 will provide PUBLIC FINANCING and PRIVATE DELIVERY; that is, all moneys will be collected and all bills will be paid by a single public agency, but providers and hospitals will REMAIN PRIVATE.

California is the first state in the nation in which the legislature has passed a single payer, universal healthcare bill. Nationally, HR 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, ("Expanded & Improved Medicare For All") has been introduced by Representative John Conyers and has 92 co-sponsors.

During the next months there will be much discussion about ways to provide universal healthcare, both on a state and a national level. The single payer options are the only means to save the excessive administrative expenses and to prevent the inequities that result from our market-based private insurance system.

Ursula Rolfe
LWVBAE Board Member for Health Care



League of Women Voters

Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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how to join

fill in coupon below and mail with your check in the amount of \$65 (\$30 for each additional household member; \$30 for a student membership) to the order of LWVBAE,

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____

Tel. Eve. _____

Email: _____

Fax: _____

Joining at 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.

calendar

SEPTEMBER

29 MON. 5:30-7:30 PM PROS & CONS *P. WATTS, 525.6614*
BERKELEY CENTRAL LIBRARY MEETING ROOM,
2090 KITTREDGE ST., AT SHATTUCK

OCTOBER

1 WED. 10:30 AM-12:00 PM MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
LEAGUE OFFICE

3 FRI. 12:15-2:30 PM **DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER VOTER** *A. KISCH, 985.0651*
7 TUES. BROWN BAG LUNCH TOPIC PROS & CONS *P. WATTS, 525.6614*
ALBANY LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVE

13 MON. 7:30-9:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE *C. STONE, 549.0959*
160 SOUTHAMPTON AVE.

15 WED. 12:30-2:30 PM CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE *J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548.3845*
LEAGUE OFFICE

16 THURS. 3:00-5:00 PM ACTION COMMITTEE *J. SAFIR, 524.9088*
LEAGUE OFFICE

16 THURS. 7:30-9:00 PM CIVICS EDUCATION ACTION COMMITTEE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
DORIS NASSIRY'S, 2746 WEBSTER ST.

19 SUN. 10:00 AM-5:00 PM SPICE OF LIFE FESTIVAL *P. WATTS, 525.6614*
SHATTUCK AVE BETWEEN VIRGINIA ST. & ROSE ST.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT LWV TABLE

20 MON. **VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSES**
20 MON. 1:30-3:00 PM HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE *CATHY LYNCH, 527.2173*
LEAGUE OFFICE

22 WED. 8:00 AM-3:30 PM MOCK ELECTION AT ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL *B. CHAPMAN, 527.0827*
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (SEE P. 1)

22 WED. 8:30 AM-2:30 PM WILLARD STUDENT GOV'T ELECTION *H. LECAR 549.9719*
WILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, STUART ST.
EAST OF TELEGRAPH AVE. VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED IN 2 HOUR SHIFTS!

28 TUES. 7:00-9:00 PM LWV BOARD MEETS AT LEAGUE OFFICE *M. HAWLEY 527.7727*
30 THURS. 8:00 AM-3:30 PM MOCK ELECTION AT BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL *B. CHAPMAN, 527.0827*
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (SEE P. 1)

NOVEMBER

4 TUES. **ELECTION DAY!** *J. BARRETT, 845.8055*
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

7 FRI. **DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY VOTER** *A. KISCH, 985.0651*

BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED