

# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville



MARCH 2008

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## CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM

### *THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY*

The Climate Change Team is now two months old. Our objective is to first educate ourselves and then communicate to others the new information on important issues related to climate change. Our major areas of focus are:

**What are the facts about climate change? How big is the problem?** Understand the facts pertaining to climate change, as well as the magnitude of the problems posed by climate change.

**What can we do, and what are the effects of actions?** Evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of the many possible means of mitigation, including consequences (intended and unintended) of employing these methods.

**Educate.** Educate ourselves and others about what we learn.

We are currently studying Berkeley's Measure G action plan, which has just been released for public comment. The full plan can be found at [www.BerkeleyClimateAction.org](http://www.BerkeleyClimateAction.org).

Our regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the LWVBAE office. Our next regular meeting will be held on March 5, 2008. We welcome to our meetings anyone who is interested in learning about and addressing this challenging, critical problem.

*Linda Swift, Co-Chair  
Climate Change Team*



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Those of you who have read my column regularly will remember that our League was sponsoring a *Why Vote?* contest at the five high schools in our three cities this past fall. How'd it go?, I hear you ask. I am sorry to report that we got very few entries, and the Civics Ed Action Committee will discuss this in depth at its next meeting. But, the good news is, we did get some entries from the Albany schools – and they were all very good.

Four Albany High students wrote thoughtful essays, each one with an original twist, and one student from MacGregor High School, the continuation high school in Albany, produced a video. All of these entries can be seen at the Civics Ed section of our website. Check it out.

The winners were honored and awarded their prizes at the last Albany School Board meeting. The students, their family members and several of their teachers and principals were in attendance. *Bill Chapman* made the presentations for the League, and was joined by the President of the School Board who also gave the winners an award of merit. The students all seemed pleased with the recognition. Based on the contest entries this year, it seems that this coming generation of voters will know how to voice its views articulately, and will take its responsibilities as citizens very seriously!

*Jinky Gardner*, President

## DESK VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

In our attempt to have the LWVBAE office open and available to Leaguers and the general public as much as possible, we are asking our membership to volunteer for Desk Duty! Desk Duty can be once or twice a month, in shifts of 2-4 hours, and is a wonderful way to become acquainted with the daily workings of our League and of our office.

Desk duty includes answering the office phone, fetching and processing the mail, and doing whatever else needs doing. Now that we have three new, up-to-date computers in the office, there will certainly be other tasks that Desk Volunteers can perform. Please respond to this call and sign up for a shift or two by contacting me, *Jane Barrett*, at (510) 845-8055 or [janebarrett@onebox.com](mailto:janebarrett@onebox.com). Desk Volunteer training is available!

*Jane Barrett*  
Co-VP Administration

### THE VOTER

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

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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](http://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.*

## BROWN BAG LUNCH

The Berkeley Police Review Commission (PRC) has stirred controversy throughout the 35 years that have passed since it came into being by way of citizen initiative.

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, our own *Sherry Smith* – lawyer, former president of our League and current PRC Commissioner – will talk about the current situation in which the PRC finds itself as its policies and procedures are found to clash with California state law.

The Police Review Commission provides a forum in which citizens can bring complaints against police officers in what used to be an open forum. Find out why these proceedings are now secret and what efforts the Commission is making in order to bring the complaints and the PRC findings back out into the open.

The April Brown Bag Lunch will take place on April 1 (no fooling!), and the topic is "Presidential Signing Statements"; our speaker is still to be announced.

Brown Bag Lunch meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. The Lunches take place at the Albany Public Library, 1247 Marin Avenue in Albany. The Luncheons start promptly at 12:15 in the Library's Edith Stone Room (doors open at 12 noon) and are concluded by 2 pm. You are encouraged to bring your lunch but please, no beverages other than water. For further information contact me, *Luanne Rogers*, at (510) 559-1006.

*Luanne Rogers*  
Program

# ELECTIONS 2008

## What we've been doing:

One down, two to go. The League's voter service efforts in our first Presidential Primary this February started late, but ended on a high note. The Indian Tribal gaming referenda (Props 94-97) qualified so late that even the Secretary of State's website could not post the final ballot measures until December. Both the official Ballot Pamphlet mailed to all voters and the state League's Pros & Cons went to press before the measures qualified.

The Los Angeles League saved the day with a thorough discussion of every proposition on a DVD, which we watched just after the New Year. By then we had barely a month before Primary Day. Pros & Cons speakers *Jane Bergen, Eloise Bodine* and *Fran Packard* addressed every group wishing to host a speaker. *Bobby Spike, Merle Fajans, Muffett Graham, Jan Collins* and *Ursula Rolfe* also trained with the LA DVD, but opportunities to present were limited.

Our voter registration efforts focused on Berkeley High; Albany High got their students registered with minimal help from the League. At Berkeley High, Student Activities Director Christopher Young enabled us to set up a table 3 days running during the lunch hour; and with the help of *Rainey Sykes* who found our volunteers, we registered over 40 new young voters! Many thanks to *Merle Fajans, Helen Canin, Adeline Kahn, Jan Collins, Penelope Hanan-Dahman, Betty Hicks* and *Mary Rose Ryan*.

Our Mock Election at the high schools enabled all students, regardless of age or citizenship status, to express their political preferences. League volunteers *Cathy Lynch, Doris Nassiry, Lois Brubeck, Jody Bush, Diane Akers, Steve Schwartzberg, Barbara Lippard, Ellen Logue, Claudia Berger* and *Bill Chapman* helped the 1,432 student voters check in, supervised the ballot box and counted the ballots. Mock election results are available for viewing via a link on the LWVBAE website home page. The linked page also shows how those results compare to students statewide, and to election day results from Alameda County and the State overall.

Meanwhile, *Claudia Berger* and her sterling delivery team, *Merle Fajans, Constance Fraser, Sherry Keyes, Jennifer McDougall, Jean Safir* and *Bobbie Spike*, kept our libraries, post offices and senior centers well stocked with registration affidavits.

## The Work Ahead:

Our upcoming general primary (June 3) will require the involvement of even more League members as we present candidates' forums and Pros and Cons on a host of state and local ballot measures in all three of our cities. Election activity will be especially heavy in April and May.

Voter service is at the core of our commitment as League members. We were born in the struggle

to bring women the right to vote, and enlarging the franchise is still an essential part of what we do.

What part in this great work can you play? We will be holding a meeting at the office on Friday morning, March 7, 10-12, to explore all our options for registering voters, running candidates' forums in our cities and sharing information about what's on the ballot and who's running.

New members and those with only an hour or two to spare are especially invited to come, as many pre-election jobs come in small, manageable chunks of time. Even if you can't make the March 7 meeting, call *Helene Lecar* at (510) 549-9719 if you'd like to take part in Election 2008.

*Helene Lecar*  
Election Services

**NEW MEMBERS**

Our Warmest Welcome  
To Our Newest Members:

*Michael Mayer*  
*Kris Muller*  
*Gail Unno*

## PROGRAM PLANNING

LWVBAE members are invited to a Supper/Program Planning meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, from 6 to 9 pm in the Fireside Room at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The focus of the meeting is the review of program planning for the National, Bay Area and local League levels.

Trinity Church is located across the street from the entrance to the UC Recreational Sports Facility on campus; the parking lot is just west of the building. Please put a sign on your car dashboard that says "LWV", and we will pay for your parking; we will also provide you with a delicious soup, sandwich, salad and cookie supper which is certain to activate your brain cells. Please RSVP to me, *Luanne Rogers*, at (510) 559-1006 or [luannerogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luannerogers@sbcglobal.net). We encourage car-pooling when possible.

*Luanne Rogers*  
Program

## OBSERVERS STILL WANTED!

Look at the full list of Boards and Commissions in Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville on the LWVBAE website, [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org). They all need watching! Pick a group that you're interested in or one that you want to know more about. Call the LWVBAE office at (510) 843-8824 or call me, *Phoebe Watts*, at (510) 525-6614 to discuss your choice or to get more information. Your input is very important!

*Phoebe Watts*  
Director of Observer Corps

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY DONATIONS

### TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Diane Akers*  
*Lillie Anderson*  
 Robert and *Joyce Baldwin*  
*Violet Feinauer*  
 Stephanie Friedman  
*Marian Graham,*  
 in honor of *Helene Lecar*  
*Bruce and Marilyn Harris*  
*Kathleen and Larry Heckman*  
*Babette and Frank Maccoby*  
*Ruth Maguire*  
 Jeanne Smith,  
 in honor of *Helene Lecar*  
*Meredith Stout*  
 Dolores Taller,  
 in honor of *Helene Lecar's* birthday

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Diane Akers*  
*Angharad Jones*  
*Lois S. Brubeck,*  
 in honor of *Helene Lecar's* birthday  
*Gretchen Carlson*  
 Carol Degroff Elliott  
 Stephanie Friedman  
*Elaine Grossberg*  
*Robert and Mim Hawley*  
*Kathleen Heckman*  
*Ann-Marie P. Hogan*  
*Dorothy Jansizian*  
 Barbara Kenton  
*Marie Christine Lagarde*  
 Lawrence Lurie, M.D. and Elinore Lurie, Ph.D.  
*Babette and Frank Maccoby*  
*Jill and Piero Martinucci*  
 Jennifer and Michael McDougall  
*Gabrielle and Frank Morris,*  
 in honor of *Jinky Gardner*  
*Anita Navon*  
 Martin and *Muriel Paley*  
 Michael and Michelle Safer  
 Michelle Safer,  
 in honor of *Helene Lecar*  
 Carl Louis Smith

Many thanks for remembering your League.

*Louetta Erlin*  
 Donations Secretary

## EAST BAY DEPOT FOR CREATIVE REUSE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS' January 14 meeting featured Allysyn Kiplinger with East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse. Founded in 1979 by two Oakland Public School teachers, the Depot promotes solid waste diversion and resource conservation through the Depot Store and through its arts and environmental education programs. A resource for teachers, artists and social service agencies, the Depot offers arts-and-crafts materials, educational supplies, vintage furniture, home decor, paper goods, fabric and other reused items.

The mission of the East Bay Depot is to divert waste materials from landfills by collecting and redistributing discarded goods as low-cost supplies. The 4,000- square-foot store is open to the public and is frequented by artists, art educators, social services, recreational leaders, parents, students and households, serving over 36,000 customers each year. Curbside pick-ups, in-store donation acceptance and collection of discarded materials from local businesses divert approximately 500 tons from landfills annually.

The educational mission of the Depot is to increase awareness of school children and the general public regarding the "green" benefits of reusing materials. Teachers get a 10 percent discount on materials, and class field trips are encouraged. Examples of creative reuse include sculptures, toys, collages, handmade gifts, seasonal decorations, clothing and costumes, and refurbished furniture. Environmental programs serve 20,000 participants each year. Special Events, a Depot outreach program, brings hands-on creative reuse activities to community fairs, festivals and school functions.

Household goods and humanitarian aid supplies donated to local non-profits and social service agencies serve thousands of households each year. Between 2003 and 2007, according to the Depot, containers filled with coats, blankets, tents and sleeping bags were shipped to Mississippi, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Pakistan and rural California.

Financial supporters for the Depot have included StopWaste.org, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, the Altamont Education Advisory Board, The California Wellness Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Waste Management of Alameda County, Allied Waste Services, Pacific Rim Recycling, Wareham Properties and Good Cents for Oakland.

Support the Depot by donating materials, telling friends, family and co-workers about the store, and encouraging businesses to donate their overstock, damaged merchandise or industrial leavings.

(continued on p. 5)

## BOARD BRIEFS

At its January meeting the Board unanimously approved a motion to co-sponsor a panel discussion on Reproductive Choice and Election '08 with the National Women's Political Caucus. The event took place on February 11 at the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

*Luanne Rogers* reported on the Immigration Study Consensus, which achieved little consensus because of overly-detailed questions and the generally poor design of the questionnaire. The Board voted unanimously to adopt new language for question 7. The Study results, including our assessment of the study, were forwarded to National by the February 1 deadline.

*Kristina Lim*  
Secretary

## MINING IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS: A TOXIC LEGACY

On Monday, March 10, 2008, our Environmental Concerns Committee's featured speaker will be Sierra Fund CEO Elizabeth ("Izzy") Martin, who will give a PowerPoint presentation on the Sierra Fund's Mining Toxic Legacy Initiative. Included in Martin's talk will be a discussion of the impact of toxins in the Bay Area.

The Mining Toxic Legacy Initiative began in 2006 and focuses on the health threat from exposure to toxins still remaining from historic mining activities in the Sierra Nevada. These toxins include arsenic, asbestos, mercury, lead and other heavy metals. While the presence of toxins throughout the Sierra Nevada had been previously documented, until now no research had been undertaken which examines the impact of these toxic materials on human health.

Environmental Concerns welcomes all interested individuals to its monthly meetings, which are held September through May on the second Monday of the month at the home of Horst Bansner, 1340 Arch Street, Berkeley. The meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm and end at 9 pm. Additional information may be obtained from *Carol Stone* at (510) 549-0959.

*Carol Stone*, Co-Chair  
Environmental Concerns

### LWVBAE OFFICE HOURS

LWVBAE Office Manager Cheryl Nichols' office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1:15 to 5:00, and also some Mondays and Thursdays from 1:15 pm to 5:00 pm. You may leave a voicemail message for Cheryl at (510) 843-8824, and she will return your call.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE BOARD 2007-2008

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## IMMIGRATION STUDY COMPLETED

Many thanks to the Immigration Study Committee: *Pat Kuhi, Phyllis Gaines, Ginette Polak, Phoebe Watts, Carol Stone, Mike Gardner* and *Luanne Rogers*, discussion leaders *Mim Hawley* and *Sherry Smith*, recorders *Nancy Bickel* and *Candi Simonen*, and also to the brave participants in the two study units. Thanks to the efforts of *Bill Chapman*, we turned in our results on time, and we are now very curious to see what the National League can make of it all.

*Luanne Rogers*  
Program

## ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 22, 2008. We have the place: Northbrae Community Church, Berkeley. We'll have a light dinner, and lots of time to visit, followed by elections and the showing of a documentary to evaluate for use in our schools! More details in the next *VOTER*.

*Luanne Rogers*  
Program

## EAST BAY DEPOT *(continued from p. 4)*

The Depot is located in Oakland's Temescal District, 4695 Telegraph Avenue, at the corner of 47th Street. Walk-in donations are accepted daily from 11 am to 5 pm at the back door on Shattuck Avenue. Telephone: (510) 547-6470. Website: [www.creativereuse.org](http://www.creativereuse.org). To schedule a pickup of larger materials call (510) 547-6535.

*Gail Schickele*, Co-Chair  
Environmental Concerns



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Tel. Eve. \_\_\_\_\_

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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

### FEBRUARY

- 27 WED. 6 -9 PM PROGRAM PLANNING SUPPER (**see p. 3**) *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 2362 BANCROFT WAY
- 28 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548-5292*

### MARCH

- 3 MON. 1:30-3:00 PM HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE *U. ROLFE, 841-2239*
- 4 TUES. 12:15 -2 PM BROWN BAG LUNCH (**see p. 2**) *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 ALBANY LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM
- 5 WED. 7-9 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM (**see p. 1**) *J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548-3845*  
 LWVBAE OFFICE
- 7 FRI. 10 AM-12 PM VOTER SERVICES MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *H. LECAR, 549-9719*  
 (**see p. 3**)
- 7 FRI. 5 PM **DEADLINE FOR APRIL VOTER** *A. KISCH, 985-0651*
- 10 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 1340 ARCH ST. *C. STONE, 549-0959*  
 (**see p. 3**)
- 27 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548-5292*

### APRIL

- 1 TUES. 12:15 -2 PM BROWN BAG LUNCH *L. ROGERS, 559-1006* *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 ALBANY LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM
- 2 WED. 7-9 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548-3845*
- 4 FRI. 5 PM **DEADLINE FOR MAY-JUNE VOTER** *A. KISCH, 985-0651*
- 14 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 1340 ARCH ST. *C. STONE, 549-0959*
- 24 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548-5292*

### MAY

- 6 TUES. 12:15 -2 PM **No VOTER DEADLINE IN MAY** *L. ROGERS, 559-1006* *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 BROWN BAG LUNCH *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 ALBANY LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM
- 7 WED. 7-9 PM CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. BLUMENKRANTZ, 548-3845*
- 12 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 1340 ARCH ST. *C. STONE, 549-0959*
- 22 THURS. . **2008 ANNUAL MEETING (see p. 5)** *L. ROGERS, 559-1006*  
 NORTHBRAE COMMUNITY CHURCH
- 26 MON. MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED - **LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**
- 29 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548-5292*

**BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**