

The Voter



League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville

NOVEMBER 2008

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RUNNING ON EMPTY: MANAGING OUR CITIES WITHOUT A STATE BUDGET

Representatives from each of our three cities explained to LWVBAE's September 9 noon meeting how Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville are surviving this year's budget impasse.

Berkeley's Budget Manager Tracy Vesely reported that 40% of Berkeley's \$360 million budget comes from property taxes; but because of problems in the housing market, transfer tax revenue fell 25%, from \$16 million to less than \$12 million, last year. The City has used this source of revenue conservatively, assuming only \$10 million for General Fund use. Any dollars above that are used for one-time projects that can be cancelled or deferred in the event of a shortfall. This year the City has revised its estimate of transfer tax revenue down to \$10 million as a baseline, and a number of transportation projects have been delayed. All tax receipts are flat.

The late passage of the 2008 State Budget has hit Berkeley's Public Health Department especially hard. Unlike our other two cities, Berkeley has its own health department and is funded directly by the State. The City expects cuts of about \$1 million, and a number of Berkeley nonprofit care providers have had to suspend operations.

Berkeley's 2009 Budget Update made some reductions to the General Fund and 9.5% FTE (full-time equivalent) staff reduction from attrition, none from police and fire departments. The City is negotiating with unions to put a cap on City-funded medical and other benefits for employees and retirees.

State Proposition 1A, approved by voters in 2004, may help the cities if the State does not find ways to get around the law's requirements. 1A requires that when the State takes local government tax funds to pay State obligations, it must repay these debts, with interest, within three years.

Albany City Administrator Beth Pollard said Proposition 1A is crucial to Albany as well. In the 1990s, the State took \$8 million of Albany's tax monies each year (gas tax, cigarette tax, property tax for schools). Albany uses all of its property transfer taxes for operating funds and as a result has less flexibility than Berkeley to handle reduced state revenues. Both Albany and Emeryville residents depend on Alameda County, not their city budgets, for public health services, and can only await the final passage of the State budget to find out how much money they will receive.

(continued on p. 3)



NOT A PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Just Wait 'Til Next Year!

This Not-the-Budget column is about where all the infighting in Sacramento has left us. After an epic 85-day struggle, in which Governor Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto power to cross out \$510 million worth of appropriations the legislature had approved, he finally signed the state's \$145 billion budget for 2008-09. No one was happy with the end product.

But the gamesmanship continued before the ink even had a chance to dry. While State Controller John Chiang began paying the 80,000 unpaid bills that had accumulated during the budget standoff, the Governor took sweeping measures to clear his desk. If he took no action by September 30, all the unsigned measures in his in-box would automatically have become law. Instead, in 11 days, he vetoed 415 bills, 35% of all the pieces of legislation that had already made it through both the Assembly and the Senate.

The most heavily hit areas were health care, including Sen. Kuehl's SB 840, Single Payer bill, mental health services, and AB1945 (de la Torre), the Rescission Bill, which would have prevented insurance companies from dropping coverage of seriously ill patients without outside review; education, including afterschool programs and support services for foster children aging out of the system; support services for the elderly, the poor, and the disabled. The abolition of these programs was imposed on top of the already stringent funding cuts for many of the agencies serving the same populations that were set out in the budget.

All that is only the beginning. In early October, the Governor submitted a request to the US Department of the Treasury for a loan of \$7 billion in short-term debt because the normal commercial agencies that float credit to states until taxes are collected were all frozen by the wreck of the whole financial industry. Without that extra infusion of money, the State would run out of operating funds to pay teachers, police and firefighters by month's end. As of this writing, the Treasury has not yet indicated whether it will honor the Governor's request.

In addition, the budget itself only "balances" because of a set of accounting tricks. It suspends tax credits and accelerates business tax collections on the promise of tax relief in years to come, covering the current deficit by draining state income deeply once the payback period starts. Estimates are that these maneuvers alone will cost the state \$385 million by 2010-11, rising to \$480 million in 2011-12 and thereafter in lost revenues.

But the most rickety of the legs on which this budget "balances" are the ones that must go before the voters before they can be implemented. That means – Are you sitting down? – another special election next spring. That makes 5 elections in three years.

THE VOTER

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

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

One item would increase the size of the state's budget reserve, limit the use of reserve funds and limit the use of any excess "April Surprise" revenues. Under its terms, the State would be obliged to siphon off 3% of General Fund revenues to a State Budget Stabilization Fund every year until the fund reached 12.5% of General Fund revenues. If this proposition passes, the Governor would gain significantly greater authority to order mid-year budget cuts of up to 7%, throwing a monkey wrench into any agency's ability to plan for the coming year.

The other budget "balancing" act is even more uncertain, a measure to sell bonds worth about \$5 billion backed by future lottery earnings. The money would be used to pay off other General Fund obligations. It would replace the percentage going to education from the lottery year by a similar amount from the General Fund and cut the lottery free of any obligation to education in the future.

This Budget Ain't Over 'Til It's Over!

Helene Lecar
Director of Education

NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome

To Our Newest Members:

Jacqueline Desoer and Sheila Jordan

To Our Reinstated Member: *Patricia Kates*

To Our Re-Joining Member: *Eleanor Bade*

Correction from last Voter:
Elaine (not Eleanor) Chandler

RUNNING ON EMPTY

(continued from p. 1)

With a population of 17,000, Albany's budget is \$25 million, \$16 million of it for the General Fund. Property tax provides 36% of Albany's revenues, with sales tax adding another 16%. Under its redevelopment program, Albany has been receiving \$300,000 annually, and now the State is beginning to take that also. Even when the dollar amounts look relatively small, redevelopment funds have leverage benefits, allowing the City to borrow more in bond money. Because Albany has reserves, it may be able to survive without drastic cuts, but the \$400,000 in property taxes the City collects may be borrowed by the state. This time, however, because of Prop 1A, the State must pay back this money, with interest, within 3 years.

In February 2008 the State suspended payment of cities' share of gas taxes, a loss to Albany of \$27,000 so far. Albany projects a deficit for next year, as it has few projects to absorb cuts when 80% of its general fund expenses are for personnel, including retirement; 50% of those funds pay for police and fire.

Emeryville Councilmember Nora Davis explained that its current population of about 9,000 lives in one square mile, 97% of the land in a redevelopment area. The City expects to lose up to \$850,000 from its General Fund, which covers basic city services, police and fire, and a child development center run by city employees. The business sector pays 80% of city and school district costs. Income from retail sales is flat or declining, however, as a result of increasing Internet sales, which bring no sales tax to cities.

Emeryville keeps a close watch on its expenses, especially pension costs, a looming threat. With the State taking redevelopment money from local governments, Emeryville expects to face serious cuts. By taking \$1.2 million from Emeryville's redevelopment funds, the State would reduce the City's bonding capacity by \$22 million.

In answer to a question, our speakers pointed out that counties, as providers of many social and medical services, also face major financial challenges and have become increasingly creative in figuring out how to pass on their part of the financial squeeze to cities. For example, Alameda County now charges cities a booking fee when someone is arrested and put in a county jail. Our speakers concluded by observing that the convoluted ways in which the State borrows money only serve to complicate city and county services because the borrowing mechanisms cause uncertainty, unfairness and ungovernability.

Helene Lecar
Director of Education

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

Lillie Anderson
Phyllis Bischof
Eloise Bodine
Louise Brown
Ann and George Crowe
Doris Fine
Elaine Grossberg
Patricia Kates
Jane Ann Lamph
Fran Packard
Linda Polsby
in memory of *Marj Rubinow*
Dr. Sondra Schlesinger
Todd Smith
Tamara White

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Barbara Adair
in memory of *Luanne Rogers*
Karen Carlson-Olson
Marilyn Couch,
in memory of *Janine Rosenzweig*
Ruth Ganong
Jane Ann Lamph
Mrs. Dalloway's
Fran Packard
in memory of *Luanne Rogers*

Many thanks for remembering your League.

Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

HYDROPONICS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

On Monday, November 10, Thomas Azwell, a Ph.D. Student in Society & Environment at UC Berkeley, and the honorary winner of an *Eva Alexis Bansner* award, is the featured speaker at the monthly Environmental Concerns meeting. Mr. Azwell will focus his remarks on new methods of hydroponics (growing plants without soil, using instead a mineral nutrient solution), and will discuss other topics as time permits.

November's meeting will take place at 7:30-9:00 pm AT A NEW LOCATION, 2811 Claremont **Boulevard** (between Avalon Avenue and Garber Street), Berkeley, the home of *Wendy Markel*. Environmental Concerns meets the second Monday of the month, September through May, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Carol Stone, Co-Chair
Environmental Concerns

MAYORS MEET THE LWVBAE MEMBERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The LWVBAE Climate Action Team presented "Strategies for Combating Climate Change: Plans and Projects in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville" at the Fall General Membership Meeting, September 17, at Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley. A slide show by team co-chairs *Linda Swift* and *Jan Blumenkrantz* preceded a presentation and discussion of local climate-change initiatives and projects by Berkeley Climate Change Coordinator *Tim Burroughs* and Mayors *Ken Bukowski* of Emeryville and *Robert Lieber* of Albany.

Warming of the climate is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level, according to the Nobel-Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC concludes "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase of anthropogenic (derived from human activities) greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations."

GHG primary sources include carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the largest contributor, from fossil fuel use, land use and cement (absorption); methane (CH₄), which is 21 times more potent than CO₂ in terms of global warming potential, from agriculture and fossil fuels use; nitrous oxide (N₂O) mostly from agriculture; and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), each of which offer the smallest but most potent GHG contributions, caused primarily from aluminum production, electric power transmission and semiconductor industries. These three latter emissions have extremely long atmospheric lifetimes resulting in their essentially irreversible accumulation in the atmosphere once emitted. Effects of warming include drought, severe weather and change in weather patterns, famine, escalating food process, significant extinctions, rising sea level, threats to security and global stability, and potential wars over water, food and land.

The good news is that we can follow Buckminster Fuller's insightful advice: "think globally, act locally." Reducing our carbon footprint, which is the amount of CO₂ each of us produces over a year, including direct production of CO₂ in making the products we use and the food we eat, can do this. For example, switching to solar can reduce our footprint by 30 percent or more. Other major carbon savings can come from conservation of energy and water; the use of high-mileage vehicles and public transportation; less travel; buying locally-grown food; and action to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Berkeley spokesperson *Tim Burroughs* said, "We can actually do something about climate change at a community level and achieve benefits that aren't just environmental but economic" such as using solar to reduce energy bills, increase home comfort and create jobs, he said. Gas transportation is the single largest source of Berkeley's GHG emissions (29%), followed by natural gas consumption (residential 19%, commercial 17%), and electricity (residential 7%, commercial 11%).

Burroughs' remarks came on the eve of the revised Berkeley Climate Action Plan, which contains detailed implementation timelines and specific strategies for reducing Berkeley's emissions. "The goal in the climate action plan is to make a blueprint making the alternative modes the main mode," he said, along with goals of energy reduction, increasing density along transit corridors, and zero waste to landfills.

The Plan is the result of Measure G, approved by 81% of Berkeley voters in 2006 to reduce the city's emissions by 80% by the year 2050. The community-based action planning process included public workshops and input from climate change experts and the public. "By identifying specific strategies, this (action) plan really shows what residents can do and what impact they can make on the critical problem of global warming," Burroughs said. The plan recommends further incentives for putting more housing and jobs near transit; calls for rapidly expanding car-sharing opportunities; and recommends creating an integrated network of shuttle buses to serve areas of the City that do not have access to BART or AC Transit stations. Included in the recommendations is the City's innovative plan to allow private property owners to voluntarily pay for the cost of solar energy systems through their property taxes. This program is designed to address the main financial barrier to homeowners' investments in solar, the up-front installation costs.

Emeryville Mayor *Ken Bukowski* suggested creating a regional land-use event as a learning service so that people can understand the connection between land use and transportation. "We need to work to get free regional transit," he said, citing BART as too expensive. "One of the untapped resources for transportation funding is property owners (who) should be paying for transportation." Bukowski said he's encouraged by the Berkeley model, which Emeryville is following very closely.

Albany Mayor *Robert Lieber* has committed Albany to improve the environment, reduce use of resources, carbon emissions, and landfill waste. In July 2008 UCLA researchers named Albany California's "Greenest City." Berkeley was named number 2. The study of 349 cities statewide examined correlations between environmental principles and purchasing practices and based in part on the city's voting record on environmental state propositions with fiscal impacts. Research explored the rates of hybrid-car ownership and LEED (Leadership in Energy and

(continued on p. 5)

MAYORS MEET ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(continued from p. 4)

Environmental Design) buildings. LEED is a classification granted by the federal government to meet certain standards of resource conservation, including lighting efficiency, waste management, and even showers so that people might be encouraged to bike to work.

But Lieber said more needs to be done. "This is almost a situation where you have to think locally, but act globally (because) this is a problem that goes beyond our borders," he said.

Other points made by Lieber during the evening included:

- the need to provide health care and housing first before people will become interested in addressing global warming
- the need to change behavior of both people and corporations
- education is a priority
- working to ensure social equity and justice is a priority
- we have to put our money where our mouth is
- the idea that we can have clean coal is a bad idea
- "there is no safe nuclear power"
- acting for the common good will take some sacrifices and it's not going to be easy.

Mayor Bukowski suggested that the League get involved by making a checklist for cities regarding their plans for emission reduction. Questions might include buying policies, bike-riding incentives, and water conservation plans.

Concluded Mayor Lieber, "I think we can make a difference and we should go out there and fight. It's a doable task."

USEFUL WEB SITES:

- www.greenalbany.org
- www.berkeleyclimateaction.org
- www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/bf/bf-summary.html
- www.lwvbae.org/climateaction
- www.wecansolveit.org

*Jan Blumenkrantz, Co-Chair
Climate Change Team*

*Gail Schickele, Co-Chair
Environmental Concerns*

DO YOU LIKE PARTIES?

Our Membership Development committee is planning a party. It's going to be on Sunday, February 15, 2009. This is Susan B. Anthony's birthday so there will be lots to celebrate, and, of course, it will be a lot of fun! So do plan to come, but even better, get in on the fun of planning the whole thing.

Our next Membership Development meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 7, from 10:30 am to 12 noon, at the LWVBAE office. We've started brainstorming ideas for food and drinks, fun things to do, ways to draw potential new members, and logistics to make it all flow.

Bring yourself, your ideas and enthusiasm, and join in the laughter. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at 510.548.5292 or at jinkybsg@comcast.net.

*Jinky Gardner, Chair
Membership Development*

OFFICE HOURS

The LWVBAE office is open to the public from 2 pm to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. To enable us to have regular office hours, we are asking office volunteers to try to work between 2 and 4 pm. *Cheryl Nichols*, our Office Manager, will normally be in the office during those hours and will be available to assign work and to answer questions. If you wish to volunteer, please call the LWVBAE office at 510.843.8824. Your participation in the operation of our office will be greatly appreciated!

Eloise Bodine

VOTER EDUCATION ON DISPLAY AT THE BERKELEY MAIN LIBRARY OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 4, 2008

The League has had a chance to strut its stuff this fall, courtesy of the Berkeley Main Library. Early in October, in all the glass cases in the main branch, including the window facing Kittredge Street, we were able to display information about registering to vote, issues the League follows, sources of information about those issues, and how the League takes public action.

During the last week before the election, we'll be back in the indoor cases with information about propositions on the November ballot. If you have any colorful resources to contribute to the display, please call *Helene Lecar* at 510. 549.9719. If you don't have anything to add to the display, come by anyway and let us know how it looks.

*Helene Lecar
Director of Education*

LWVBAE Budget Performance Fiscal Year 2007-08

	Budgeted	Actual	Under Budget
Income			
Dues	21,775.00	19,360.00	2,415.00
Contributions	8,300.00	9,830.12	(1,530.12)
LWVB Foundation	9,000.00	4,345.42	4,654.58
Contract Services	1,000.00	473.41	526.59
Scrip Payments (Fundraising)	44,000.00	30,163.97	13,836.03
Community Lunch	15,000.00	13,565.00	1,435.00
Dividends - Money Market Account	200.00	600.88	(400.88)
Product Sales - Fundraising	1,000.00	355.38	644.62
Program Meetings	1,200.00	843.32	356.68
Transfer from Other Assets	27,300.00	15,000.00	12,300.00
TOTAL INCOME	128,775.00	94,537.50	34,237.50
Expenses			
Action	1,800.00	217.40	1,582.60
Program	2,500.00	1,220.05	1,279.95
Per Member Payments to National, State, & Bay Area	16,275.00	16,065.82	209.18
Convention Expenses Reimbursements	6,000.00	4,487.69	1,512.31
Special Educational Projects (Why Vote? contest)	4,000.00	2,644.87	1,355.13
Special Action Projects	4,000.00		4,000.00
Election & Other Community Services	5,000.00	1,394.89	3,605.11
Administration			
Board	200.00	60.00	140.00
Office Rent	10,500.00	10,552.00	(52.00)
Office Manager Salary, Fringe Benefits & Taxes	11,000.00	8,326.13	2,673.87
Supplies, Copies, Postage	3,600.00	2,023.77	1,576.23
Phone, FAX, Internet	2,100.00	2,298.01	(198.01)
Insurance	2,000.00	1,298.00	702.00
Computer Software and Supplies	200.00	792.36	(592.36)
Other Taxes & Fees	100.00	462.64	(362.64)
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	5,000.00	252.96	4,747.04
Professional Fees, IRS990	500.00	420.00	80.00
Total Administration	35,200.00	26,485.87	8,714.13
Member Services and Publications			
Voter Newsletter	5,000.00	7,301.54	(2,301.54)
Member Support	300.00	319.45	(19.45)
Total Member Services and Publications	5,300.00	7,620.99	(2,320.99)
Development & Community Outreach			
Community Lunch	8,000.00	7,977.58	22.42
Finance Drive	500.00	16.41	483.59
Scrip Purchases	40,000.00	28,125.60	11,874.40
Product Sales	200.00	81.15	118.85
Total Development Expenses	48,700.00	36,200.74	12,499.26
TOTAL EXPENSES	128,775.00	96,338.32	32,436.68
Net		(1,800.82)	

Actual Income and Expense Data from Quickbooks. Budget adopted at the May 2007 LWVBAE Annual Meeting.
Bill Chapman, Treasurer

LWVBAE Balance Sheet June 30, 2008

	<u>June 30, 2008</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Union Bank	11,647.75
Union Bank Money Market	<u>5,687.26</u>
Total Checking/Savings	17,335.01
 Other Current Assets	
Fidelity Fund	32,027.78
Fidelity Money Market	1,952.40
Fidelity Balance Fund	56,638.30
Fidelity Intl. Growth Fund	<u>48,778.38</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>139,396.86</u>
Total Current Assets	156,731.87
 Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation	-100.00
Depreciation expense	<u>100.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	0.00
 Other Assets	
Petty Cash	19.88
Post Office Deposit	100.58
Furniture & Equipment	5,154.15
Rent Deposit	<u>650.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>5,924.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>162,656.48</u>
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	187,547.47
Net Income	<u>-24,890.99</u>
Total Equity	<u>162,656.48</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>162,656.48</u>

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Cosponsored by LWVBAE, the East Bay Chapter of the U.N. Association, and International House in Berkeley, the 7th annual Day of Peace was celebrated on September 21, 2008. The keynote speaker, Professor Daniel Kammen, discussed "Climate Change and Peace: Why the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize".

Key issues included:

- The focus concerning "Climate Change" has moved from a scientific and causal one to a discussion of practical solutions and costs.
- The timetable for action is now clear: 10 years; planning and building energy plants takes a long time, more than ten years.
- Climate change has many clients, unlike Apollo or Star Wars, which have only one buyer.
- After decades of steady improvement (less than 1% per year), the global rate of decarbonization has stalled. This is OMINOUS!
- Climate change exacerbates threats to both poor and rich.
- The global community awaits U.S. leadership, but the U.S. is terribly out of touch with the rest of the world.

At the heart of Professor Kammen's documentation of climate change were the graphs which LWVBAE showed at our 2008 Fall General Membership Meeting on September 17. [In order to see these graphs, contact the LWVBAE Climate Change Team or go to <http://lwvbae.org/climateaction.htm>.]

It is encouraging that regional groups in the U.S. have been formed with the goal of reducing carbon emissions:

- U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (780 U.S. cities)
- Western Climate Initiative (Partners total 7 Western U.S. states and 4 Canadian provinces; Observers include 6 Western U.S. states, 1 Canadian province and 6 Mexican states)
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (10 Eastern U.S. states)
- Midwest Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (9 Mid-Western U.S. states and 2 Canadian provinces)

- U.S. Climate Action Partnership (31 corporations and non-governmental organizations)

Already 24 states and the District of Columbia are making progress towards clean energy. The City of Berkeley's program is spreading and broadening: property owners may now borrow from their property taxes to install solar panels and repay the debt over time via higher property taxes.

Alternative fuels are not always lower-carbon fuels. The California approach is to be flexible as to methods of reducing carbon emissions. However, the U.S. has embarked on a bad policy of picking one method and investing heavily in it.

Professor Miguel Altieri discussed "Designing a Climate-Change-Resilient Agriculture". The Western modern agriculture system plants only 23 crops on 91% of the land. Agriculture has become an industrial monoculture, needing only 2% of jobs. The environmental and social costs are huge: fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation leading to salinization of the soil. The cost in health and wildlife exceeds \$8 billion.

"Cornification" of the U.S. has led to human obesity and emission of one-third of the gas injuring the climate. Genetic reduction and uniformity make crops very fragile and even more vulnerable to climate change. Conglomerates of the world's largest corporations are taking over much of the land in the Third World and are not controllable by governments anywhere. In the U.S., corn and soy crops now use twice the land compared with other agriculture. The rest of the world also uses sugar cane for fuel. What can we learn from Latin American indigenous farmers? Small farmers have complex integrated land use, mixed crops, flexibility, and these methods can be sustainable.

In response to questions, Professor Kammen said that more than 3,000 scientific experts were involved in IPCC; only two or three of these scientists espoused the opposite view on climate change and were not credible.

- The cost of new nuclear reactors is now too high to allow debate over new plants or replacing old nuclear plants: financial and social costs, wastes and risks.
- China and the U.S. have great wind power potential. China is currently experiencing more downsides to its use of coal than in the U.S.
- The U.S. is far behind in vehicle efficiency.
- The shortage of oil is not the issue! We need wider incorporation of environmental ideas and policies.

Ginette Polak
Director-at-Large

BOARD BRIEFS

At its September 24 meeting, the Board

- appointed *Carol Stone* and *Gail Schickele* to the Board, sharing one vote, with the portfolio entitled Environmental Issues;
- agreed to count ballots for Berkeley School District's classified employees for a fee;
- approved funds for UN Day for Peace & Climate Change [see p. 8] which the League cosponsored;
- compiled a list of who would prepare articles for the next Voter issue; and
- heard reports on:
 - plans to publicize "vote with the League" publications;
 - taping of candidates for contested seats for Berkeley mayor, council, school board and plans for live broadcast for Rent Board on BTv;
 - Constitution Day at Berkeley City College;
 - Mock Elections at high schools.

Ginette Polak
Director-at-Large

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Our General Membership meeting on September 17 was such a roaring success, thanks to all the good people who put in so much time and effort. These included the entire Membership Development Committee, with *Jinky Gardner* at the lead, volunteering to take charge of all the arrangements, and her wonderful team of *Rainey Sykes* (great food!), *Bill Chapman*, *Jane Coulter* and *Suzanne Chun*. *Ginette Polak* and *Eloise Bodine* volunteered to take charge of admissions and to welcome our members and guests.

And then there was the fabulous work of *Linda Swift* and *Jan Blumenkrantz*, Co-Chairs of the Climate Change Team, who introduced the meeting with a really informative and comprehensive talk and video presentation on the Climate Change problem facing the world today. This was followed by addresses by *Timothy Burroughs*, Climate Action Coordinator for the City of Berkeley, and Mayors *Ken Bukowski* of Emeryville and *Robert Lieber* of Albany.

The audience gave all of the speakers a big round of applause, and as they left, many commented on how interesting the evening had been and what a good time they had. Thanks to all!!

Jean Safir
Co-VP Action

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

BOARD 2008-2009

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING TO END THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN CALIFORNIA?

If so, a newly-formed Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty offers opportunities for you. The LWV Alameda County Council is a member of this Coalition, and our representative on the Coalition, *Marion Taylor*, is seeking interested League members to form a task force on this issue. Contact *Marion* at 510.532.5797, or at mariontaylor@mac.com.

The goal of the Coalition is to bring together a broad spectrum of community members and organizations to develop a strategy for ending the use of the death penalty, and for shifting resources to more effective public safety measures, including violence prevention and re-entry programs. The Coalition has launched a campaign to gather resolutions from unions, religious groups, political organizations, and professional associations whose members live in Alameda County and surrounding areas. The League has signed the resolution. If any of you belong to other groups that would consider passing the resolution, please contact *Marion Taylor* at an address shown above.

The Coalition's website has more information plus opportunities to volunteer:
www.alamedadeathpenalty.org.

Mim Hawley
Co-VP Action



League of Women Voters
 Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
 1414 University Avenue, Suite D
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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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

OCTOBER

- 20 MON. 1:30-3 PM HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE, LEAGUE OFFICE *C. LYNCH, 527.2173*
- 22 WED. 8:00 AM-3:30 PM MOCK ELECTIONS AT ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL *B. CHAPMAN, 527.0827*
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
- 28 TUES. THRU NOV. 4 8:30 AM-2:30 PM WILLARD STUDENT GOV'T ELECTION, WILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, STUART ST., EAST OF TELEGRAPH AVE. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** *H. LECAR, 549.9719*
- 29 WED. 7-9 PM VOTER EDUCATION DISPLAY, BERKELEY LIBRARY *H. LECAR, 549.9719*
- 30 THURS. 8 AM-3:30 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *M. HAWLEY, 527.7727*
- MOCK ELECTION AT BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL *B. CHAPMAN, 527.0827*
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NOVEMBER

- 4 TUES. 5:00 PM **ELECTION DAY! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** *J. BARRETT, 845.8055*
- 6 THURS. 7:30-9 PM CIVIC EDUCATION ACTION CTE, LEAGUE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
- 7 FRI. 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LEAGUE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
- 10 MON. 7:30 PM-9:00 PM **DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY VOTER** *A. KISCH, 985.0651*
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (SEE P. 3) *C. STONE, 549.0959*
 2811 CLAREMONT BOULEVARD
- 11 TUES. 12:15-2 PM BROWN BAG LUNCH SPEAKER SERIES, ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVE., ALBANY *H. LECAR, 549.9719*
- 17 MON. 1:30-3 PM HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE, LEAGUE OFFICE *C. LYNCH, 527.2173*
- 20 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *M. HAWLEY, 527.7727*
- 27 THURS.-28 FRI. **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED**

DECEMBER

- 3 WED. 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LEAGUE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
- 4 THURS. 7:30-9 PM CIVIC EDUCATION ACTION CTE, LEAGUE OFFICE *J. GARDNER, 548.5292*
- 8 MON. 7:30-9 PM ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS *C. STONE, 549.0959*
- 9 TUES. 12:15-2 PM BROWN BAG LUNCH SPEAKER SERIES, ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVE., ALBANY *H. LECAR, 549.9719*
- 15 MON. 1:30-3 PM HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE, LEAGUE OFFICE *C. LYNCH, 527.2173*
- 18 THURS. 7-9 PM BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE *M. HAWLEY, 527.7727*
- 20 SAT. THRU JAN. 4 **LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY SEASON**

BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED