



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

November 2017



December Holiday Party And Program Planning

- Traditional event full of delicious pot luck items
• Discussion of Issues for LWV National Convention

Date and Location to be determined

SAVE THE DATE

LWV Bay Area presents 2018 Bay Area League Day

Location: Laney College
Date: February 3rd
Topic: Regional Governance

Title: Bay Area Regional Governance Winds of Change

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LWVFNUC Movie Night Friday, November 17th 6:30 PM

At 3375 Country Drive Bring hors d'oeuvres to share. We'll provide the popcorn and some refreshments.



PAPER LANTERNS

In the summer of 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. On August 6th, "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima, and three days later, "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. What few people know is that 12 American POWs were on the ground in Hiroshima, 1,300 feet from ground zero. Two of the twelve Americans were Normand Brissette of Lowell, Massachusetts, and Ralph Neal, of Corbin, Kentucky.

On that same early August morning, a young Japanese boy, Shigeaki Mori, would witness the explosion. He would survive that day, but his life would be changed forever.

"Paper Lanterns" is a film about the true story of Normand Brissette, Ralph Neal, and Mr. Mori's struggle to account for their story in the years and decades that followed the end of World War II. This story is about them. The horrors they witnessed. The families that struggled to find the truth, and one man's effort to give them the gift of closure. It's about the humanity and compassion shown by those who were in the heart of the destruction. The generation that lived through these events are dying away. They don't want anyone to forget their loved ones and the sacrifices they made. They want to strive for peace, compassion and a world free of nuclear weapons. They want us to never forget their story.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



September was a busy month. We had a lively discussion at our September program on sanctuary cities at the Fremont Library. Our purpose was not so much to provide a pro/con of a decision by a city to become a sanctuary city as much as it was an exploration of what that would mean for a city like Fremont which passed an ordinance to become one. Some of the attendees were opposed to sanctuary cities and as is our tradition in the League, we encouraged people to express their views and a more in depth dialogue ensued.

We participated in National Voter Registration Day on September 26th at the Fremont Family Resource Center (FFRC). Although, we did not have many people register at this site, League volunteers had fascinating discussions with clients of the FFRC who had not yet become citizens and wanted to know more about voting and our American democracy.

And finally, on September 28th, LWVFNUC along with two other Leagues (LWV – Eden Area and LWV San Jose/Santa Clara) were honored as community partners by State Senator Bob Weikowski at his annual State of the Union Address. It was an enjoyable and informative evening and especially so as we got to hear Dr. Harry Edwards speak. Dr. Edwards received the Unity Award from Senator Weikowski's office. He spoke movingly about historical social/civic movements and provided an optimistic future for democracy in these United States because, he said of the people and organizations who he saw at the event. Be sure to visit the website for State Senator Bob Weikowski and Senate District 10 to find out more about current legislation and how it impacts you and your community.

The October 30th program on rent related ordinance and housing promises to be quite informative. We hope to see you there!

Syeda Inamdar

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Well Chosen Words

LWVFNUC Honored by State Senator Wieckowski



Syeda Inamdar
Dr. Harry Edwards

On September 28th, State Senator Bob Wieckowski honored our local League as a “Community Partner of the Year.” The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City was one of the honorees from the 10th District along with the League Chapters of Eden and San Jose-Santa Clara. At the Friday evening event Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez sited the many important grass roots activities the Leagues have participated in from getting out the vote to helping pass library and tax initiatives.

Three other “Local Heroes” from Newark and Union City also honored were Linda Johnson, a Fremont Unified School District special education teacher who in retirement has continued her recycling efforts in a large apartment complex. Valerie Boyle of Newark USD, and the Union City Friends of Sister Cities.

Besides being given a framed proclamation, the highlight of the evening was the presentation by local Unity Award honoree, Dr. Harry Edwards who showed a short film about his camaraderie and collaboration with the late 49er’s coach Bill Walsh. Walsh began his coaching career at Fremont’s Washington Union High School. Dr. Edwards, professor emeritus at UC Berkeley, sited the many movements, including the women’s voting rights movement, begun by community leaders like those awarded, whose efforts have resulted in important milestones in American democracy.

Senator Wieckowski spotlighted his legislative accomplishments this year. Senate Bills signed into law include: 157, Protecting Revenge Porn Victims; 217, Meaningful Mediation; 680, Transit-Oriented Development; 407, Free Speech in Every Community; and 448, Not-So-Special Districts. Many others bills the Senator sponsored are awaiting the governor’s signature including SB16, Student Loan Repayment Parity, SB 66, No Perks for Punitive Damages, SB298 Limits on Bank Levies.

By Evelyn LaTorre

Welcome to Our New Members

*Dr. Marguerite McInnes
Joni Clark and Rich Yacco
Chitra Ramanathan
Nerissa Draeger*

*Sally Morgan
Martha Kreeger
Marcia Nyman*

If you are lucky enough to meet one of our new members at a meeting, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the League. We hope to feature some short profiles of our newest members. Here is the first one.

Marguerite McInnes, PhD, was motivated to join the League after the last Presidential election. Having known about the League for many years, Dr. McInnes wanted to participate in our work to help

make democracy work by educating voters and extending our unbiased work to our community. A linguist, she has lived in Europe and Mexico, speaks 5 languages and is now studying her sixth - Russian. She is one of the few who has traveled from Mongolia to Moscow on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Her degrees come from UCLA, Cal State East Bay and Stanford. Welcome Marguerite!

A Letter from Helen Hutchison President, League of Women Voters of California

Dear League Members,

The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and thanks to you, we have new laws addressing many of the critical issues we face in California. Because so many of you took action, we're celebrating major legislative victories:

- The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.
- The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.
- Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.
- Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.

- The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots—a critical step in ensuring all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many action alerts we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk! [California now has 27 new League-approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.](#) Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.

Thank you again for speaking up!

Sincerely,



2020 A Hundred Years of League

At our last board meeting Miriam Keller raised the matter of doing some advanced planning and preparation for the 100th anniversary of Universal Suffrage in 2020. The National League has a tool kit on their website which has suggestions for activities. She provided excerpts from it. The board agreed that it is not too soon to organize a committee to plan activities and agreed that many could substitute for our traditional programs. At Evelyn Latorre's suggestion we will dedicate part of each board meeting to review the history of suffrage so that we are well informed before implementing any 100th anniversary events. Here is a short piece to raise your interest in League history:

A Bit of History - from LWV San Francisco Voter article October, 2017

While attempting to straighten out the many files in the LWV San Francisco office, Martha Benioff and Heather Sterner found a small treasure, a booklet titled "A Vote in Time, A History of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco." It was written by Phyllis Levy who wrote about the period from 1911 to 1974 and by Cecile

Michael, a current member and former LWV president who wrote about the period from 1974 to 1985.

The following excerpt about events in 1932 during the Great Depression caught our eyes and representatives from other Bay Area Leagues asked us to share the following with them:

"With the wolf at the door and membership falling, an occasional paid speaker was presented for fundraising purposes. Profit from a lecture by economist Stuart Chase realized \$750, only to be counterbalanced by an equal deficit when Sinclair Lewis spoke. A luncheon for Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins was a social highlight but netted few dollars. Theodore Dreiser caused the Center president considerable anguish by demanding several cocktails before lunch, to the detriment of his post-luncheon speech. [LWVSF was first called the Center.] Henry Wallace, at the time a candidate for Vice-President of the United States, drew a record crowd of 400. Perennially successful both socially and for fundraising was a garden party held on the grounds of a Peninsula estate. The Center also sponsored a house tour, at that time a unique idea for fundraising.

FROM LWV BAY AREA MONITOR - A FISH TALE

By Robin Meadows

As a child growing up in the East Bay, Jeff Miller loved seeing salmon in Lagunitas Creek when he visited Point Reyes. "I was inspired to restore migratory fish in the Bay Area," he recalled. Miller ultimately chose Alameda Creek, which is the biggest local tributary to the San Francisco Bay and once had both salmon and steelhead trout.

Collectively known as salmonids, salmon and steelhead are born in freshwater, spend much of their lives in the ocean, and then return to freshwater to spawn. Because they depend on marine as well as inland environments, healthy populations of salmonids reflect healthy coastal ecosystems.

Moreover, these migratory fish also benefit coastal inland environments, where nutrients can be relatively scarce. Salmonids grow up in the nutrient-rich sea and, when they swim back up coastal waterways, transfer nitrogen and

phosphorous inland in the form of their bodies. Salmonids feed eagles, river otters, and other predators, and also fertilize plants growing along streams.

When Bay Area steelhead were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1997, Miller suddenly had a lot of help realizing his dream of restoring migratory fish in the Bay Area. "It was the catalyst to restoring Alameda Creek," said Miller, executive director of the Alameda Creek Alliance, a Fremont-based nonprofit dedicated to bringing salmon and steelhead trout back to Alameda Creek.

Since then, local, state, and federal agencies and organizations have collaborated on restoring steelhead in Alameda Creek. And now, 20 years later, the creek's biggest barrier to fish migration — a massive flood control structure in Fremont called the BART weir — is finally poised to be retrofitted with a fish ladder.

Historically, steelhead flourished in many creeks that flow into the Bay. But over the last 150 years, people built dams, stream crossings for roads and utilities, and other barriers that keep fish from migrating upstream. A 2004 State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) report identified 172 manmade barriers to fish in the Bay Area; Alameda Creek's watershed, which includes the creek as well as all the streams that flow into it, had the most by far at 96.

"A lot of the infrastructure was built in a world when there was no regard for wildlife, but there's no reason you can't have both," said Michael Bowen, an SCC project manager and chair of the California Fish Passage Forum, an association of public, private, and government organizations dedicated to removing barriers to fish migration in California. Fish-friendly designs are readily available these days, he added, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has engineers who are "delighted to advise municipalities" on how to incorporate fish passages.

A number of fish passage projects are in place or under way in the Bay Area, and many local creeks have the potential to help rebuild steelhead along the Central Coast. That said, Alameda Creek has the largest watershed in the Bay Area — and the bigger the watershed, the greater the chances of restoring steelhead. And those chances look good. Compared to salmon, which typically return to their natal streams to spawn, steelhead are much more flexible. "If one stream doesn't work, they'll just try another," Bowen said.

Alameda Creek used to have so many steelhead that the population was self-sustaining. But a decade ago, it was down to a single spawning pair called Bonnie and Clyde. "There were so few we were literally naming fish," recalled Joshua Fuller of the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is charged with restoring federally endangered marine species.

Even today, the Alameda watershed still has a scattering of steelhead. Some are captured below barriers and transported upstream by biologists; others are landlocked behind the dam in Calaveras Reservoir, which is in the hills east of Fremont and stores water for San Francisco. Another cause for optimism is that while the lower stretch of Alameda Creek is urban and channelized, the upper reaches still offer what steelhead need: gravel to spawn in, riparian canopy that shades the water and keeps it from getting too hot, and deep pools to live in when stream flow is low and temperatures are high. "There's some amazing habitat left," Fuller said.

The combination of remnant fish and suitable habitat boosts the likelihood of restoring steelhead. For that to happen, though, the fish need to be able to get into Alameda Creek in the first place — something they haven't been able to do since 1972, when the BART weir was built to protect the train tracks' creek crossing. "The

BART weir is the main barrier to adult steelhead returning to spawn," said the Alameda Creek Alliance's Miller.

Steelhead are prodigious leapers, jumping several times their body length of roughly two feet. But the fish are no match for the BART weir. "It's a sloping cement apron and has a 12-foot drop," Miller said. Videos show steelhead struggling to ascend the weir, only to fall back into the water below it. And just upstream of the BART weir lies another hurdle in the steelheads' obstacle course: a pair of rubber dams that divert water from Alameda Creek for the Alameda County Water District.

About 15 fish passage projects have been built in the Alameda Creek watershed so far, Miller said, and projects for the BART weir and rubber dams are almost ready to go. The funding is in place — \$1,000,000 each from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife — and construction is scheduled to start next year.

"It will reopen the entire watershed for the first time in almost 50 years," Miller said, adding, "Once those fish ladders go in and fish can make it to Sunol Regional Wilderness, it's going to be a game-changer."

His work isn't done yet, though. The lower stretch of Alameda Creek is a 12-mile flood control channel and is about as far from natural as possible. "It's a gauntlet for small fish," Miller said. As young steelhead make their way to the sea, the wide, shallow channel exposes them to predators. "Birds and invasive fish like bass are waiting to pick them off," he explained.

And young steelhead that do make it past this gauntlet face yet another challenge when they reach the Bay. "They need a place to grow big before going out to the ocean to avoid predation," Miller said. He hopes that the salt pond restoration at Eden Landing, which is near the mouth of Alameda Creek, will help give young steelhead this transitional habitat.

Projects to restore steelhead will also benefit salmon. "Chinook will do really well," Miller predicted, adding that because salmon are so big, they're likely to be more noticeable than steelhead.

Bringing migratory fish back into city-dwellers' lives also motivates the National Marine Fisheries Service's Fuller, who, like Miller, was inspired to work with migratory fish after seeing them in streams as a youth. "They're the essence of wild, spending part of their lives in the ocean," said Fuller, adding, "Hopefully we can bring them back for future generations."

Robin Meadows covers water for the Monitor

Thurs., Nov 2	Action Group	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive
Thurs., Nov 9	Board Meeting	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive
Fri., Nov 17	Movie Night	6:30 PM 3376 Country Drive "Paper Lanterns"
Thurs., Dec 7	Action Group Holiday Luncheon	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Location to be Announced
Thurs., Dec 14	Board Meeting	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Evelyn La Torre, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal
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OR GO ONLINE AT LWVFNUC.ORG!

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