



League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

Vol. 58 No 3 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* March 2015

## Addressing Income Inequality: State, County & Regional Efforts

**Saturday, April 25 - from 1-3 pm**

San Leandro Main Library Lecture Hall  
300 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro

**Director Christine Baker**

*Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)*

**James Paxson**

*Chair of the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board*

**Sasha Werblin**

*Economic Equity Director, Greenlining Institute*

- *Learn about the current statistics and effects of income inequality*
- *Find out about current efforts to reduce the gap in income and wealth*
- *Participate in determining a call to action to address income inequality*

**This is a free event but attendees should  
RSVP as follows:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=15699486587>  
or email [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) or call [\(510\) 394-4082](tel:5103944082)



Co-sponsored by  
League of Women Voters Eden Area (LWVEA)  
American Assoc. of University Women (AAUW)



## President's Report



A few words about our immediate Past-President, **Dr. Jennifer Ong** are in order. She is still a member of our Board and is putting together a program for our League for April 25 that will deal with Income Inequality. It

looks like a powerhouse program that you'll be hearing more about. Jennifer was also instrumental in setting up a successful and well-attended conference on the Status of Women on February 4 at the Hayward City Hall.

I attended my first Alameda County League of Women Voters meeting where the presidents of the six Alameda County leagues and other issue-oriented representatives discuss regional and state issues. I was very impressed with a report that we heard from Leslie Smith about the forthcoming LWVC Study of Higher Education. The Study will focus on access to college because we are at a crisis stage in terms of sharp declines in access for all students, but particularly for the students who come from the lowest quartile of the population. One appalling statistic is that only about 9% of the students from this group go on to any form of college now!

Her passing saddened many of us who worked with Doris Rodriguez, former City Council Member and community activist. However it was good to be in the large gathering that came to her memorial service on February 15. She made a significant difference in the quality of life in Hayward.

Finally, we are recruiting new Board members for FY July 2015-June 2016. Email me if you are interested.

*Delmo Della-Dora*

## BOARD BRIEFS FEB. 23 2015

- **Use of Technology** - Board approved Jennifer Ong's suggestion to use EventBright and GoogleVoice to take RSVPs and messages for the April 25, Income Inequality Forum. Both are free services and members and the public can rsvp online. Linda Morine helped Jennifer set up the two accounts.
- **Program Planning** - The Board approved, our response to the State League's request for guidance on what issues LWVC should educate and advocate on during 2015-17. We submitted: Campaign Finance Reform, Energy and Water.
- **Questions for Registrar of Voter Office** - LWVACC will re-send draft of letter to AC presidents for approval to send to the RoV. Questions in the letter concerned: costs for candidate statements, ballot measure information, location of precincts, uncontested races and method for purging voter rolls.
- **Upcoming Events** – Discussed: Meet Your Elected Officials (Feb.27), Wine Tasting Social (March 15), Income Inequality Forum (April 25) and Annual Meeting (June 13).
- **Membership Team** – Discussed the final details for the Wine Tasting on March 15 (see page 3) and approved a discount for new members who join in March.
- \* **Membership Status** - We now have 109 members and still have ten members who have not renewed. However, in the last few months we have gained 12 new members.

*LWVEA board meetings are open to the public and held on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Email [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) for agenda*

## YOU ARE INVITED.....



Please join our Eden Area League members at a wine tasting social and bring a friend who would like to know more about the League and membership.

This free event is our way of getting to know current members better and to encourage prospective members to join LWVEA. We will have an opportunity to discuss League priorities and ways in which the League can meet your needs

**Event:** Wine Tasting Social  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15  
**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** Doc's Wine Shop  
22570 Foothill Blvd,  
Hayward

**Parking:** Street parking available--also at the lots behind the AT&T building and Buffalo Bill's.

Looking forward to seeing you. LWVEA  
Membership Team  
Gail Lundholm (Chair) Joanne Young and  
Cossette Sun.

RSVP to Gail at [gala05@peoplepc.com](mailto:gala05@peoplepc.com) by Tuesday, March 10 for yourself and a friend.

## BALLOT COUNTING

LWVEA is looking for members who would like to help us count ballots for the Palomares homeowner's association on Tuesday, March 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Castro Valley. If interested, contact Suzanne at 510-538-9678 or [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net)

**Volunteers  
Needed!**

## LWV NOW SUPPORTS A LIVING WAGE

LWV Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville's Successful Campaign

In a startling and welcome reversal, the Board of the LWVUS has just decided that its Meeting Basic Human Needs position does permit state and local leagues to lobby in support of raising state or local minimum wages or adopting living wage provisions. The official announcement will come in an upcoming LWVUS President's weekly League Update.

LWVUS does indicate that state and local leagues will need to do the research necessary to determine what is an appropriate wage for their own community. What that wage is depends upon specific community situations. The relevant League would do its due diligence in researching the economic situation, including such things as the presence or absence of adequate mass transit and health insurance availability.

**A LIVING  
WAGE IS  
A MORAL  
VALUE**

In addition local leagues should consult with all the stakeholders including small business, labor, neighboring jurisdictions, possibly holding public forums and small group discussions. Then, if the League decides to act, working for a wage that fits the community has a good chance of getting passed.

The state of California, and the cities of Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco and others have recently adopted new increases in their minimum wage and many other Leagues will be able to lobby in their own communities.



## WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER CIMBERLY ENG-TAMURA

Cimberly Eng-Tamura is a fourth generation Californian raised in Oakland. Her father, Dr. Raymond Eng was the first Chinese American to be elected to the Oakland City Council in 1967.

She earned her BA from San Francisco State University and continued her studies obtaining her teaching credential and did her graduate work at UC Berkeley. She retired from teaching in the New Haven School District where she was a teacher and then administrator.

In 2011, she was appointed to the San Leandro Senior Commission by Mayor Stephen Cassidy and reappointed in 2015 by Mayor Pauline Cutter.

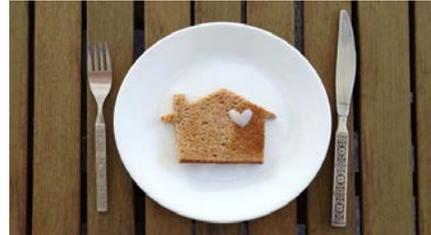
She has also served on the following community organizations: All Saints Episcopal Church Vestry; Wa Sung Community Service Club (Board Member and Head of Educational Grant Committee); Optimist Club, Past President, San Leandro Asian Community Cultural Assoc., Board member; and Toastmaster International, Treasurer.

Cimberly is looking forward to the many activities and challenges of being a League Board Member. Education and Women’s Rights are at the top of her issues priority list. She said she wants to do things that have a positive impact and hopes to be an active member.

## UPDATE ON HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS

I have been representing the League in serving on the Task Force to End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward and also meet with its Food Access Committee. The Task Force had an excellent meeting in February with Chris Richardson, a Director of the Downtown Streets Team. The group has had amazing

successes in working with the homeless in San Jose, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and San Rafael. San Francisco is now meeting with them to explore using their help for their homeless population. Their approach involves the homeless people themselves in working on the solutions to their plight. Go to [www.streetsteam.org](http://www.streetsteam.org) for more information.



The Food Access Committee of the Task Force has been receiving logistical assistance from the Mandela Organization in planning how to increase the amount of home grown produce available, how to make low-cost nutritious meals, and develop skills of low or no income people for jobs in commercial kitchens.

These are some hopeful notes to substitute for the songs of lament and woe that are prevalent throughout the country.

*Delmo Della-Dora*

## Hayward Honors Women—

**Past, Present and Future  
Thursday, March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.  
Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street**

Moderator, from NBC’s “The Mix” Janet Reilly with special guests Ana Rangel, Gail Steele, Cecily Joseph and Farima Pour-Khorshid

Join us for networking opportunities and lively panel discussion featuring four remarkable Hayward women taking on women’s issues past, present and future. Free admission. Light refreshments to follow program. Contact Sara Lamnin for more information at [saralamnin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saralamnin@sbcglobal.net)

## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY FOCUSES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Four members of LWVEA attended the BALD on Climate Change and agreed it was an outstanding and informative conference. The program included a panel of speakers on **How to Achieve 2050 GHG Targets; Adapting to Sea Level Rise and Local Impacts of Climate Change**, Each session was an eye opener.

Several speakers emphasized that Climate Change is here—it is not something that we have time to figure out how to avoid. They likened it to the story about the frog being put a pot of cold water and set on a stove to heat. The frog is very comfortable swimming in the water until he realizes he is being cooked and can't extricate himself. At present, many jurisdictions at every level are either planning or implementing plans to take action on either avoiding or adapting to Climate Change.

For those of you who were not able to attend the conference, you can watch the videos made by going to <http://www.regional-video.com>.

In addition, the February/March edition of the **Bay Area Monitor** also has devoted the issue to **Taking Local Action on Climate Change**, and includes an article on **Sequestering Carbon Dioxide in Agricultural Land, Rising Tides Expected to Take Toll on Transportation Infrastructure, and Tapping Water Supplies from the Drain**.

You can find these interesting and informative articles at <http://bayareamonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/feb15.pdf>

## UPDATE ON STATUS OF IMPORTANT ISSUES

**FRACKING** - Recently several members of LWVEA attending a AC Planning Commission meeting to learn whether the ACPC would take action on a

recommendation by the Planning Department staff to add an amendment to the AC General Plan to prohibit “permits for new oil exploration, drilling and extraction activities in Alameda County with the goal of reducing, over time, the land use of petroleum extraction.”

There are still some active wells in the Livermore area and others that have been abandoned. None of them have used the fracking method with these wells, but nothing, as present, prevents them from using that method in the future. Many speakers spoke against fracking and in favor of adding the amendment to the General Plan. Several speakers representing the oil and petroleum industry spoke against the amendment.

**TRAINS CARRYING HAZARDOUS BAKKEN OIL** - More than 141 “unintentional releases” were reported from railroad tankers in 2014, an all-time high and a nearly six-fold increase over the average of 25 spills per year during the period from 1975 to 2012, according to records of the federal **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**.

The increase adds yet another dimension to the controversy over the construction of oil pipelines such as the **Keystone XL**. Oil industry advocates contend that pipelines are safer than rail for moving flammable petroleum, while opponents say pipelines tend to experience much **larger spills**. The latest spill also highlights well-documented shortcomings in the local preparedness for accidents involving hazardous rail cargo, safety experts say.

People's lives are at stake, clean drinking water is at stake, and the well-being of towns and wildlife along thousands of miles of rail line are directly in harm's way of this unchecked, reckless increase in oil transport by rail.

(Information from *Washington Post* article 2-24-15) Also, check out this website <http://explosive-crude-by-rail.org/> - [VOUGxQNPyr](http://explosive-crude-by-rail.org/)



## **WANTED BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

As you may have noticed, we put on several functions a year. We need your help, even if only for a few hours each year. Examples of the following ways you can participate in the League this year:

Board member

Committee member

*Membership Committee*

*Voter Service Activities*

*Database Activities*

A participant in a study this year or next such as education

Letter writing to our representatives and elected officials

VOTER help with articles or layout

Refreshments for meetings

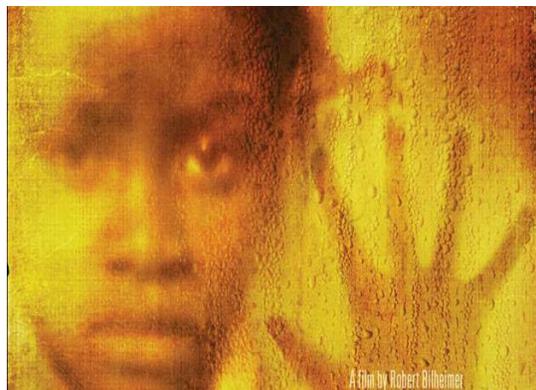
Donate home for meetings

May be available to help with a specific activity (For example, for voter registration drive, new member orientation, holiday party, annual meeting, fundraiser, etc.)

- Mentor new members
- Recruit new members
- Photographer for Event

Please contact Nancy Van Huffel at 510.562.4473 or email [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) and let her know your interests.

## **“NOT MY LIFE” Documentary Screening –**



**Not My Life** is the first film to depict the cruel and dehumanizing practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale.

Tuesday, March 10

6 to 8 p.m.

Castro Valley Library, Chabot Room  
3600 Norbridge Ave, Castro Valley

Filmed on five continents, in a dozen countries. **Not My Life** takes viewers into a world where millions of children are exploited, every day through an astonishing array of practices including forced labor, domestic servitude, sexual violence and child soldiering.

Sponsored by the American Assoc. of University Women and the Castro Valley Library.

For more information contact Liz at [lbbathgate@worldnet.att.net](mailto:lbbathgate@worldnet.att.net)

# Meet Your Elected Officials Event--February 27, 2015



Kudos to Penny Peck (Chair) and her team of Cimberly Eng-Tamura (food), Suzanne Barba (publicity), Aihua "Aiwa" Zelinsky (photographer), Delmo Della-Dora (Pres.), plus helpers Gail Lundholm, Sally Morgan, Nancy Van Huffel, Joanne Young, and Cossette Sun.

Also, special thanks to Hayward City Council for co-sponsoring the event. We had 80 attendees, 30 of them elected officials, and presentations from 17 agencies...a wonderful opportunity to learn about each agencies' priorities.



**League of Women Voters of Eden Area**

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678  
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro  
 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
 Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:  
 League of Women Voters of Eden Area  
 Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Dues:** Regular \$50,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> member same Household \$25,  
 Student \$20

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

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**CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mar. 10	6-8 p.m.	Not My Life – Documentary Screening (see page 6)
Mar. 15	2-4 p.m.	Wine Tasting Social (see page 3) <b>SPECIAL EVENT FOR NEW MEMBERS</b>
Mar. 17	6 p.m.	Counting Ballots for Palomares HOA, CV (see page 3)
Mar. 23	5:45 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting (see page 2)
Mar. 26	5-7 p.m.	Hayward Honors Women (see page 4)
April 25	1-3 p.m.	Income Inequality Forum (see page 1)
April 27	5:45 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events,  
 email: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) or check out [www.LWVEA.org](http://www.LWVEA.org)**