



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.62 #3 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* April 2019

League of Women Voters Eden Area
"Searching for Gems"

Join us for a social mixer for league members and potential members!



Wed., April 3, 2019

5:30-7:30pm

18003 Center St., Castro Valley, CA

RSVP to Carolyn Darcey at
cdarcey@pacbell.net, or 510-325-9054.

Beverages and appetizers will be served.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY,
JUNE 22, 2019, 9AM-NOON
LWVEA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Castro Valley Office of Education,
4400 Alma St.



At our annual business meeting, we will vote in our new board members, approve our budget, and receive ideas from our members concerning top priorities for 2019-2020. We will also hear from our guest speaker Casey Farmer, discussing the 2020 U.S. Census and related League efforts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

International Women's Day!

Our league was a cosponsor of the International Women's Day event held at Hayward City Hall on Friday, March 8th. The event attracted a full house, hearing speakers on several fascinating topics relating to girls and education.



(LWVEA members Penny Peck and Barisha Spriggs at the wine table)

The program began with an inspiring performance by Mt. Eden High School student Pooja Rathaur, who gave an oratorical reading of "Why, Because I am a Girl," recounting the many injustices that oppress females around the world.

Dr. Karen Hossfeld discussed the negative impacts of popular culture on girls with her lively presentation "Who do We Teach Girls to Be?" I heard several comments that this sexism continues into politics, with unfair criticisms of female elected officials regarding the way they are critiqued for their voices or tone. Then, Najia Karim, director of the Cultural Society of Afghan Women spoke on girls' achievement and quest for education in Afghanistan.

Dr. Daniel Perlman from UC Berkeley described a project he is working on called "Pathways to Choice: Delaying Marriage through Girls' Education in Rural Niger." All of the speakers referred to the data that shows the better the educational achievement a woman has, the better off economically the family will be.

This is the first time such an event has been held in the Eden Area, a collaboration between Dining for Women, a nonprofit that raises funds for international women's projects, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Eden Area Interfaith Council, Hayward Unified School District, and Hayward-Ghazni Sister Cities Committee (HGSCC). Dining for Women's Pat Payne was the coordinator of the event.



There was abundant food and wine available, all for free, which added to the celebratory feeling. Each partner had an information table; our league's table was helmed by Carolyn Darcey, Janice Friesen, and Aiwa Zelinsky (pictured here).

I look forward to volunteering at the event again next year! Since our league's main goal is to educate voters, beginning with women voters, the event's mission was right in line with ours. And next year, we will be the League's 100th anniversary, a great opportunity to celebrate our achievements and ongoing

relevance!

*Penny Peck, President
Eden Area League of Women Voters*

Bay Area League Day 2019 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the Bay Area DEI in Action – DEI in Practice?

LWVEA members Rita Duncan and Carolyn Darcey attended Bay Area League Day 2019. It was a full day with many speakers.

The Key Note speaker was Virginia Kase, CEO, League of Women Voters of the U.S. These are some of the key points to Virginia's talk:

- DEI is not only about race
- We need to right the wrongs of our past
- Critical to the survival of the League and an obstacle to achieving our goals

What are we doing about it?

- Provide opportunities for individual learning. "If you feel bad, you're growing."
- Align the organization through policy changes and decision making. "Are we being equitable with all decisions being made?"
- Model who we aim to be.
- Build impactful relationships. Building power means sharing the power.

Laura Eberly, Director of Social Change for the YWCA, S.F. and Marin spoke about the programs that the YWCA is working on to address diversity. Their Steps for Success are:

1. Know who you are.
2. Ask what kind of diversity and why it matters for you.
3. Know – and expand – what you're ready to change.

In the afternoon, a panel spoke on "Policy Changes – DEI Doesn't Just Happen". Three speakers talked about the efforts in each of their organizations: S.F. Foundation, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Following the panel were speakers on Allies, Partners and Coalitions. A diversity ally is someone who is willing to take action in support of another person, in order to remove barriers that impede that person from contributing their skills and talents in the workplace or community.

It was a very full day with a lot of information. The audio/visual in the room was not working so we were unable to view a couple of videos planned for the day. Very informative but it was not easy to apply all of the information to our particular League.

Carolyn Darcey, LWVEA Membership Chair

MEET YOUR ELECTEDS 2019



The League of Women Voters Eden Area held its biannual Meet Your Electeds event on March 12, 2019 at the Castro Valley library, enjoying food organized by Carolyn Darcey and Rita Duncan, and hearing from our local elected officials who were able to attend. Every chair was filled with 24 officials in attendance, and approximately 60 of our members and local residents.

The official program began with welcoming remarks from our board member Jewell Spalding, who organized the event, with assistance from Penny Peck and several other board members, including Janice Friesen, Lynda Foster, Aiwa Zelinsky, Marian Handa, and Richard Maurer.

Each elected board was given just three minutes to name a major goal or two for 2019, and a brief introduction to who they serve and their mission. The first speakers were Mayor Barbara Halliday of Hayward and Mayor Pauline Cutter of San Leandro, who spoke on each city's focus for the upcoming year. Many of these were projects addressing housing, economic development, and environmental issues.

Newly elected trustee for the Chabot/Las Posidas board, Linda Granger (pictured above), spoke about her board. Many educators know Ms. Granger because she is also the superintendent of Eden Area ROP. Her presentation was followed by three of the four local school boards: Jo Loss for Castro Valley, Penny Peck for San Lorenzo, and April Oquenda and Ken Rawdon for Hayward (pictured below). San Leandro board members were unable to attend. All the school board representatives spoke on the diversity of our student populations and the importance for all students to feel included,

respected, and welcome at our schools, no matter what culture they come from or language they speak. Hayward announced the exciting news that they will be building a Performing Arts center this year.



Other boards spoke on their mission and goals for the upcoming year. Both Hayward Area Recreation's Rick Hatcher and East Bay Regional Parks' Dennis Waespi spoke on the many projects they are working on and reminded attendees that they hire many young adults during the summer.

Environmental concerns are often the focus of some of our other boards, as explained by Dan Walters of Oro Loma Sanitary District and Frank Mellon of

East Bay Municipal Utility District. Social concerns were also addressed by Diane Shaw of AC Transit and Mariellen Faria of Eden Township Healthcare.

Our final speaker was Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, who talked about several projects they are addressing, including possible uses for the Colosseum site. Many of the speakers already mentioned are LWVEA members, as are Hayward City Council member Sara Lamnin, HARD Director Minane Jameson, Oro Loma Directors Rita Duncan and Shelia Young, all of whom were in attendance.

Thanks to all of our members who worked on the project, and to the elected officials who made the time to attend and speak to constituents one on one, and to Jewell Spalding for her leadership.

Monetary Donations from our Members

Over the past nine months, the Eden Area League has been fortunate to have received \$1,255 in monetary donations from our members, as well as from two non-members and one church, as thanks and support for the work we do in our communities. This is over and above our annual membership dues, and these additional donations are highly valued and put to good use by our League. The additional donations ranged from \$1 to \$200, and all are appreciated.

We honor those who have made these donations in this April VOTER: **Parvin Ahmadi, Eileen Barr, Ursala Batz, Rene' Besold, Carolyn Darcey, Norman Fobert, Lynda Foster, Janice**



Friesen, Marian Handa, Judith Harrison, Richard Hatcher, Minane Jameson, Victoria Jane Joyce, Allison Lewis, Sherman Lewis, Jo Loss, Richard Maurer, Jo-Ann Murdoch, Jim Negri, Mark Norberg, Palma Ceia Baptist Church, Dorothy Partridge, Kenneth Pon, Julie Quayle, Laurel Quirk, Helen Rothschild, Cornelia Rusk, Christianne Selig, Tom Silva, Joanne Young, Shelia Young. A big thank you to all of you!

Welcome New Member Rita Sklar



Rita Sklar is an award-winning artist; three of her paintings have been selected for banners to hang in San Francisco. She received the “Award of Distinction” from the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She was a finalist for the BBC International Wildlife Artist. A Signature Member of the California Watercolor Association (CWA), she received two Oakland City grants and a commission from Alameda County. Sklar’s work was selected for the National Watercolor Society in Los Angeles. The Triton Museum featured her work in their

Statewide Competition. Eight of Sklar’s paintings were commissioned by the recently opened Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.

Ms Sklar was born and raised in New Jersey. A graduate of Rutgers’ University, she served in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa for two years. Sklar studied watercolors with a master painter in Madrid, Spain for one year. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. She was a long-time member of the LWVO.

Ms. Sklar is a member of the S.F. Women Artists Gallery, Valley Art Center in Walnut Creek, and the Adobe Gallery (Art Inc.). Visit her website at www.ritasklar.com. Contact Rita Sklar at RitaAtArt@yahoo.com.

TENNYSON HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT

On Friday, May 3rd, the Tennyson High School Social Studies Department, in partnership with the LWVEA, will be hosting a Coming of Age Voter Registration Drive for Tennyson High seniors.

During their Government/Economics class, the seniors will learn about the importance of voting; enjoy the creative works of the art contest winners; register or pre-register to vote; participate in a mock election; and conclude with a celebration of their coming of age to vote. The event is made possible by a Teaching Tolerance grant from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

HOORAY FOR OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are our life blood. Without them, we would not be as strong an organization as we are, and we certainly wouldn't have the financial stability that we do.

Volunteers are our heart!

Because of our volunteers and the work they do, we are able to keep our membership dues the lowest in the Bay Area. Actually, we do not make any profit on League dues, so we need to subsidize our budget every year with fundraising in order to pay expenses related to voter service and other related activities .

We have two major fundraisers, one is our Holiday Auction and the other is conducting homeowner elections. We have been fortunate to provide this service to a large Homeowner Association for the past five years.

Joanne Young, former co-president of the League, has chaired the League's Election Team for the past two years. This has required her to spend countless hours working with our contracted homeowners association: receiving individual ballots, checking them to verify they are homeowners, and making sure they have followed election instructions. She also prepares weekly reports for the Association Manager, recruits League volunteers for ballot counting, and prepares after-election reports for the homeowners.



Joanne's team consisted of two dedicated Leaguer's helping her:



Susan Kleebauer
(left) and (right)
Shelia Young



Joanne, Sue, and Shelia were present for two Homeowner Board meetings to receive ballots from homeowners, count ballots, and provide election results to the Homeowners' Association. They were also available to handle any disputes that may have occurred with the election. Also, Nancy Van Huffel provided logistic and administrative support.

Finally, for this year's contract, the on-site volunteers also included additional League members who helped open, tally, and verify over 500 ballots. They included Carolyn Darcey, Membership Chair, Janice Friesen, Voter Service Chair and Marian Handa, Secretary. Thanks again to this wonderful team of League volunteers who raised over \$2,000 for us this year!

This activity demonstrates how critical volunteers are to the health and long-term viability of organizations like ours. During the year, our volunteers help staff functions like the Holiday Auction, Meet Your Elected Officials, Ballot Pros and Cons, Candidate Forums and registering voters at schools, BART stations, libraries, and other events. Only through our Volunteers can the Eden Area League remain strong. Please consider volunteering for a few hours or more each month. Contact any Board member... *See last page.*



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/826-6674
Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

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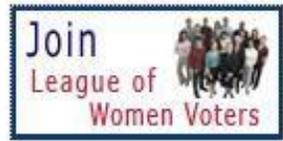
League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer
P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dues: Regular \$60
2nd member same household
\$30,
Student \$25



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.

For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

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