

**FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY**

**MARCH 2015**

## ***GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION***

**Monday, March 23, 2015**

**6:30 Meet & Greet**

**7:00 Program**

**Fremont Congregational Church  
38255 Blacow Rd, Fremont**

An In-Depth Look at Legislation

Presented by:

Amanda & Nick Wilcox  
Legislative & Policy Co-Chairs of the  
California Chapters  
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun  
Violence

Co-Sponsors  
Tri-City Alameda Co. Chapter  
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun  
Violence  
and  
League of Women Voters  
of  
Fremont, Newark & Union City

## **An Evening with the Washington Hospital Board**

**Monday, March 9, 7 p.m.**

**Meet & Greet 6:45 p.m.**

Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd  
Fremont

Come and Learn how the board works  
for the community and represents the  
voters from Board members  
President Pat Danielson  
and  
Dr. Bernard Stewart, D.D.S.

A Question and Answer session will  
follow their presentation.

Co-Sponsors  
Alameda County Library  
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Women  
League of Women Voters  
of  
Fremont, Newark & Union City

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



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#### Presidents Message

Ever wonder how our League accomplishes so much? We do it by spreading our efforts around. We've talked with members both on and off the Board and sometimes hear members can't be on the Board or commit much time. Our answer - none of us can! Sam refers to us as the "Traveling League" as many of our Board and regular members find great joy in traveling the country and the world. So we on the Board share our workload without regard to our "position" to make things happen. And, we rely on all our members to help whenever possible with studies, projects, and meetings.

Why are we writing about this? Two things are happening right now - one, our Nominating Committee chaired by Gale Blalock is looking for people to serve on the Board. One of the joys of being on our Board is working with such great people - there are no personal agendas on this Board - we work together.

Second, the basis of League action is study and consensus on issues leading to action. There are three new studies coming up; two National and one State. We encourage you to get involved in one or more of these studies. One is "Money in Politics" with a study guide and questions becoming available in the fall; this study must be completed by February 2016. The next is a State study on "Higher Education" with a focus on access. This study will conclude in April of 2016. Lastly, there will be a third study on Amending the U.S. Constitution ending in August of 2016. We are actively looking for study leaders and members. Please contact us at [President@lwvfnuc.org](mailto:President@lwvfnuc.org) if you are interested in one or more of these studies.

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Editor Alex Starr  
Layout Design: Jane Mueller, Well Chosen Words

## Bay Area League Day

Bay Area League Day focused on Climate Change in the Bay Area and what the League can do to address the issue. Supporting public policies that are already in place and expanding on them seemed to be a theme for the day. Here are some of the ideas presented.

**AB 32** mandates decreasing greenhouse emissions and makes rules for refinery emissions. By 2030, we need to generate 50% of our energy from renewals. This includes more electric cars with carbon neutral batteries, more energy efficient buildings, and cap and trade measures that would especially benefit low-income communities. Looking at measures that benefit the environment and are in line with supporting social justice was a recurring theme.

**SB 375 (Plan Bay Area)** relies on land management at the local level to plan growth that decreases emissions. MTC's Plan Bay Area addresses incentives that support this idea. Every element in TOD (Transit Oriented Development) should be checked to make certain it addresses these goals in an environmentally friendly manner and also supports social justice goals in the region.

How can the League help shift public opinion and get law makers to act to support these goals?

- Ask candidates and elected officials the hard questions in forums and public events.
- Support infill with density when possible coupled with public transit so the economically disadvantaged have a place to live and a way to get to their jobs.
- Work on the "first and last mile" of going to work to get people to the door after they leave public transit. That is often what keeps people in their cars.
- Support measures that lower transportation costs for everyone.
- Continue to monitor air resources, MTC, and public agencies that must respond to public scrutiny.
- Support educating the public with the scientific facts about climate change.
- Consider rising sea levels when deciding which legislation or TOD to support.
- Continue to follow the money when laws are being proposed and either supported or opposed by industry and campaign contributors.
- Work with coalitions to maximize impact

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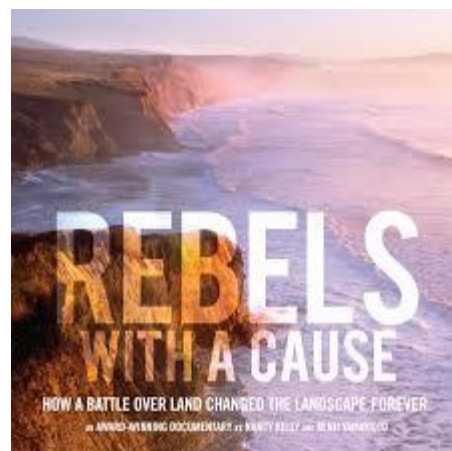
### FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Co-sponsored with Tri-City Ecology

#### **REBELS WITH A CAUSE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>  
3375 COUNTRY DRIVE  
6 p.m. Meet & Greet  
6:30 Movie

REBELS WITH A CAUSE provides the David and Goliath origin for one of America's most visited, and arguably it's most beautiful, urban national parks - Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. When California was the nation's fastest-growing state, a handful of politically savvy activists awakened their neighbors, local farmers, and officials to the threat of sprawl and over-development. Passionately, tirelessly, endlessly, they raised support for conservation, successfully battling the most powerful opponents of their day in big industry and government. Their efforts set new precedents for protecting open space and shaped the environmental movement as we know it today.



***A tribute to Don Dillon, one of the first male members of our League.***



**The Last of our Lions - Don Dillon**

When I heard of Don Dillon's death last week, I thought a lot about his influence on this great city and on those of us who live here. I was reminded of John McCain's quote when Ted Kennedy died in 2009, "He was the last lion."

Don Dillon was our last lion. He was the last connection to those who created Fremont in 1956 and built the foundation upon which we have grown since the beginning. Don was elected to the City Council in 1962, reelected in 1966, 1970, and 1974, serving a total of 16 years. During that time, Fremont grew from a population of 75,000 people to about 125,000 when he left office.

That foundation was embodied in our first General Plan, adopted in 1959, winning planning awards for its vision and for the City Council's support for it. That General Plan became the issue at every election for many years. Candidates were defined by their support or opposition to the General Plan. Don led those in support.

Each election, in the early days, (and, there were a lot of them – more than one a year for the first 20 years) focused on that vision. The voters usually supported those in favor of the General Plan, but many of the elections were failed bond issues to build the community facilities Fremont needed. It seemed the voters wanted to have a city, but they didn't want to pay for it.

It took leadership to build Fremont. Our "lions" built the foundation so well that bad councils (there have been a few) could not diminish the value of

what we were building. They built exactly what they set out to build – a great place for families, to raise a child, to live a good life. And we are not done yet. Their vision is still before us.

Don Dillon served as Mayor 5 times when the position was selected by the council. He represented Fremont on regional agencies such as MTC and ABAG where he served as President.

In the very recent past, we have lost many of those who created and shaped this city, the "lions" such as Geoff Steele, Carl Flegal, Jack Parry, and Bill Van Doorn. As the last of these lions, Don will be missed. His input into this city will be felt for as long as it exists.

Leo Rosten offered the following definition. It was sent to me many years ago by Dale Christensen and I have quoted it often. In looking it up to make sure I had it right, I found that it had been published, appropriately, in The Rotarian in the 1960's.

*THE PURPOSE OF LIFE is not to be happy. The purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make some difference that you lived at all. Happiness, in the ancient, noble sense, means self-fulfillment - and is given to those who use to the fullest whatever talents God or luck or fate bestowed upon them.*

Happiness, to me, lies in stretching, to the farthest boundaries of which we are capable, the resources of the mind and heart.

In all aspects of his life, especially as it involves Fremont, Don Dillon lived a productive and happy life. We all will miss him, but we will benefit from his contribution to our quality of life for so long as we live in Fremont.

Gus Morrison

*Editor's Note: Don was a life long supporter of the League. Gus Morrison was and is another life long League supporter. We thank him for this eloquent tribute to Don. Mary Ann Dillon served as a founding member of our League and as our President. She was instrumental in setting the example of excellence for future League leaders and members. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mary Ann and the entire Dillon family.*



## Fremont Housing Meeting

Over two dozen people attended the February 24th League sponsored panel discussion on the affordable housing challenges facing Fremont. The well informed panel included Mark Thomasee, Fremont Fair Housing, May Lee, COF Housing Project Manager and John Nguyen-Cleary, Fremont Human Relations Commission. We learned the greatest need is for housing for extremely low income, very low income and low income families. It was disheartening to realize Newark and Fremont have some of the lowest numbers of units in the Bay Area to meet the need. In the most recent 7 year period ending in 2013, Fremont met only 14% of the needed homes affordable to the extremely and very low income families, while achieving 140% of the needed homes for above moderate income families.

The panelists showed some of the recent projects and how the City of Fremont is working with developers to maximize housing for this population. Fremont City Council will address a revised Housing Ordinance at the March 3, 2015 Council meeting. This will be an opportunity for the city to address our growing need for affordable housing.

**DON'T MISS OUR TWO MEETINGS IN MARCH. BE INFORMED, BE INVOLVED!**



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## *Bay Area Monitor* History, Part III: Expansion Excitement

By Leslie Stewart

By the mid-1980s, the Bay Area was flourishing — but not without consequences. Growing suburbs meant freeways jammed with commuters, jeopardizing progress toward meeting air quality standards. Water management agencies, required to meet the increasing demand, encountered a five-year drought. Onlookers worried that environmental mitigations required by the California Environmental Quality Act weren't adequately enforced.

In reaction to the growth surge, regional parklands were expanding, while the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission was creating guidelines for waterfront housing developments, commercial fishing, and water-related industry.

The *Bay Area Monitor* covered all this and more between 1986 and 1995. In mid-1986, a lead

article introduced the concept of “jobs-housing balance.” Coverage of transportation corridor plans — Highway 101 North and Interstate 80 — was succeeded by articles on “traffic mitigation” to reduce auto use, and then by reports on congestion management plans.

Air quality coverage expanded from smog to air toxics as new regulations addressed the health aspects of air pollution. As Adelia Sabiston, former president of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, noted, “The Bay Area League lobbied the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to take this on, before the federal regulations.” In the Santa Clara Valley, where toxic chemicals from semiconductor industries had contaminated groundwater, the cleanup led to an Integrated Environmental Management Plan covering water, air, and ground.

With a single staff person to cover multiple agencies and topics, the *Monitor* engaged

League of Women Voters members as “monitors” to observe and report on the myriad of meetings involved in the IEMP and other plans.

Several of these observers also wrote for the *Monitor*. Jo Nugent wrote special editions on ozone, the San Francisco Estuary, and Bay-Delta planning, as well as regular articles about water management. Sabiston observed the Air District for many years, and in addition to regular articles, also wrote a special edition on air quality. She characterized it as “an attempt to draw attention to the topic during quite a long period in which there was no improvement in federal air quality planning.”

An article on an Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) earthquake planning workshop appeared in the July/August 1989 edition; shortly thereafter, the October 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake forced the *Monitor* to re-locate its office from Oakland to Lafayette. Yvonne San Jule Koshland, who retired in 1987 as an ABAG planner, recently recalled that “ABAG had been studying earthquakes for some time, focusing on preparedness and recovery.” Numerous articles in the years after Loma Prieta looked at earthquake planning, the impacts on park agencies, and seismic retrofits to the Golden Gate Bridge and by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. A 1990 article on fire control in the “urban interface” preceded the 1991 Oakland Hills fire; it was followed by many articles on fire restoration and prevention.

Other themes as the region entered the 1990s included ferries and increased rail service, especially the new Capitol Corridor trains. Ridesharing and employer-based trip reduction programs were primary congestion management strategies. New on the scene were electronic toll collection, BART paratransit services,

alternative fuels, the concept of “growth management,” and two residential air quality programs, “Spare the Air” and “Don’t Light Tonight.” Drought impacts and water supply management plans were constant topics. By the mid-1990s, writers were reporting on proposals for intelligent vehicle highway systems, new state requirements for “clean” cars, and accommodating multi-modal freight movement. A shared farecard pilot project called TransLink premiered in 1993, and in 1995 there was a new event called “Bike to Work Day.”

Relationships between agencies — a constant topic in previous years — received attention again when a two-year study by a committee of influential Bay Area decision-makers proposed merging several large regional agencies for more efficient regional planning. The Bay Vision 2020 Plan was summarized in a 1991 *Monitor* edition. According to Koshland, who was following the process for the League, “It lacked a bit of extra support” in the legislature, and went nowhere. “It was the fate of all those efforts,” she lamented.

When *Monitor* editor Ernestine DeFalco retired in 1995, she had greatly expanded the publication’s coverage since assuming the role in 1984. Adding Bayshore planning, parks, water and wastewater services, and transit services to the original transportation and air quality planning topics, she also built a group of well-informed observers and writers. MTC honored her with an award for work on her own forte, transportation issues, shortly after her retirement.

*Leslie Stewart is the most recent former editor of the Bay Area Monitor.*

Monday, March 9	Washington Hosp. Board Presentation	7 p.m., Fremont Main Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd
Thursday, March 12	Action Group	11-1 League Office, 3375 Country Dr, Fremont
Monday, March 16	Board Meeting	7 p.m., League Office, 3375 Country Dr, Fremont
Monday, March 23	Gun Violence Prevention	7 p.m., Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Rd, Fremont

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

**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 Sets Amann, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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