



The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City

V O T E R

Voting

Democracy

Civic Engagement

Update on Health Care

A Discussion of Health Care Changes
from Local Experts

October 19, 2009

7:00 Networking, 7:30 Program

Fremont Congregational Church

38255 Blacow Rd., Fremont

Saving the Bay Documentary Premieres in October

Follow the storied history of San Francisco Bay with Saving the Bay, a four-hour documentary series premiering on public television in October. Narrated by Robert Redford, famed actor and environmentalist, the four one-hour episodes trace the Bay from its geologic origins following the last Ice Age through decades of catastrophic exploitation, to the restoration efforts of today.

Set your recorders or catch it live as Saving the Bay premieres on Thursday, Oct. 8 and Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. on KQED 9HD. It will also air for four consecutive weeks - one episode each Thursday - from Oct. 22 to Nov. 12 at 9 p.m. on KTEH 54/Comcast 10. Episode titles are Marvel of Nature (Prehistory-1848); Harbor of Harbors (1849-1906); Miracle Workers (1906-1959); and Bay in the Balance (1960-Present).

For additional information, visit www.kqed.org/savingthebay or www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/saving_the_bay.htm

President's Report

As the U.S. Congress struggles to find an answer to health care reform, local Leagues across the country are trying to give the public ways to understand the issues behind the proposed reforms. We will continue to offer nonpartisan information on our web site, letters to the editor, our Voting Matters program and an October general meeting on health care reform. Information is power. Information defeats fear. Information promotes positive discussion and debate.

With the spotlight off national elections this year, we have more time to support our local November election in Newark with two forums, one for city council candidates and one for a Pro/Con discussion of Newark's Measure L. Come to the Newark City Council chambers on October 1st and support our League's effort to inform and educate the public.

As always, we need more observers for our city council, school board and elected boards like ACWD and Union Sanitary District. Our observers serve a specific purpose. They let the Action Committee and the board know when open government procedures are not being followed, when questionable actions are taken, and advise us when League action should be considered. They are vital to our overall mission of informing and educating the public.

Finally, we need to ask you to volunteer a few hours of your time on Fridays. With our new office in the Cultural Arts Center on Country Drive comes a responsibility for us to provide a volunteer at the front desk to answer the phone and take messages for the Center. Hours are from 11-2. Activity is low – maybe 4 to 5 phone calls in that time period. Consider this a time to catch up on your reading and serve the League as well.

—Alex Starr



Board Briefs. Sept. 22 meeting.

Accepted minutes and treasurer's reports as presented.

Adopted a policy and procedures for tribute donations.

Discussed ways to celebrate League's 90th anniversary on February 14, 2010.

Encouraged board members and other League members) to attend Oct. 24th LWVC workshop in Palo Alto.

Notes that AAUW will feature Great Decisions on first Wednesday of the month from January-June.

Changed board meeting date for the rest of 2009 to the Second Monday of the month starting on October 12th.

Welcome our new member: Gay McDaniel

Attention—Get your 2009-10 dues in right away to get in the membership Directory.

Check out Washington Hospital' s Channel 78 for an informative program on SB 3200, the House Health Care bill.

Action Committee

We will also continue to follow the issue of gray water, as it quickly moves through the legislative process in Sacramento.

We learned that both Miriam Keller and John Smith were planning a presentation to the Golden State Mobile Home Owners League at Besaro Mobile Home Park in Fremont in mid-September. Their presentation topic will be the Fremont Housing Element and our local League. We'll look forward to hearing their report at the October Action meeting.

Certainly, the one topic on everyone's mind these days is Health Care Reform. Washington Hospital learned of the very informative and non-partisan LWV Arizona material on our website (thanks, Alex), and was very impressed. It will be promoted as their cable channel 78 airs extensive analysis of HB 3200.

Not to be outdone, our very own Syeda Yunus moderated our September Voting Matters program on the topic of--what else--Health Care Reform. Dr. Dan Morgan, retired orthopedic surgeon and former Chief of Staff and member of the ethics committee of Washington Hospital was our guest. A meticulous researcher on the topic, he answered questions on the pertinent issues related to reform. You will not want to miss this one! Thank you Marilyn Singer for serving as "point person" for this valuable program.

The scoping for the EIR for the Masonic Home site is progressing, and there will be an election in November 2010 to decide on zoning issues.

Are you interested in seeing the salaries of public employees working in cities, counties and special districts, such as the Washington Hospital District, in our geographic area? All of this public information can be found on the website of the Contra Costa Times Newspaper -- www.contracostatimes.com. We plan to put up a link on the League's website.

All are invited to our next Action meeting, October 1, 12:30-2:00 at Kay Emanuele's home. --Andrea Schacter

AC Transit

AC Transit is trying to recruit a "public" member of their pension board. There is no reimbursement for this service, other than for very occasional travel to training programs. The board has a very high fiduciary duty, and attention to detail is important. The board usually meets once a month.

AC has extended the deadline for applications to NOON on Thursday, October 15th.

If you are interested, or know of someone in our league who might be, please review the information below. Applicants are preferred but not required to live within the AC Transit District boundaries.

Information about the position (which still has the old deadline) and an application form are available at www.ACTransit/news.

If you have any questions, contact the District Secretary, Linda

Your Email Address:

The Key to Being an Informed League Member!

In order to effectively communicate not only within the organization, but also with those outside the League that we want to educate and involve in our activities — we need to be able to operate with what technology offers us! And so, more and more Leagues are conveying important information via electronic means. From local Voters to legislative action alerts, from Program Planning materials to Board reports. And why not? It ' s quick, inexpensive, timely and helps information be easily transferred to others.

In order not to be left out of important information streams, we are encouraging two things:

1. Members share their email address with the League and keep it current in the national database, and
2. Leagues are mindful and prudent about how much email is sent each month to our members so as not to wear out our welcome.

For example, LWVUS does not sell or trade member email addresses. We also send one email each month with our online newsletter the Leagu-E-Voice to all members with email addresses. LWVUS also sends occasional national action alerts to those on our grassroots lobby list and leaders receive a regularly times update once a week. Email is also easily deleted if you don ' t want to read it. But if you don ' t receive it — you may miss out on important League materials.

Be sure the League has your email address. Individual members can add their own email address to the national database through the national website, www.lwv.org and then to " For Members " and then " Update Your Information ". Or your League can also update your information or add your email address to the records. Be sure to let your League know you want to receive electronic information and give them your email address.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREMONT- NEWARK - UNION CITY
PROS AND CONS
NEWARK MEASURE L
Utility Users Tax

QUESTION TO BE DECIDED

Shall the voters in Newark adopt an Initiative Ordinance for a 3.9% Utility Users Tax on Utility Services including electricity, gas, telecommunications and video, and amend Title 3, Revenue and Finance, by the addition of Chapter 3.18, "Utility Users Tax" to the Newark Municipal Code?

CURRENT SITUATION

External forces largely determine the city of Newark's revenues. State revenue policies and regional, national and international economic forces impact us. All have led to unpredictability in City revenue. Revenue growth has not kept up with community growth and has not been sufficient to provide fundamental City services at acceptable levels. Public safety and park and street maintenance services consume more than 85% of the City's General Fund revenues and none are funded at optimal levels. Newark has very few locally controlled revenue sources.

THE PROPOSAL

Measure L proposes that the City of Newark adopt a Utility Users Tax of 3.9%. A simple majority (50%+ 1) is required to pass a general fund tax measure. All of the revenues collected by the City of Newark shall be used for City General Fund purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT

Currently, 85% of the City's general funds are allocated for public safety. Measure L will generate approximately \$2.7 million to supple-

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A **YES** vote means that the Utility Users Tax will be adopted.

A **NO** vote means that the Utility Users Tax will not be adopted.

SUPPORTERS SAY

✦ The state has just taken \$1.2 million from Newark to balance its budget.

Measure L will keep the money generated from this tax in Newark.

✦ Measure L provides Newark with a reliable, local revenue source to prevent severe cuts to public safety, 911 emergency, senior services, and youth services, such as anti-drug and gang prevention programs and other essential local services.

✦ The measure includes annual independent financial audits and reports to the community to keep the city accountable for how the funds are spent.

✦ Low income seniors are exempt from Measure L.

✦ Measure L maintains the City's ability to respond quickly and effectively to a natural disaster like an earthquake. Measure L will reduce and prevent crime in our neighborhoods by protecting community policing programs where police officers work closely with businesses and community organizations.

OPPONENTS SAY

✦ The utility users tax is not needed. Newark will receive \$700,000 for anti-drug programs, \$600,000 for at-risk kids and after school programs, \$1.8 million for programs like Head Start, and \$900,000 for paving our streets from Federal stimulus monies this year.

✦ In 2005 we had a surplus of \$35 million. Where is it now?

✦ UUT's go to the city's General Fund, to be spent as the Mayor and City Council desire, with no restrictions on how the money is spent.

✦ At a time when we need to encourage businesses to stay in Newark, the proposed new tax will drive them away.

✦ What utilities will be taxed? Cell and regular phone services, gas, electricity, cable – things you need on a daily basis. There are limited exemptions for senior citizens but none for lower income families and those who have lost jobs.

✦ Utility costs will increase dramatically in the next few years. The higher your utility bills, the more tax you will pay.

Duration of the UUT is for six (6) years

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: <http://www.newarkcaformeasurel.webs.com>

Opponents: nonewarktax@yahoo.com

Disclaimer: Information on this page that supporters and opponents say is taken directly from their ballot statements.

A Constitutional Convention

This program was presented

September 21, 2009

The pros and cons were presented by Matt Regan, Bay Area Council's Director of Government Relations and Zabrae Valentine, Executive Director of California Forward Action Fund and policy director of California Forward.

The Bay Area Council's position is that a Constitution Convention is needed. Problems in governance cannot be fixed through the piecemeal initiative (amendment) process. The California constitution is the longest in the world. Over the years conflicting amendments have made it dysfunctional. It is not issue focused.

Each interest group owns a piece. Special interest groups need to surrender their piece. The scope of the constitutional convention would be explicitly limited to governance issues and the budget mechanisms and would exclude all others. The goal being to give California a more functional and effective government reaching goals required for the long term as well as immediate needs.

California Forward leaders feel that the current crisis is enough for everyone to have an investment in a better functional government. To achieve these goals California Forward planners would use the incremental amendment process. Most interesting for California Forward, their project term is set for three election cycles ending in 2012. To make the investment they must see a path to victory.

The Bay area Council is working for a June 2010 initiative.

Both groups share some of the same goals and specific issues. Both would like to change the approval rate for the budget to a simple majority. The minority could not be blamed for the inability to get a budget passed or a goal met. Both agree that policy does not count if you can't pay for it. Both would like to change the approval rate for the budget to a simple majority. The minority could not be blamed for the inability to get a budget passed or a goal met. Both agree that policy does not count if you can't pay for it. Both would like to enhance and restore the confidence of the people in their representatives and government and to help those representatives be more effective.

California Forward would like to see more of the decision making occur at the local level than exists at present.

The Constitution has been modified and revised over the years with incremental changes using amendments. The Bay Area Council would like to see the function and format of the state constitution operate more like the federal constitution. To achieve that a revision of the constitution is required.

The key to their success will be whether or not a significant majority of voters irrespective of party affiliation becomes engaged and committed.

—Muriel Nolan

Storybank

Young, three small kids, feeling isolated,
looking for adult conversation:

Found welcoming group, babysitting,
interesting topic of Trade with China.

Fascinated, felt uninformed, accepted small job selling
Publications.

Forty years later still learning about interesting topics,
Still accepting new jobs

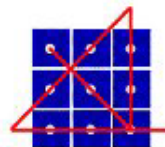
Try it. It's a way to help you think logically about issues
Local to global,

And the friends you meet are of the excellent variety.

—Marilyn Singer

Voter Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge the following donors to the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.



**Well Chosen Words
Creative Marketing
Communication
Jane Mueller, Owner
www.wellchosenwords.net**

**Dale Hardware
37100 Post St., Fremont
www.dale-hardware.com**



**We also extend our thanks to
Ellen Culver
Alex Starr
Bill Harrison & Jennifer Toy**

Bay Area Counties Address Commuting Woes

by Chris Ingraham
From Bay Area Monitor

It's unavoidable: those who work need to get to work. Unless you work from home, chances are you have a twice-daily commute that can seem like a job in itself. The quandary for Bay Area policy makers is just how to offer financially viable alternatives to the daily grind of traveling by personal automobile, and how to incentivize people to use the alternatives.

The priority shift of the last several years, which has seen increasing attention given to climate change in both state and national politics, has inspired local decision makers throughout the Bay Area to think more closely about transportation problems — and their solutions. By now, the problems with a single-driver commute are self-evident. It's exhausting, for one. More significantly, the inefficient excess of automobiles on the road results in the emission of more environmentally pernicious greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. While local air pollution is a visible, immediate repercussion, most climate scientists are alike in agreeing that the for-now-invisible long-term effects of too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will soon be deleterious for the ongoing survival of the planet at large. But what solutions are there? Americans do seem to like the freedom of their cars.

The challenge for policy makers is not only a matter of changing deeply held beliefs about the necessity of cars; it's also a matter of adjusting the relative utility of driving. A report made by the UC Davis Transportation Center in 2008 found that driving utility comes down to time, cost, convenience, and comfort. If alternative options to the single-occupant automobile can viably improve over cars across these four areas, then such options will become more compelling. Accordingly, many of the nine counties in the Bay Area are re-evaluating existing plans or aggressively pursuing new ones to make their local transportation system more appealing — and efficient and sustainable.

In San Jose, for instance, the Eco Pass program gives employers a chance, for

one set price, to purchase a pass that lets all its employees travel to and from work at no additional expense on a variety of public transportation carriers. From buses to trams to ferries, subways and commuter trains, the Bay Area already has a substantial and progressive infrastructure in place. One of the Eco Pass program's fundamental endeavors is to take advantage of the existing public transportation network by making it as convenient and affordable as possible.

In addition to the free travel benefits of Eco Pass holders, the Eco Pass also gives employees access to an "Emergency Ride Home" service for emergencies. Shuttles taking commuters directly from a transit stop or station to one's specific workplace, along with paratransit door-to-door transportation for the disabled, and various Park & Ride lots, strive to make the Eco Pass as convenient as traveling in a single-occupant car. And, for the most part, the plan has been a success — at least insofar as large companies and organizations have adapted it. San Jose State University offers the program, by the semester, for its students, staff, and faculty. All those who have an Eco Pass, however, are not obligated to use it, and just because the pass makes bus or light rail transit free and convenient, these options have not necessarily become more popular than single-occupant cars. Few statistics are available to speak of the plan's actual success when it comes to reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

Other plans have been tried elsewhere. Marin County, in response to its increased traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, takes part in an incentive-based commuter system, whereby travelers who commute using public transportation, a carpool exchange, or other alternative means actually *get paid* to leave their car at home. Those who get to work without using a single-occupant vehicle — that is, either by car or vanpooling, riding public transit, walking, or bicycling — are paid \$4 a day. In order to be eligible, would-be participants (regular and extra hire employees in Marin County) need to complete an application detailing their employment and commute history before they are accepted into the program and deemed eligible for the stipend.

To address its transportation issues, Contra Costa County has recently adopted the 2009 Countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP does not just establish an alternative transportation program, but details all aspects of transportation in Contra Costa County. The plan projects reasonable population and employment growth in the coming years, and charts its likely corresponding outcomes for transportation. To startling effect, it also compares these projected traffic figures with planned capacity improvements, showing that very soon congestion will be a bigger problem than it already is. From 2005 to 2030, the plan attempts to operate on a 5 percent margin, with traffic growth at 28 percent and planned capacity improvements to Contra Costa roads at 33 percent.

One goal of the CTP is to ensure that all aspects of the transportation system work together to abet its larger focus: improving swiftness of travel, managing economically and environmentally viable growth, creating alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, and maintaining the transportation system at large. According to the CTP, a transportation system has five components: roadways, transit, High-Occupancy Vehicle facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and facilities for commercial transportation. The CTP is an especially significant step forward because of its attempt to integrate and synergize the transportation system's various parts.

Philosophically, across the Bay Area, the different approaches to transportation fall across what is essentially a spectrum of incentive systems related to driving utility. Positive-incentive systems, like the one in Marin, intend to encourage different commuting decisions, whereas negative-incentive systems, such as raising toll fees or other efforts to make driving more expensive, attempt to discourage the use of single-occupant cars. Either way, the goal is the same: reduce congestion and help the environment. But as the state scrambles to address its economic woes, budget cuts may prove deleterious for the development of alternative transportation plans in the region. And, of course, becoming familiar with and taking advantage of existing transportation alternatives ultimately depends on individual commuters and not on state or county organizations. How did you get to work this morning?

Reminder. Call Alex to get all the details of the LWVC Regional Workshop. October 24, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Or look for the flyer in the Sept. Voter.

Constitutional Reform

The LWVC highlighted problems with California 's governance and made suggestions for reform in a statement to a joint legislative committee hearing about constitutional and budget reform on August 18. A number of groups are seeking change in California 's constitution. Visit these Web sites to learn about the various methods they recommend and the subjects they propose to tackle. While we have not endorsed any particular route to reform, we believe it is important to participate in the public discussion.

Repair California <http://www.repaircalifornia.org/> is a coalition advocating a constitutional convention. California Forward <http://www.caforward.org/> has proposals for reforming the state 's budget and fiscal systems and the relationship between state and local government.

Center for Governmental Studies <http://cgs.org/> publishes research and analyses of governance issues. See their article on the pros and cons of a constitutional convention.

Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership www.ccspartnership.org/default.cfm held a summit on Rebuilding California: From the Ground Up . Read their resource materials and summary report.

2010 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every ten years. The census is vitally important for many reasons but the constitutional purpose is to obtain an accurate count of the population so that district lines can be drawn for Congress and the state legislature. An accurate census count is an important component of redistricting. You can help!

LWV of the United States has asked everyone to be involved in the census count to the extent they can and we've posted resources for our Leagues on our members-only site. Contact us if you'd like to get involved, and take a look at these resources: We recommend the Complete Count Committee Guide from the Census Bureau. Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network: daily updates with interactive resources on their blog. Fact sheets, questionnaires, webinars and other toolkits for nonprofits here. Activity guides, logos, brochures, in-language materials, and other resources on US Census 2010 Partner With Us.

The Impact of Preexisting Conditions on the Individual and the Community

By Eleanor Pearlman

Preexisting Conditions

A big barrier to individuals seeking to buy health insurance is a preexisting condition. This is a health condition that a person had before the first day of coverage in a new insurance plan.¹ Examples of preexisting conditions are high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis and mental illness such as depression, bipolar disease or schizophrenia. Preexisting conditions can have an important impact on employability.

Since the United States has an employer-based health care system, persons who are incapacitated in some way and unable to fully function in a work environment have a difficult time obtaining insurance. Even if such persons do find employment, some may have to pay a higher premium or may be excluded because of a preexisting condition. Still others may work in a small firm, where insurance is not offered. All of these circumstances will necessitate efforts to purchase an individual policy.

Some Definitions

Preexisting Conditions.¹ Most insurance companies use two definitions to identify preexisting conditions. Under the "objective standard" definition, a preexisting condition is any condition for which a patient has already received treatment. Under the broader "prudent person" definition, a preexisting condition is anything for which symptoms were present and a prudent person would have sought treatment.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). In 1997, the federal HIPAA defined a preexisting condition as one for which "medical advice, diagnosis, care or treatment was recommended or received during the six months prior to your enrollment date in the plan". These six months are referred to as the "look back" period. If you take a new job or change jobs, and your employer offers a group health insurance policy, HIPAA limits the length of the "look back" period for which the policy can refuse to cover these preexisting conditions. This limitation does not apply to individual plans.²

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, or COBRA. This Act protects your right to maintain group insurance coverage for a limited time after termination of your employment and continues to cover preexisting conditions as well as new conditions that arise during this period. COBRA is expensive, sometimes prohibitively so. New government assistance has recently reduced COBRA premiums by 65 percent, but when your COBRA coverage term reaches its limit, you are on your own.³

Private Policies Cost More — If You Can Get Them

"People who must purchase their own insurance have far fewer rights," says Jennifer Libster, MA/JD, a senior research associate at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC. She notes that 8.5 million Americans are now covered by individual policies, which are regulated differently by each state. Some state laws can be rigid with respect to preexisting conditions. For example, Libster notes that some states permit an elimination rider that permanently excludes a preexisting condition, while other states allow insurance companies to "look back" for as many as five years or more. A complete listing of state-by-state rules can be found at <http://www.healthinsuranceinfo.net/>.⁵

Most people seeking private insurance are unable to get it. The Commonwealth Fund reported in 2005 that an overwhelming majority – 89 percent – of working-aged adults who sought coverage in the individual market during the previous three years ended up never buying a plan. A majority (58 percent) found it difficult or impossible to find affordable coverage. One-fifth (21 percent) of those who sought to buy coverage were turned down or were charged a higher price or had a health problem that excluded them from coverage.⁶

"More workers and their families are losing employer-sponsored health insurance," said Commonwealth Fund Assistant Vice President Sara Collins, lead author of the report. "Most of the increase in the number of uninsured Americans - now upwards of 46.6 million—was due to a decline in workplace coverage.

Although the individual market is a last resort for those shut out of employer-sponsored coverage, it is by no means a safe or secure haven for everyone."⁶

Insuring All Helps All

A Kaiser Foundation report quotes *Consumer Reports* author Nancy Metcalf, who says that insurance companies do not want to insure sick people because they will cost them a lot of money. The insurance company trade association, America's Health Insurance Plans, proposes however, that if everyone is required to purchase coverage, the risk pool would be broadened and this would make it possible to cover everyone at a reasonable premium.⁷ People who are excluded from buying insurance at affordable rates are at risk of getting sicker, using emergency rooms as their safety net and, ultimately, costing the larger community more money. The larger community consists of hospitals, taxpayers and the government, who must thus allocate resources for sickness rather than wellness. As a 2005 Families USA study concludes, "...we are all affected by the presence of large numbers of Americans without health insurance. Unless we find realistic ways to help the uninsured get coverage, the problem can be expected to worsen – for the uninsured and the insured alike."⁸

**Produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009
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Attend our Health Care Program on October 19 to hear local experts explain the ideas that are being discussed in Congress at the present time and how they will affect our local hospitals, doctors, and businesses. Bring your questions.

JOIN the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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.

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LWVFNUC and mail it with this form to:

LWVFNUC—MEMBERSHIP, P.O. Box 3218, Fremont, CA, 94539

Individual Membership - \$60 _____ Household - \$90 _____
 Donate to LWVFNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer from _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: Sarabjit Cheema—
 sarabjitkaurcheema@yahoo.com

Mission Statement

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

LWVFNUC Voter

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

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**NOTABLE WOMEN
MAYA ANGELOU**

Maya Angelou, born April 4, 1928 as Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, was raised in segregated rural Arkansas. She is a poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. She lectures throughout the US and abroad and is Reynolds professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina since 1981. She has published ten best selling books and numerous magazine articles earning her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominations. At the request of President Clinton, she wrote and delivered a poem at his 1993 presidential inauguration.

In the sixties, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she became the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and in 1975 she received the Ladies Home Journal Woman of the Year Award in communications. She received numerous honorary degrees and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Commission on the Observance of International Woman's Year and by President Ford to the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Advisory Council. She is on the board of the American Film Institute and is one of the few female members of the Director's Guild.

"The night has been long,
 The wound has been deep,
 The pit has been dark,
 And the walls have been steep

The ancestors remind us, despite the history of pain
 We are a going-on people who will rise again.
 And still we rise." —from Million Man March Poem

In the film industry, through her work in script writing and directing, Maya Angelou has been a groundbreaker for black women. In television, she has made hundreds of appearances. Her best-selling autobiographical account of her youth, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," won critical acclaim in 1970 and was a two hour TV special on CBS. She has written and produced several prize winning documentaries, including "Afro-Americans in the Arts," a PBS special for which she received the Golden Eagle Award. She was also nominated for an Emmy Award for her acting in Roots, and her screenplay Georgia, Georgia was the first by a black woman to be filmed. In theatre, she produced, directed and starred in "Cabaret for Freedom" in collaboration with Godfrey Cambridge at New York's Village Gate; starred in Genet's "The Blacks" at St Mark's Playhouse; and adapted Sophocles "Ajax" which premiered in Los Angeles in 1974. She wrote the original screenplay for "Georgia, Georgia" and wrote and produced a ten-part TV series on African traditions in American life. Maya Angelou is currently Reynolds Professor at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina



WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Syeda Yunus interview Dr. Dan Morgan
Topic: Health Care

- Fremont**, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM
- Newark**, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM
- Union City**, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM
- Hayward**, Channel 28, every Monday at 9:30 PM

League Office

Our League now has an office in the Fremont Cultural Arts Building on Country Drive. Besides paying our rent, we are also supposed to man the central desk one day a week from 11 am to 2 pm. Our day is Friday. Can you help out one Friday a month? There isn't much to do but answer an occasional phone call. If interested, please call or email our president, Alex Starr.

Have you visited

SMART VOTER

Lately?

Visit www.smartvoter.org

And bookmark it for future elections.

**To be part of designing the future Smart Voter,
Sign up for Smart Voter News.**

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Thurs., Oct. 1 | 12:30-2:30 pm | Action Committee | Kay Emanuele's home |
| Thurs., Oct. 1 | 7:30 pm | LWVFNUC forum Newark candidates & Meas. L. | Newark City Council Chambers |
| Wed., Oct. 12 | 6:45 pm | Board Meeting | Cultural Arts Meeting Rm 3375 Country Drive, Fremont |
| Wed., Oct. 14 | 2:00 pm | Voting Matters Taping | Comcast Studio |
| Sat., Oct. 17 | | Registration deadline LWVC Regional Workshop | |
| Sat., Oct. 17 | | Voter deadline | |
| Mon., Oct 19 | 7:00 PM Networking 7:30 PM Program | General Meeting "An Update on Health Care" | Fremont Congregational Church 38255 Blacow Rd. Fremont |
| Wed. Oct. 21 | 9:00 am | Education Committee | Ann Crosbie's home |
| Sat., Oct. 24 | 9:30 am to 2:30 pm | LWVC Regional Workshop | Avenidas 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto |
| Tues., Nov. 3 | | Election Day In Newark | |
| Thurs., Nov. 5 | 12:30—2:30pm | Action Committee | Kay Emanuele's home |
| Sun., Feb. 14 | 90th anniversary of LWV | | |