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# JOHN GEORGE DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER—May, 2017

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## John George Youth Awards

### Saturday, May 27, 2017

### West Oakland Library

### 18<sup>th</sup> & Adeline

### 11AM - Noon

(See details in article below)

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#### Resistance in the Age of Trump

On March 9, the John George Club joined Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), East Bay Young Democrats, Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club (MGO), Niagara Democratic Club, Oakland East Bay Democratic Club, Stonewall Democratic Club, and Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club to strategize how we can fight the right and take back Congress in 2018.



Assemblymember Rob Bonta (pictured above)

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covered many key points from national, state, and local levels on how to respond to the attacks from Trump and his cohorts. Oakland Councilwoman Rebecca Kaplan, Amy Shrago representing County Supervisor Keith Carson, and Sandra Andrews representing Congresswoman Barbara Lee all spoke of the need to unite to resist the attacks on immigrants, Muslims, the environment, healthcare, and all critical government services.

Following the speeches and discussion, participants brainstormed actions that we can take. And then people “voted” with colored dots on which ideas they most strongly favored. Some of the popular action items are listed below:

- Turn Congressional Districts Blue in 2018. One nearby district is CD #10 in Tracy/Modesto with a Republican, Jeff Denham. People are also urged to donate and contribute to congressional races around the state and the country.

- Challenge District Attorney's and Sheriffs for anti-immigrant policies
- Support Single payer and oppose attacks on medicare and the Affordable Care Act
- Support sanctuary cities
- Work to elect progressive Democrats (e.g. in primaries vs. moderates)
- Support affordable housing, programs to address homelessness to strengthen our local communities
- Repeal Costa Hawkins anti-rent control law
- Reform Prop 13 with a split tax roll for commercial properties
- Criminal justice reform
- Address voter suppression

Moderator Pamela Price, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, urged all the clubs present to build their membership and unite in these efforts.



Sandra Andrews



Rebecca Kaplan

As the massive women's march on January 21<sup>st</sup> and the many protests marking 100 days of this horrible administration attest, people are organizing to take back our country. We support all of these efforts and urge club members to keep organizing!



Laurie & Jack at the Women's March in Oakland with 100,000 friends



Congresswoman Barbara Lee speaking at the Peoples Climate Movement April 29 at Lake Merritt

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# John George Democratic Club 2017 Art & Essay Contest

This year's essay is on the theme "The Statue of Liberty and Immigration in America: Is America Still a Refuge for Immigrants?" More than 100 years ago, France gifted the United States with the Statue of Liberty because the French viewed America as a beacon of hope and democracy. In 1883 the poet Emma Lazarus wrote the poem that is inscribed on the Statue's pedestal. The most famous lines, which refer directly to immigrants and refugees, are:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Middle School and High School students are asked to write a 500 word essay on this topic, with awards to be **presented May 27<sup>th</sup> at the West Oakland Library at 11:00 am.** Please join us for this annual youth award presentation.



The contest also features an art category for elementary students to "Draw a picture that shows Oakland as a healthy place to live."

Each winner will receive \$300—in the form of a \$150 gift certificate and \$150 to open a credit union savings account. This year the essay contest is open to all Oakland High School and Middle School students who attend Oakland Public Schools. Entries are due May 17.

We hope to see you at the West Oakland library on May 27 to honor the awardees!

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## Memories of My Mother: Mildred Parish Massey

A Mother's Day tribute by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (used by permission—Thanks, Barbara!)

My mother, Mildred Parish Massey, was the fiercest champion for justice and equality that I've ever met. As a black woman living in the South in the days of Jim Crow, she encountered more than her fair share of hardships. But she faced down segregation and racism with steely resolve, while working for a better future for me and my sisters.

My mom was one of twelve students to integrate Texas Western University—now the University of Texas at El Paso—while juggling a full-time job and raising three daughters. She also became the first black clerical worker at Ft. Bliss. Instead of sending me or my sisters to segregated schools, she enrolled us in Catholic school where we were taught by the Sisters of Loretto, an order dedicated to promoting social justice and peace.



every day — is to continue her courageous, and often lonely, fight for justice.

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## HELP FLIP THE HOUSE IN 2018

The most popular choice of all actions for progressive Democrats to support that came out of the March 9 strategic summit of Democratic Clubs was the need to flip Congress in 2018. Below is an article from Lora Jo Foo, who participated in the summit meeting. Lora is an experienced organizer who has led successful campaigns to pass ballot measures to ban fracking in San Benito County and in Monterrey County.

## WORKING AMERICA CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT

By Lora Jo Foo

For the past five months, I along with my good friend Fran Schreiber have worked to launch the **Working America Central Valley Program** to retake the House of Representatives in 2018 in order to stop the Trump agenda.

The urgency of our mission was brought home by what happened in Congress today. Today, Republicans voted to repeal Obamacare. Every California Republican congressperson voted to take health care away from 24 million Americans, end pre-existing conditions protections, and hand \$600 billion in tax breaks to the super rich.

We can stop the Republicans and Trump's attacks on working people. We can't do it today or tomorrow but in 2018 we can vote those who betrayed us out of office. We can flip the House of Representatives if **23 new Democrats** are elected in 2018.

My mother understood the consequences of segregation intimately. When she went into labor with me, the hospital refused her admission and she nearly died as a result. By the time the callous people at the hospital agreed to admit her, they were forced to do an emergency forceps delivery. I bear those forceps scars — the scars of segregation — above my eye to this day.

Despite it all, my mother lived with dignity and joy. And she never lost faith in this country — where she grew up unable to eat at restaurants with her family, but would one day watch her daughter get sworn-in as a Member of Congress.

I carry her faith and passion with me in the halls of Congress every day. There's no doubt in my mind that my mother would have been on the front lines of the resistance, fighting tooth and nail to protect our hard-won civil, human and women's rights.

Mother's Day is not the same without her. But I know that the best way to honor her memory — today and

California voters can help flip the House. In November, voters in **seven** California Congressional Districts (CD) voted for Hillary Clinton but they also voted to re-elect Republican incumbents. In the Central Valley, the vote counts were close in CD 10 (Jeff Denham, Stanislaus, San Joaquin) and CD 21 (David Valadao, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Kern). That's why we have launched the **Working America Central Valley Program** targeting these two incumbents.

Working America (WA) is the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO with 3 million members in the battleground states. We engage in deep canvassing – knocking on doors year-round, not just during election years and listening to voters, identifying their issues, informing them how their elected officials have voted and over several conversations at the door, becoming trusted messengers. WA's win rates in close elections is 70 percent. Every year, our paid canvassers hold between 500,000 to 1 million conversations at voters' doors in battleground states.

**Working America has come to the Central Valley!** In CDs 10 and 21, our canvassers will be knocking on the doors of swing voters, many of whom voted for Trump. From conversations with swing voters in Ohio, WA believes that Trump voters can be moved in a progressive direction if provided new information from a trusted messenger.

Here's what canvassers learned:

## **WORKING AMERICA'S REPORT ON TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS**

### **What do swing voters think about Trump, 100 days into his presidency?**

Since November, Working America canvassers have spoken to nearly 1,000 Clinton and Trump swing

voters in central Ohio to examine attitudes toward the president and his policies in his first 100 days. Based on these face-to-face conversations, we found weakening enthusiasm among a solid slice of Trump's base and that introducing new information from a trusted messenger can move voters and erode support for Trump.

The results of these conversations can be found in its "Front Porch Focus Group Report": <http://www.workingamerica.org/100days>. Among the topline findings from the report:

- **Roughly half of Trump's working-class swing voters are "Searchers" who can be moved in a progressive direction when offered new information about his policies.** After hearing about his policies, 33 percent of Trump swing voters disapproved of his plan to cut taxes on the rich. In all, 53 percent of Trump voters said they disliked his position on at least one issue.
- **Trump's working-class support may be softening, but it is by no means inevitable that his swing voters will turn against him.** A solid 56 percent of Trump swing voters said that they get information about politics from cable TV, mostly Fox News. As a result, they hear little criticism of him.
- **Trump voters can be moved on some issues, but they are not concerned about alleged Russia ties, his cabinet appointees or possible business conflicts.** Only 5 percent of Trump voters said they worried about ties to Russia; 10 percent expressed concern about his business interests; and only 12 percent were critical of any administration official.

Working with local unions and community organizations, the Working America Central Valley Program will replicate our national model, doing deep canvassing in CDs 10 and 21 to understand

what's on swing voters' minds and to test persuasive pivots to erode Trump's base.

Working America's deep canvassing program is conducted by paid canvassers. We need to hire seven staff for the Central America Program – a Field Director, two organizers, and five paid canvassers. In California, in addition to our paid canvassers, we will partner with local volunteers and hundreds of volunteer canvassers from the Bay Area. We can only run a slim operation with just one Field Director even if we have hundreds of volunteer canvassers. The key is to have disciplined PAID CANVASSERS who go out for 5 hours every day, 5 days a week, and produce results. Volunteers are an important supplement but PAID CANVASSERS are not only needed to canvass, but also to work with and guide the volunteers making them much more efficient and effective.

Working America needs your contribution to hire 5 paid canvassers and 2 organizers.

Please [DONATE](#) what you can now. With sufficient funds, we may be able to expand to flippable CDs in Southern California. If you'd rather wire funds or write a check, please contact me at the number below and I'll send you instructions.

In addition to donating, please consider hosting a House Party for us to raise funds. Please email or call me if you are willing to make your house available.

Sincerely,  
lora jo foo  
Working America Volunteer  
[510-282-9454](tel:510-282-9454)



**John George Democratic Club**

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**Facebook, Twitter, and social media—we're looking for a volunteer to help—is it you? Let us know!**