

## Assembly District 18

### Democrat vs Newcomer in Contested Assembly District 18 Race

By Traci Noffsinger, Metro Editor

#### MARY HAYASHI

Since losing a loved one to suicide, Mary Hayashi has been dedicated to providing information and help to those affected by mental health problems.

Before becoming a State Assembly Member, Hayashi served as the coordinator in the passing of Proposition 63, providing public funds for mental health care services. Mental health issues are among the issues of most concern to her.

Hayashi serves District 18, which consists of Hayward, San Leandro, Dublin, most of Castro Valley and a portion of Oakland. There are over 180,000 registered voters in the district with over half of them listed as Democrat. Hayashi is also on the boards of Chabot Community College Foundation, Girls, Inc. of Alameda County and Planned Parenthood Golden Gate.

Deeply involved in suicide prevention, child-abuse reporting and Medi-Cal services, Hayashi has had many bills in these areas approved while in service. One, AB 509, is the Office of Suicide Prevention.

As the founder of the National Asian Women's Health Organization and the Iris Alliance Fund, suicide is something Hayashi strongly believes in preventing. The fund, which promotes the mental health of children and families, was formed in 2001 in her sister's memory, according to irsfund.org.

Her child abuse legislation makes two changes to the previous legislation. One is child abuse reporting, allowing journalists to anonymously report when there is known or suspected abuse. The other is expanding the definition of abuse to include death

by means other than an accident.

Hayashi is dedicated to ensuring shorter wait periods for Medi-Cal patients and to helping children get Medi-Cal immediately and for longer periods of time. Both of the bills she has sponsored relating to Medi-Cal have been approved.

Hayashi has also formed legislations for children's dental health and retiree vision care, enabling both youth and elders to have the proper care they need. The dental disease prevention is a school program, allowing low-income children to receive dental care they otherwise would not receive. Based on a previous bill, Hayashi's version will increase money for the program. Her retiree vision care bill allows retired people and their dependents to receive vision care at a low cost.

According to the secretary of state, Hayashi had raised \$96,825 in contributions as of March 24, and has spent about \$30,000.

More than half of her campaign donations have come from doctors, medical insurance companies, health care unions and large drug companies such as Squibb, Bayer and Novartis.

Her key endorsements come from the California Nurses Association, Central Labor Council Alameda County and the Sierra Club.

Supporting her from the sidelines is her husband, Dennis Hayashi, who is running for an open seat as the Superior Court Judge. He previously ran unsuccessfully for a county judicial seat in November 2006.

Hayashi is the first Korean-American elected to the California State Assembly. She earned her Bachelor of Science in applied economics from the University of San Francisco and a master's in business administration from Golden Gate University.

healthcare centers do not undergo privatization. He also wants a stable funding level for services to the state's foster children.

When it comes to protecting the environment, Teramoto wants all businesses to go green in order to meet the cleaner air mandate and he is dedicated to facing the issues of global warming. He believes we can make our air and water cleaner and is focused on maintaining the open spaces around us. Among the organizations he volunteered for was the Keep Hayward Clean and Green, which is involves clean-up efforts and assisting the city in improving policies and procedures.

For those who feel their neighborhoods are not as safe as others, Teramoto supports a fully funded program to provide neighborhood watches in communities. He also supports preventative law enforcement to stop escalating Bay Area crime rates.

Teramoto had raised only \$2,800 to support his campaign as of March 24, which puts him at a severe disadvantage against Hayashi.

"We have pledged to not take ANY special interest or PAC money because it undermines the intent and the needs of the community," Teramoto explained in a post on ActBlue.com, a political website.

Teramoto's only reported campaign contributions so far have been \$1,800 from Dr. Yoshitsugo Teramoto and \$1,000 from Susan Wasserman, who is identified in campaign finance documents as a San Francisco businesswoman.

### Republican Seeks City Council and Assembly Seats at Same Time

By Terri Lynn Lane, Staff Writer

#### LOU FILIPOVICH

Lou Filipovich, a Republican candidate from San Leandro, is running for city councilman in his hometown while also running for State Assembly in Assembly District 18.

This will be the eleventh time he is running for public office according to JoinCalifornia.com, a website that archives the results of California elections. According to the site, Filipovich has never won any of those elections. In fact, the most support he has ever received was 26 percent in a race for State Senate against incumbent Ellen Corbett in 2006. Corbett won that election with an overwhelming 73 percent of the vote.

Filipovich has not released much campaign information other than his responses to a questionnaire from the San Leandro Community Action Network (SLCAN), a civic organization, in the San Leandro council race.

In his answers to the questionnaire, Filipovich offers voters few reasons to cast ballots for him in either race.

When asked why he is running for office, Filipovich responded, "because of the American citizen's constitutional right to do so."

He describes himself as unemployed in his questionnaire responses and says he is not seeking any endorsements for his San Leandro city councilman campaign.

For his state campaign, he has not listed any endorsements that he has received, nor has he filed any reports on his campaign finances with the

Federal Election Commission.

In the SLCAN questionnaire, Filipovich states ambiguous positions on public transportation and the problem of homelessness.

He said he basically opposes public transportation programs, explaining, "The only justification for any public provided transportation is to 'eliminate' walking. The cost for so-called 'conductive walking' will surely 'bankrupt' each and every city government."

In response to a question about what he would do to address the problem of homelessness in San Leandro, Filipovich said he believes that "homelessness can only be addressed at the federal level of government."

As for government intervention on behalf of minority groups, Filipovich said "Surely it is evident that America has been for decades promoting opportunities within cities like San Leandro for minorities along with historically disadvantaged populations—and is continuing to do so," in response to a question posed by SLCAN.

"Walk the streets of San Leandro and honestly judge for yourself!"

Regardless of whether Mary Hayashi or Jason Teramoto emerges as the Democratic candidate for Assembly in the 18<sup>th</sup> district, as a Republican candidate, Filipovich has a severe disadvantage: the district is 56 percent Democratic and only 20 percent Republican.

## City Council District 3

### Incumbent, Two Challengers Face Off in Oakland's District 3

By Steve Dzung Pham, Staff Writer

#### NANCY NADEL

At this stage in Nancy Nadel's life, her dream occupation would be working as a full-time chocolatier. Her current job as an Oakland City Councilwoman is ridden with government bureaucracy and things tend to move at a snail's pace.

"I find limited joy in my work and a lot of delayed gratification as bureaucracies move slowly. Making chocolate is a 180 degree change from that," said Nadel in an interview in 2007.

Nadel, a widow and resident of West Oakland of 25 years, has held many occupations. She was once an educator, from high school to the university level. In her mid-twenties, she went back to college and got a second undergraduate degree. That led to an undergraduate degree in geology and a graduate degree in geophysics. With earth science degrees in hand, she explored for natural gas and cleaned up hazardous waste.

In her first public sector job, she served two terms on the board of EBMUD, rising to board president.

Come June 3, she is seeking to continue as city council member for Oakland's District 3. Her opponents are Sean Sullivan and Greg Hodge.

District 3 encompasses West Oakland and Jack London Square and extends to portions of the Grand Lake neighborhood. It is a mix of industrial and residential areas in transition. Its residents, according to Nadel, are poverty ridden and under-educated.

"Eighty five percent of the households in my district are living on less than \$50,000 a year, possibly as much as 30 percent of adults are unable to read above the fourth grade level," said Nadel.

Confronted with such daunting statistics, Nadel's campaign focuses on increasing public

"I'm running because I was asked to by a mother of a homicide victim who knew of my work...getting young people off the streets and getting young people into work," says district three candidate Sean Sullivan, 33, in a video posted on the Internet.

"It's a focus that she felt we needed on the city council."

In his first run for public office in Oakland, Sullivan's schedule is filled with community forums and precinct walking—and is so tight he sometimes is unable to answer emails.

Sullivan, whose day job is director of Development and Community Relations for Covenant House, a non-profit organization that helps homeless and runaway youths, is running against incumbent Nancy Nadel and challenger Greg Hodge.

In response to an email containing 10 questions about his campaign platform, finances and background as his opponents, Sullivan was surprisingly uncooperative.

"I appreciate your email," he replied. "I was a journalism/communications major. So I am very happy to help you but I do not have the time to write this up for you. I'd be more than happy to be interviewed by you while I walk door to door this or next week. That's on the street journalism at its best!"

Sullivan's website, however, reveals many answers to those questions. Of the three candidates vying for the District 3 seat, Sullivan's site is the most comprehensive in terms of platforms and proposed solutions. Additional Internet research reveals a trove of articles and videos showing Sullivan speaking on many issues.

And he has quite a bit to say. Sullivan's campaign positions ring similar to those of his opponents: he supports economic development, increased public safety and government accountability.

"I'm tired of sitting on the sidelines of what

Of the candidates seeking election to Oakland's District 3 city council seat, Greg Hodge's campaign seems the most in disarray.

He has been a no-show at critical campaign functions; emails to his website sometimes bounce or go unanswered; during one visit to his website, the donation function on his campaign page didn't work.

With only four weeks until the primary, Hodge's race seems to have led to a dead end. About the only thing that has changed is a new video entry on his website: a 30-second YouTube sound-bite posted April 22 titled, "We Need Hope, Resources & Good Planning."

Hodge, a resident of West Oakland and father of four, is also an attorney who holds degrees from Northwestern University and Golden Gate University.

His professional career has revolved around non-profit work with such organizations as California Tomorrow, Safe Passages, Urban Strategies Council and Black Community Crusade For Children; all are designed to assist the African-American community through educational and outreach programs.

Hodge's most visible job in the public sector has been as president of the Oakland School District's board of directors.

His bumpy ride began in March when he received a phone call from Assistant City Clerk Marjo Keller who informed him that he had not collected enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Oakland election rules require that candidates turn in a minimum of 50 signatures from registered voters from their district. Up to 100 can be submitted. On the deadline date, Hodge submitted 75 signatures, but only 47 could be verified.

After a two-week litigation process and reexamination of the signatures, the minimum of 50 was confirmed. His name was included on the June 3 ballot.

safety, youth outreach, neighborhood revitalization and building ecological independence. Changes in these areas usually take time.

Change has come during Nadel's period in office, albeit at a snail's pace. Nadel has helped establish recreation centers for teenagers: Campbell Village Teen Center in West Oakland and a second center that has been proposed. Jefferson Park has been transformed into a skateboard park where teens can expend their energy. She has also helped build partnerships with colleges and adult schools to provide job training and help improve literacy rates.

On revitalizing the city, Nadel has played a part in bringing a Whole Foods store to the Grand Lake neighborhood, replacing an abandoned Cadillac dealership that had lain vacant for years. A few blocks away, a massive Catholic cathedral is being erected. There is now a Koreatown shopping district along the corridors of Broadway and Telegraph Ave.

With a well-recognized name, incumbency, and endorsements from elected Democrats, labor unions and environmental groups, Nadel may have to put off being a chocolatier full-time. But that does not stop her from melding her vision of chocolate with that of a better Oakland.

"I started The Oakland Chocolate Company to get a better price to Jamaican farmers for their cacao," she said. "(Also) because I love the art and science of chocolate making and being a chocolatier, to develop a sustainable loop system that benefits both Oakland candy makers and Jamaican farmers fairly and equitably (and) to make a product that will boost Oakland economically and provide an image uplift for the city."

#### SEAN SULLIVAN

"We're able to accomplish in this city," he said. "I'm tired of seeing young people that I work with take two buses to Emeryville where they can get a job easily and a job with benefits. I'm tired of seeing our crime spiral out of control in this community. I'm tired of seeing the problems that seem go on unaddressed."

Sullivan also has issues with the transparency and accountability of the current administration.

"Oakland's residents have repeatedly voted to tax themselves to improve city services, but don't see results from their increased payments," he said.

"A recent report from the City Auditor, independent audits of Measure Y, and allegations made by former city workers all raise serious questions about the way Oakland is using taxpayer money. My council office will be a watchdog, fighting to ensure that city funds are being spent effectively and legally," said Sullivan.

Missing from Sullivan's statements are his campaign funds. Public records reveal that he has received a total of \$18,893 from November 2007 to March 2008. With 27 percent of the contributions coming from real estate developers, his chief opponent, Nadel, has publicly criticized him for being "financed by developers."

But public records show that Nadel's contributions include \$550 more in contributions from developers than Sullivan's.

Having less experience money, and big-named endorsers than his main rival has not deterred Sullivan. Though he might not have time to answer a handful of questions via email, there is sense of urgency in his campaign. Sullivan's schedule from now to the primary is filled with what has worked for him so far: walking precincts and meeting possible constituents in District 3.

#### GREG HODGE

However, Hodge's road to the city council has developed additional potholes.

His opponents' websites state their positions, endorsements and biographies. Hodge's site lacks most of the crucial information.

The site contains Hodge's biography, a dozen photos and two videos, but otherwise it is disappointingly without content.

There are no lists of endorsements, past achievements or campaign contributions.

"Coming soon..." is the answer that the site gives for most tabs or links.

During one recent visit to the site, the "donate" tab did not work. Contributors would need to send their donations to a P.O. Box address listed in the "contact us" tab.

The contents within the "contact us" tab appear to be dubious.

Some of the Pioneer's emails to Hodge were bounced while others went unanswered. The site lists contact phone numbers, but calls to them go unanswered.

Unless a voter runs into Hodge in person, there is virtually no way to find out about his campaign finances, background or campaign platforms.

He has also missed some critical campaign appearances. April 3 offered an opportunity for the candidates of District 3 Council seat to meet constituents and defend their positions for the seat in a public forum. Nancy Nadel, the incumbent was present. Sean Sullivan, another contestant vying for Nadel's job, was present. Hodge was not.

That night's forum became a duologue between Nadel and Sullivan.

"I actually had to choose between the League of Women's Voters event and a work commitment in Seattle," Hodge said in a post on a local political blog in defense of his absence.

## Senate District 7

### Consumer Advocate vs Businesswoman in 7th Senate District

By Sarah Abfalter, Staff Writer

#### MARK DESAULNIER

Democratic State Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier is running unopposed for reelection to represent the 7<sup>th</sup> State Senate district area that covers parts of Contra Costa County from Hercules to Antioch.

But while DeSaulnier has enjoyed praise in his first term for representing consumer interests in the state legislature, his recent agreement to carry a bill that would increase fees for car buyers has put the assemblyman in hot water with consumers.

DeSaulnier has gained popularity while serving as an assembly member through his work benefiting healthcare, working families and the environment and has spearheaded his campaign by highlighting his work to benefit the hard working families of Contra Costa County.

The DeSaulnier campaign is aimed at

assuring voters that his work will ensure the future for working families through improvements in education, healthcare, air quality and transportation.

Since being elected to the state assembly in 2006, DeSaulnier has authored 23 bills and co-authored an additional 18 bills addressing childhood education, fighting suicide and child obesity, reducing pollution, controlling community growth, improving health care for women and at-risk youth and improving transportation on local highways and city streets.

DeSaulnier served as the mayor of Concord and as a city council member from 1991 to 1993. In addition, DeSaulnier is a 13-year member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors where he has served as the board chairman.

He has also been very active in fighting local air pollution, serving on the California

Air Resources Board and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Most recently, DeSaulnier was the author of a bill aimed at protecting senior citizens from unscrupulous practices by requiring lenders and real estate brokers to report anything that appears to be an effort to defraud the elderly.

"We're at a desperate time in our society and many people are willing to defraud seniors for their last dime," DeSaulnier said on April 29 as the bill was passed by the Assembly public safety committee and referred to the committee on appropriations for financial analysis and referral to a vote of the full Assembly.

"We're asking that mortgage brokers, much like bank tellers, do their best to recognize an abusive situation and make a report to authorities."

State Senators Tom Torlakson,

Representative Ellen Tauscher and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates are three of the well-known Democrats backing DeSaulnier's campaign. DeSaulnier was also recently endorsed by the California League of Conservation Voters.

DeSaulnier is originally from the East Coast where he earned his degree in history from the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

#### CHRISTIAN AMSBERRY

Walnut Creek businessman but political unknown, Christian Amsberry, will run unopposed for the Republican nomination in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> senate primary.

Amsberry's campaign is almost non-existent and, while he runs unopposed in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> primary, his chances against established Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier in the November election seem slim.

The most accessible information about Amsberry is found on his official website, a blog that mentions almost nothing about his run for office and claims it is meant to be a place "for the musings of a twenty-something."

Amsberry currently works as a broker for Wells Fargo centered in Walnut Creek. He received an undergraduate degree in business from St. Mary's College with a minor in religious studies.