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## Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance – A Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County\*

By Sheila Allen, RN, PhD, Executive Director



The Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance (YHAA) is a local non-profit whose goal is to serve as a voice for older adults and to make sure services are available to assure a healthy aging experience through education, collaboration and advocacy. YHAA began out of a June 2010 Aging Summit that addressed the simultaneous increase in the older population while funding for programs decreased. Since that time, the YHAA has made a real difference in Yolo County by increasing collaboration with over 60 providers of senior services and advocating programs and policies that support healthy aging. A second summit occurred last October with over 100 seniors, caregivers, providers of senior care, elected officials and interested citizens. The primary goals were:

- 1) To learn about the work of the YHAA and the current status of services for seniors.
- 2) To discuss current and future needs and gaps in services to be addressed to provide a healthy aging experience.
- 3) To suggest possible solutions and ways to improve the aging experience in Yolo County.

Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, a social worker and senior advocate, provided a historical perspective including her work for seniors and at-risk adults on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and her assembly work as chair of the Assembly Long-Term Care Committee. Ms.

Yamada was presented with the YHAA Senior Super Star Award in recognition of her work on behalf of seniors during her many years of public service. Congressman John Garamendi spoke of the need to renew the Older Americans Act, acknowledging the many essential services it provides such as home delivered meals, transportation and information and referral services. He described positive changes that the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided including expanded medication coverage, no denial for preexisting conditions and expanding community based care. He fielded numerous questions from the audience including follow up on the issue that persons receiving SSI in California are not eligible for CalFresh (food stamps). State Senator Lois Wolk, who serves on the Senate Select Committee on Aging, answered questions regarding state supportive programs for seniors that experienced many cuts during the recession and have not yet been fully funded, such as IHSS.

A panel discussion introduced the four areas of identified gaps in service that the YHAA committees have called out as priorities for further discussion: Senior housing options (Meea Kang, Domus Development), transportation (Elaine Musser Roberts, Yolo Commission on Aging), mental health (Nancy Edgar, Yolo County Mental Health Program) and planning for a healthy aging experience (Peggy Phelps, Yolo Caregiver Resource Program). After introductory comments by the panelists, summit participants self-selected into break-out sessions for further discussion of needs in this service area and the current gaps



in service related to this topic.

The 2014 Healthy Aging Summit is the first phase in a year-long strategic planning process for the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance. YHAA welcomes any interested individuals to join our efforts.

For further information: [www.yolohealthyaging.org](http://www.yolohealthyaging.org), [Sheila.allen@yolocounty.org](mailto:Sheila.allen@yolocounty.org) or 530-757-5583

**Photos Above:** Retiring Assemblymember Mariko Yamada received the YHAA "Senior Super Star Award" from YHAA Chair Jim Provenza and Executive Director Sheila Allen ; Senator Lois Wolk up; dates summit participants on state aging legislation. - Supervisor Jim Provenza introduced Congressman Garamendi the Aging Summit keynote speaker.

**\*Ed Note:** This article continues a series of reports by local community groups allied with Democratic values.

# Democratic News

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## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Tuesday, June 2, 7:00-9:00 pm, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting.** The Board conducts planning and attends to routine Club business. All members are invited to attend and participate in discussions. Blanchard Room, Davis Library.

**Sunday, June 7, 5:30-7:30 pm. Assemblyman Bill Dodd's 1st Annual Yolo County BBQ.** Glide Ranch, 36355 Russel Blvd., Davis. RSVP/Information contact Erin Russell <erin@billdodd.com>

**Sunday June 7, 4:00-6:00 pm. Mariko Yamada for State Senate,** see advertisement page 3 for information.

**Sunday, June 14, 11:00 am-2:00 pm, Champagne Brunch.** Annual event featuring a great buffet (provided by the DDC Board but please share your favorite dish) and informal discussion with local elected leaders. Featured speaker TBA. Hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home, 2424 Rodin Place, Davis. Contact Stephen Souza for information.

**Saturday, August 15, 2:00-5:00 pm (tentative), Celebrate Betty Weir's 100th Birthday!** Hosted by Norma Turner at her home, 506 Fillmore Court. Mark your calendar ; details TBA.

## Is Higher Tuition Necessary?

*By Bob Schelen, Chair, Yolo Democratic Party*

University of California (UC) President Janet Napolitano has proposed a tuition increase that could ultimately boost tuition costs at UC by as much as 25 percent over five years.

California students and their families have faced too many increases already. UC should work with the Legislature and the Governor to get UC the money it needs to remain one of the state's world-class assets without harming the California students and families the university was created to serve.

What about the following ideas proposed by Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins that begin with rejecting all tuition increases for California students, including Napolitano's proposal?

- Provide an additional \$50 million from the state general fund. There has to be additional state funding for UC, and budget projections show we have the resources to honor the state's commitment to higher education. The California State University system, which has not proposed raising tuition, would also receive additional state funds to increase student services to reduce time to graduate, as well as to increase enrollment.
- Increase Cal Grants to lessen the financial burden of higher education on lower income families.
- Require UC to maintain all existing institutional aid to students to ensure that students benefit from the increase in Cal Grants.
- Accelerate the implementation of the Middle Class Scholarship to cut fees for middle-income families by more than 20 percent in 2015-16.
- Double the proposed increase of California students to 10,000 over five years by adding enrollments of 2,000 per year for five years, and ensure California student enrollments increase at all UC campuses.
- Cap enrollments of out-of-state students at 2014-15 levels. The Great Recession has ended, and funds have been restored to the UC, so the time has come to end the practice of backfilling state cuts with students who pay out-of-state tuition and push out California students. Capping out-of-state enrollments also allows UC to focus its outreach resources on the diverse underserved communities in California. Keeping fees low helps show families in these communities that a UC education is in reach. (Continued, p 3)

# MARIKO YAMADA

## For Senate 2016

### One Year Out - in Yolo

Please Join Mariko exactly one year from the 2016 Primary Election!

Sunday, June 7, 2015 • 4-6 pm



### MONTICELLO SEASONAL CUISINE

630 G Street, Davis, CA 95616

Please R.S.V.P. to [info@yamadaforsenate.net](mailto:info@yamadaforsenate.net) or 707-533-4851  
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Contributions will be used to elect Mariko Yamada to the State Senate 2016. Contributions to this committee are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. The California Political Reform Act (Prop. 34) places limits on contributions (Including loans) to candidates for state office, and imposes certain prohibitions. This request does not seek a contribution in excess of applicable limits or from prohibited sources. An individual, union, political action committee, association, committee, partnership, business or corporation may contribute a maximum of \$4,200 to the committee per election. A registered Small Contributor Committee may contribute a maximum of \$8,400 to the committee per election. Computer generated.



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**DEMOCRATS:** There is an important special election just down the road from us. On Tuesday, May 19, the endorsed candidate for State Senate District 7 that includes Contra Costa, Alameda and a bit of Solano Counties. Assemblymember Susan Bonilla began serving in 2016. Before that, she was a high school teacher in the Mount Diablo Unified School District and a member of the Concord City Council where she served one term as Mayor.

Consider these words from the President about teachers: "Great teachers make a lasting impact on their students' lives. When a young person learns from an exceptional teacher, they are more likely to graduate, attend college, and succeed later in life. Teachers lift up the next generation and enrich our Nation, and they deserve our gratitude and thanks. This week, as we remember the teachers who touched our lives and shaped our futures, let us recommit to supporting those who serve in America's classrooms. By investing in our Nation's teachers, we can build a world where every girl and boy can dream big, hope deeply, and realize a brighter future."

She has been a strong grassroots advocate of education in her time in the Assembly. It is a close election against a Democrat that has taken a stand against many platform positions of the California Democratic Party, hence the endorsement.

It will be a very close election where every vote will count. Susan Bonilla needs our help and the California Democratic Party has made it easy for us to provide that help from the convenience of our own homes with our own computers!

Here is how, just click on the link provided <[www.cadem.org/bonilla](http://www.cadem.org/bonilla)> and follow the directions. When you are at the screen just before making calls, there will be a question of which county you represent, answer *Yolo*.

If we can get everyone that receives this newsletter to make only ten calls, that is almost 4000 calls and could be the difference between victory and defeat for Ms. Bonilla.

Thanks in advance for your efforts!

Bob Schelen, Chair, Yolo County Democratic Party

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**UC Tuition (continued from p. 2)**

- Increase tuition for out-of-state students by \$5,000 a year, which is still well below other prominent public universities. The increased revenues will help fund enrollments of California students and keep their tuition from increasing.
- UC also needs to ensure Californians are getting the most for our money by increasing the amount of teaching that is required and limiting increases in executive compensation.

There are other suggestions at holding off a tuition increase as well, such Senate Bill 15, but that would eliminate the Middle Class Scholarship Act, an Act that right now is proving to be a boon to helping pay for college.

We need to see if these are ideas (some or all of them) that we agree are important to implement and keep tuition from getting to levels that continue to keep a number of California students from getting a UC education, and if so, share that information with State Senator Wolk and Assemblymember Dodd.

**Democratic Newsletter**

**Champagne Brunch**  
**Sunday, June 14**  
**11:00 am– 2:00 pm**  
**(see enclosed Calendar)**

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