



# The Splash

## Fall/Winter 2022

### General Meeting:

Virtual Meeting  
Date to be announced

### Upcoming Events

- **Creek Cleanups : Coastal Cleanup/Creek to Bay Day** Saturday, September 17 10:00 AM—12 PM Hegenberger Rd in Oakland.  
Sign up here:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coastal-cleanupcreek-to-bay-day-tickets-408148732847>
- **Root Park Cleanup and non-native plant removal** Saturday, December 10 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Details to follow
- **Chabot Park Restoration Project:** Saturday, November 12 and 19th 10:00 AM -3:00 PM Details to follow

### This Issue: The Circular Economy

I keep hearing this new term “Circular Economy” and have been delving into it. The word *economy* threw me at first, but in this case, it means the economy of how people use the substances of the Earth. Wiki says it this way:

*Economy*: The Latin word has its origin in the Antient Greek’s *oikonomia* or *oikonomos*. The word’s first part *oikos* means “house”, and the second part *nemein* means “to manage” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy>. In simple words, we need to relearn how to *manage our house*.

I like this definition from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation; The Circular Economy is:

“A shift in Mindset,  
From degrading to regenerating  
From damaging to renewing  
From waste to abundance  
From less bad to more good”

What is it really? It’s a new (but old) way to see possessions and products and how we use them. If the Circular Economy is healthy, it’s a closed circle where everything runs with no waste. Sounds good, right?

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It seems so natural, so obvious a plan, the premise of the Circular Economy. Our kids have been passionately taught the notion of a circular economy for as long as there’s been parenting – just with different vocab. The Pre-K handbook defines it – use what you have, share with others,

reuse items, don’t waste or make

In a simplified way, a circular economy mines our own waste instead of exploiting new resources from nature.

Henrique Pancini & Carrie Snyder

a mess. As a result of this, we can be happy and healthy. It’s unspoken. Fair-play is something we have always taught kids and we want them to live by these standards. But what about ourselves? Because somewhere along the human timeline, Western Civilization took a turn.

Where did we go wrong? When has being a part of the planet become such a bad thing? Since when has the sought-after plan become - getting the biggest, most - *I have the power and will do as I please*. Some historians claim that western religion was the start. The unquestionable tenet that we are made in God’s image:

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea... and over all the earth. And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: have dominion over...every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/k/kjv/kjv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=1&startverse=26&endverse=31>

That’s a mighty powerful place to put us humans. Back in the day, that was meant one way, but we took it another. Was this the disconnect? Was this our not-so-subtle signal to separate from nature and never look back?

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### Officers and Board of Directors:

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**Watershed Awareness Coordinator/Newsletter Editor** Susan Levenson

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 105(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of citizens, students, and businesses dedicated to improving community understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

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There are many slightly different translations, but “have dominion” and “fill the Earth and subdue it”? Many scholars will say that to have dominion is to “take responsibility for”. <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/image-of-god-meaning-imag-o-dei-in-the-bible.html> But many people took this as we can do whatever, however we want. Once god-like, our stature grew exponentially to where we’re no longer a part of nature. Humans, in this new role are above nature, and to call us mammals – a sure mistake! An insult! Thus began our Odyssey of waste.

No matter the reason, we are where we are on this trash-filled, “I’m gonna get mine” place. We have caused this climate challenged, plastic, throw away mind frame. So how do we (re) educate the “It is my God-given right” populace? Waste *is* a purely human invention!

You know what people say. If you want to know the truth, just ask kids. They are unfiltered, black and white, and often exactly right. Go ahead, ask a child what’s the best/right way to live. Inevitably they will say to *play fair, share your toys, give everyone a turn, don’t make a mess; but if you do clean up after yourself.* Not precisely the verbiage of Dame Ellen Mac Arthur and her Foundation, but it’s fundamentally similar in its plan. We live now in a human-made linear economy - where we “Take, make, use, dispose of and pollute.” The Circular Economy can be summarized by this circular approach – “Make, use, reuse, remake and recycle”. I’m not suggesting that adopting these practices will be easy; it will need tons of buy-in & work.

Examples:

Do we all really need a NEW...\_\_\_\_\_? (Let’s say car)  
Imagine a place where a car is no longer a prestige point, but a thing to take to get you from point A to point B. If it doesn’t represent my worth, my identity – might it be OK to share? I

mean, how much is this car actually on the road? What if there were cars all around, just waiting for us to use? Available, dependable. It’s not a status symbol, merely a vehicle of transportation. What if it were as simple as – *Gotta go to work, get some groceries and make that Dr. appointment on Tuesday?* What if the vehicle were ready to do all of that and more? Would we really care if someone shared it? *If I’m not using it, go ahead.* Kind of like a shared Uber – it’s there; quick, dependable, and clean. Or do we need those 4 wheels as an identity?

Everyone knows that plastic is just not working in our world society. Someday, someone will find a design (from nature, I’m guessing) that is not made from petrochemicals. Because petrochemicals are dangerous. Once it’s used to manufacture plastic, is that something we really want to place food in, wear or drink from? What if our food container was made from something that had no chemicals? Had no chance of hurting us, filling bellies of ocean-life and building up on the banks of our creeks? As my friends would say, *it better be good, cheap and totally convenient.*

If you Google The Ellen MacArthur Foundation you can find a new product – made from mushrooms that works as Styrofoam does – insulates, keeps stuff cool, isn’t precious so it can be purchased by anyone. <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-examples/packaging-from-mushroom-plastic-ecovative>

How about jeans? “Most jeans today are made, sold, worn, and then burned or tossed into landfill. Less than 1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled” (Continued on pg. 3)



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The trash heap would be a lot smaller if our clothes could be reused and reprocessed indefinitely. Because to live sustainably on this Earth we must get smart. Indefinite use = sustainability. That is a circular model, the precepts of which any preschooler would recognize.

I'm not talking Socialism (although I do like libraries that lend - at no cost, & are government entities.) <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/libraries-socialism/2099983/> I'm talking common sense (which is not common)! If you are invited to a party, you don't eat the entire cake! You'd be the kid no one wanted to play with!

Could it happen if we just got back to basics like Preschool? :

- No one likes a bully – you don't get to get it and keep it forever, just for you.
- Sharing is good and kind.
- Don't put dangerous items on the playground. Someone will be hurt! Don't even touch them!
- Flowers, blue sky and rainbows are beautiful. Pretty sure in pre-school we don't paint over someone's masterpiece.
- If someone is hurt, we pick them up and give them a Band-Aid. Even if they took most of the cake. Next time they might see that what mom/teacher says is better.

Please scientists, get busy and build this new life and lifestyle! I can't wait till blue skies and rainbows last forever. Can you?



**Special Thanks to our Up-To Date 2022 FSLC Members:**

- |                                   |                |                                    |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Rachel Matthews                   | Michelle Ellis | Debora Campbell                    | Ken Pon |
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| Art Schmitt (Thru 10-22)          |                | Vergara/Vukman Family (Thru 10-22) |         |
| Stefanie Preugal (Thru10-22)      |                | Douglas Spalding (Thru 11-22)      |         |
| Juan Gonzalez Family (Thru 12-22) |                | Leo Sheridan (Thru 12-22)          |         |
| Erika Solis (Thru 12-22)          |                | Robin Freeman (Thru12-22)          |         |
| Virginia Harrington (Thru12-22)   |                | <b>Your name here!</b>             |         |

**Reup your membership today!**

**It's easy, go to [www.FSLC.org](http://www.FSLC.org) and click on Join Our Team!! Or use the form on the next page through snail-mail.**

We're on the web:  
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The **San Leandro Creek Watershed Awareness Program** is a comprehensive watershed education program funded by Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, with additional support from the City of San Leandro, implemented by Friends of San Leandro Creek. Thank you to the following for your continued support: Alameda County Public Works, The City of San Leandro, The Watershed Project, and FSLC Members and Volunteers like you.

**Friends of San Leandro Creek Membership Application**

Yes, I would like to become a member/renew my membership in the following category: (Please circle one)

- Student \$ 1
  - Individual \$5
  - Family \$15
- Non-Profit \$25
  - Business \$100

Make checks and please remit to:

Friends of San Leandro Creek  
C/O RHSD  
14200 Chapman Rd.  
San Leandro, CA 94578

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c) (3) not for profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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