

# Lafayette SOCIAL

FEBRUARY 2020

A MAGAZINE CREATED  
FOR AND BY THE  
RESIDENTS OF LAFAYETTE



## Nancy Hu

*Believes There's No Time to  
Waste in the Fight Against  
Climate Change*

SHARING STORIES • CREATING COMMUNITY

Photo Taken By  
Shelly Hamalian

meet our neighbor

Written by Jules Zucker in collaboration with Nancy Hu. Interview conducted by Annie Marggraff.

# NANCY HU

## Believes There's No Time to Waste in the Fight Against Climate Change



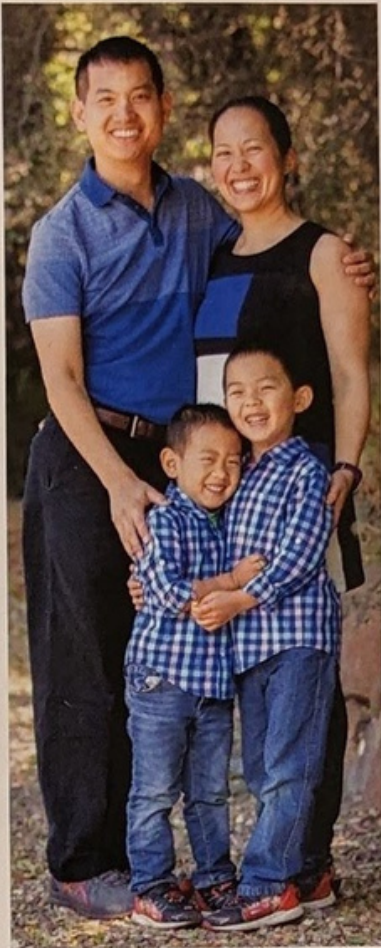
Nancy Hu (center) stands with Lafayette residents and Climate Reality Bay Area Chapter Co-Presidents, Steve Richard (left) and Wei-Tai Kwok (right), in the Lafayette Community Garden in April, following a potluck meeting where Nancy gave a mini-TED talk on zero waste and its link to climate change.

**I**t's no secret that the planet needs our help, but global temperatures aren't the only thing heating up when it comes to the climate crisis. Nancy Hu, a local climate leader for both the Climate Reality Project and the Lafayette Environmental Task Force, believes that everyone has a role to play in protecting our environment.

"For most of my life, I've considered myself very eco-conscious, but I never understood what that

meant," said Nancy. "It's sad that our society says, 'As long as you recycle, you're good to go.' My lightbulb moment was the 2016 election. I knew I had to do something, because the federal government was going to be very behind on taking any kind of action."

Nancy became more proactive about changing her lifestyle with the environment in mind. She began maximizing her resources, making more mindful consumer choices, and limiting the waste her family produced at home.



Roger and Nancy, Jeremy (3) and Aaron (5)  
Photo taken by Shelly Hamalian



Stéphanie Regni (left), owner of FillGood.co, and Nancy shared a booth at 2019's Lafayette Earth Day festival outside the Lafayette Library. Nancy and Stephanie help educate Lafayette residents about the meaning, the methods, and the benefits of going zero waste.

"I started googling 'fight climate change.' That led me down a path of going zero-waste and had me questioning the impact of every product I brought into my life," said Nancy.

In addition to making changes in her own home, Nancy began meeting with the Berkeley-based Plastic Reduction Working Group, joined the Lafayette Environmental Task Force, started a Buy Nothing Lafayette group, and eventually attended a training for the Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit focused on climate change activism and education.

"Climate Reality Project is a nonprofit organization founded by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore that aspires to catalyze global solutions to our climate crisis," said Nancy. "Leadership Corps Trainings equip members of the public with tools to speak to communities about climate change. It was really eye-opening – you come away with all the PowerPoints and resources to talk to communities about climate change, and instigate communities to take action and do more."

"While Climate Reality's focus is on getting communities to go to clean power, with 100-percent renewable from solar and wind, I also talk about waste and agriculture in my presentations," she went on. "Food is a huge part of the climate crisis, from the production to the waste, and it can also play a key role in climate solutions."

Nancy recommends that people start small not only by talking about climate change with friends and family, but also by em-

bracing local leisure travel, eating more plants, choosing reusable over disposable, and voting for candidates who support policies system-wide to reduce carbon emissions. Nancy urges anyone to get involved in local climate advocacy groups – no one person is too small to make a change, but saving the planet is ultimately a team effort.

"Somewhere along the way, I figured I needed to do more than just what I did at home," said Nancy. "Reducing my own waste and my own carbon footprint is great, but it doesn't mean anything if it doesn't get amplified or if other people don't know about it. Some people call what I do a hobby, but I don't know if I'd call it a hobby – I'm just putting whatever extra time I have into this. It helps me to know I'm doing what I can to create a livable future for my two kids."



If you are interested in featuring a family member or your entire family, contact Jamie Cronk at [Jamie.Cronk@n2pub.com](mailto:Jamie.Cronk@n2pub.com).

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