

2006 Winter Dinner Meeting Review

By Amy Arcus

The GETA winter dinner meeting was at Casa Orinda in Orinda, California on March 21. The topic was "Environmental Health on the Brink of...Opportunity, Collapse, New Science, What? The 21st Century and Toxicology." The meeting was well attended by folks from all over the Bay area and beyond (Davis). Dr. Richard Jackson gave a stimulating and thought provoking presentation that included descriptions of some of his past experiences (and adventures) in public health both in California and at CDC. He described his involvement in the decisions made to control the Medfly scare of the late 1980's, the dramatic drop in blood lead levels associated with removing lead from gasoline, the response to the Metam sodium spill into the Sacramento River that resulted from the derailing of a train in Dunsmuir, and the backdrop for the initiation of Prop 65. These events helped to shape the existing regulatory framework in California today. Dr. Jackson also provided his thoughts on public health in the future, including the lack of preparedness of public health infrastructure to handle a pandemic, and that the future impacts of global warming will be the major threat to human and environmental health.