



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
*of THE RIVERTOWNS*

P.O. Box 142, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

[www.lwv-rivertowns.org](http://www.lwv-rivertowns.org)

**BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2015**

*President's Message*

*Dear Members and Friends,*

*It is not news that black males struggle to find employment and endure disproportionate wage differentials. Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that the national unemployment rate among black males continues to be twice that of white males and the unemployment rate among black youth - both male and female - is 31.8%, compared with white youth, which is 15.7%. One of many reasons for this disparity is the difficulty in getting hired for the first time.*

*The Urban League of Westchester is doing something about this. At our Annual meeting, we heard from Ken Chamberlain, Director of the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP), which partners with the Department of Social Services to place individuals needing work experience. This is a win-win situation: applicants can get practical job experience and develop successful work habits, and organizations get temporary workers at no expense or obligation to hire.*

*The Urban League has the workforce but needs worksites in government or not-for-profit settings for placement. By telephoning friends, relatives, neighbors, and colleagues, we can identify worksites for the Urban League to make placements. **Let's all make at least three calls - it can make a difference in the lives of individuals right here in Westchester County.***

*Please send contact information to me for any interested organizations and I will in turn forward this to Ken Chamberlain. A copy of Form NHEP232, Work Experience Program (WEP) Agreement, is available from me or Mr. Chamberlain.*

*Also, special thanks go to Sue Weisfeld for starting a suit drive at her Quaker Meeting House in response to Ken's appeal for men's clothing. If you shop at church bazaars and moving sales, why not pick up a man's suit, shirts or ties, for the Urban League? Questions? Call Mr. Chamberlain at 914-997-0873.*

*I hope to see you all at our upcoming events! All the best, Susan*

## BOARD BRIEFS

**Annual Meeting, June 6, 2015:** The membership received reports on the proposed annual budget, local program and revised bylaws. After short discussions, all were approved. Committee reports were presented on Membership, Events Planning, Voter Service, Waterfront and Environmental, Health Care, Poverty Study, County league and Nominating Committee. After the business meeting we had lunch on the Howell's beautiful patio, and enjoyed a presentation by Kenneth Chamberlain, Community Work Experience Developer, Westchester Urban League. Also, our two Students Inside Albany shared their experience, and Tom Abinante and Mary Jane Shimsky updated us on the issues they are addressing.

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## **WHAT'S NEW? LWVRIVERTOWNS 2015-16**

### **DARE THOMPSON, KATE JANKOSKI ON SEPTEMBER 12!**

Kicking off the 1915-16 season, our LWVR board will meet September 12, 9:30 AM at the Irvington Public Library for a business meeting and to firm up season plans. This session will be followed by brunch, and reports from newly elected NYS president, Dare Thompson, and Kate Jankowski, LWVNY coordinator of Development.

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET**

**DARE THOMPSON, President,**

and

**KATE JANKOWSKI, Development Coordinator,**

**League of Women Voters of NYS**

who will discuss many aspects of League work,  
including fundraising

**Saturday, September 12**

**Brunch at 11:00 a.m.; Speakers at 12:00 Noon**

**Irvington Public Library**

**12 Astor Street**

Across from Irvington Train Station

Ample parking available

**RSVP to [sgoodwin5@optimum.net](mailto:sgoodwin5@optimum.net)**

Indicate if you will join us for brunch

Or just come at noon to hear the speakers

**OPEN TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS!!!**

This is a free program  
Donations are welcome

## WHATS NEW IN HEALTH CARE - by Edith Tsold

For many of us who've survived the decades time seems to fly faster than ever; the pace of change has accelerated to such a degree that it surely seems so. An obituary of Barbara Stauch, former NY Times health editor, quoted her as saying, that "sorting out health news is one of the hardest...(jobs)..I've run across." There was so much hype, tangled and conflicting financial interests, misinformation, and declining science coverage that the public was - and is - confused.

To the extent possible, the LWVRivertowns clarifies and updates what is happening, and what we regard as quality care, which largely determines what, and how, we pay. The goals are to increase accessibility, lower its costs, and facilitate communication among all participants.

To give a few examples: medical care has migrated from solo practitioners, ERs and hospitals to "minute" clinics with nurse practitioners in drugstores and free standing urgent care clinics (no appointment needed). Specialty hospitals (like the Cleveland Clinic) have expanded to family practice. Small hospitals have affiliated with medical centers. A Community Health Center in Detroit now serves a medically under served area and has helped rejuvenate the city's economy.

As for "quality", our perspective has broadened. It includes intangibles, like the promotion and maintenance of well-being, along with measurable end-points like lipid profiles and blood pressure readings.

What has not changed is the role of insurance companies, drug companies, and Congress.

### HEALTH CARE sides

Since the ACA there has been a 7.9% drop of uninsured Americans, 11.9% among Latinos. New York's uninsured has dropped 2.1 million. (JAMA):

**Mortality rates of 69 million fee-for-service Medicare patients fell 16% (1999-2013) with more than three million fewer hospitalizations in 2013 than 1999; patients 45% LESS likely to die, 24% less likely to die within a month and 22% less likely to die within a year. (Krumholz - Journal of the American Medical Association) Perhaps partly due to a hospital error reduction campaign, public health improvements, new drugs, and cleaner air. **Hospital price growth decelerated to 1.4% in 2014.****

**In 2014 health spending was \$3.1 trillion, a 5.5% increase, \$9,696 per person. About 8.4 million Americans gained health coverage.** By 2018-19, health spending is projected to rise annually about 6.2% as more Baby Boomers (19.1 million) enter Medicare. (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

Assemblyman Gottfried's single payer health insurance bill ("Everybody in, Nobody out") passed the Assembly by an almost 2/3 majority (little hope in Senate). In the US Congress, Rep John Conyers reintroduced HR 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare For All Act, with 49 co-sponsors.

## RIVERFRONT/ENVIRONMENT

The next Group meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 21, 1:30 PM**, home of Emma Lou Louis; 125 Bellair Dr., Dobbs Ferry; 693-1726, elsailors@mail.com. **JOIN US to discuss local, regional and national issues. Plus whatever you suggest!**

**Noted locally, meanwhile:**

**Seventeen Westchester municipalities** (Yonkers to Lewisboro) formed Sustainable Westchester's Municipal Solar Buyers' Group, issued a request for proposals to install **solar panels**, for lower energy cost. The group identified 75 sites where panels could be built.

**Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson and Irvington** recently signed contracts with Lumen Light Solutions of Yonkers to convert street lights to (low energy consuming) **LEDs**.

Refurbished **Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park** is open and flourishing!

Remediation continues at the **Hastings BP Arco site**, but crucial remediation and development plans must yet be worked out.

**Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion** activists urge that approval of the Spectrum Energy project be rescinded, subject to an independent risk assessment. The proposed 42-inch pipeline would run near the Indian Point nuclear plant.

The 130-year old **Tarrytown Light** in Sleepy Hollow (at Kingsland Point in Sleepy Hollow) sparkles again. A replica Fresnel lens was funded by a state grant and contributions.

In July **algae bloom closed the Lake Carmel beach**.

**And in New York State:**

Scenic Hudson purchased **590** ("spectacular") **acres** in Stockport, Columbia County, part of its Saving the Land That Matters Most campaign.

NYS bought the 200 acre MacIntyre estate, and now owns **12 miles of shoreline** along the upper Hudson and Opalescent Rivers.

Controversy continues re the voter-approved **Lot 8 landswap** (in the NY Jay Mountain Wilderness Preserve) to permit wollastonite (used in plastics, cosmetics, paints, etc.) mining, in exchange for a 200 acre parcel elsewhere.

Adirondack Explorer writes that climate change may be a **hazard to songbirds** (such as the Magnolia Warbler) breeding in the Adirondacks. Birds may arrive too early or too late to feast on caterpillars that rely on specific fresh leaves.

## AMONG US

We know **Susan Weisfeld** as chair of our poverty study, but didn't know (in her words):

*My parents left Vienna after Kristallnacht and lived in Ecuador for eight years. I was born in Quito and left when I was 2 1/2. My first language was Spanish and we spoke German at home, but the kids in Brooklyn didn't want to play with me so I learned English very fast.*

*I kept the German but forgot the Spanish. My parents always spoke Spanish to people who didn't understand English, otherwise they spoke a mixture of English and German -- then finally, just English. My father could speak fluent Yiddish, but my mother only understood it. I can understand most of it, but it's difficult because of the slang.*

*When I was eight, in 3rd grade, I went to Naturalization Court by myself (my parents were in the audience) and took the oath in front of the judge. My name was Julia Susana and I asked if I could be Susan Julia on the paper - and he said yes, and that's legally now my name. My parents took me to see Mogambo at Radio City to celebrate. The next day my whole third grade class celebrated with me. It was not usual for kids to be foreign born in that part of Brooklyn, and it was fun for everyone. However, most everyone's parents and definitely their grandparents came from another country. It was a fabulous place to grow up. I had a wonderful childhood and am still friends with two of my good friends from 44th Street. And that's why I love to go to Naturalization Court. I always get misty!*

Rivertowns' next turn at immigration Court will be announced soon. Contact Susan Goodwin if you would like to go. Even if you are native-born it's a wonderful experience.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Again, we are participating in **National Voter Registration Day** on Tuesday, September 22. For the past several years small groups (2 or 3 of us) have gathered at Metro North stations along the Hudson line during morning and/or evening commuter hours to hand out voter registration and absentee ballot request forms. We don't actually register voters on the platforms (commuters don't stop), but many people are grateful for the forms.

Can't make it on the 22<sup>nd</sup>? We will have a table at the Dobbs Ferry Festa on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Have another idea or want to help? Contact Jean Howell.

## AND A REQUEST FOR HELP

Ken Chamberlain, who spoke so eloquently at our Annual Luncheon has asked for League members to join with the Westchester Urban League in a voter registration drive during the week of September 20-26. We do not have details yet, but if you think you could help, please contact Ken at 914.997.0873 ext102 or [kqca@westchestergov.com](mailto:kqca@westchestergov.com) .

## AN INVITATION

Sue Weisfeld has invited our participation in a series of facilitated Book Discussions, classic writings on Race in America - sponsored by the Scarsdale Friends Meeting on Sundays, with light refreshments at 12:20 PM, book discussion 12:45 PM. The Scarsdale Friends Meeting House is located at 133 Popham Road, just west of Rte. 22 and Village Hall.

Sunday, Oct. 24: *To Kill A Mockingbird*  
Sunday, Nov. 22: *The New Jim Crow*  
Sunday, Mar. 22: *The Warmth of Other Suns*  
Sunday, Apr. 24: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas*  
Sunday, May 22: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

## IN THE RIVERTOWNS

Special thanks to **Lisa Cohen** and her husband for our new website ([lwv-rivertowns.org](http://lwv-rivertowns.org)). Check it often to keep up with all that is going on in the Rivertowns LWV. **Ruth Kotecha** and the Program Committee are planning many exciting events for the 2015/16 year.

Welcome to new members:

**Kenneth Chamberlain** - White Plains  
**Earl DePass and Margaret Abam-DePass** - Croton  
**Peter Dormont** - Hastings  
**Pamela and Neil Epstein** - Ardsley  
**Andrea Furey and husband** - Croton  
**Betty Gilmore** - Dobbs Ferry  
**Linda Levine** - Tarrytown  
**Laura Shea and husband** - Croton  
**Edith Szold** - Bronxville

Best wishes to **Bernard Harris** who in temporary residence at Schnurmacher's Rehab Center in White Plains. For the last two years Bernard and **Maria Harris** have been responsible for mailing our 'Bulletin'.

Did you see **Susan Schwarz** on Fios 1 Newsbreakers? Susan is a member and former chair of the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee. The committee was created by LWV Westchester in 1991 to investigate complaints of unfair practices. Susan gave an excellent explanation of how the committee investigates and decides on the validity of complaints.

We mourn the passing of long time LWVR member, **Patricia Lehrburger** of Irvington who died last November

**Looking ahead - IMPORTANT DATES!**

**Saturday, Sep 12: Rivertowns LWV Board Meeting** – Irvington Public Library – 9:30 a.m. and brunch with Dare Thompson and Kate Jankowski at 11:00. Board meetings are “**open**” and we welcome your participation.

**Thursday, Sep 10: Primary Elections** - all districts – 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Monday, Sep 21: Waterfront/Environment Group** – home of Emma Lou Louis, 125 Bellair Drive, Dobbs Ferry, (693-1726) – 1:30 p.m. - **ALL WELCOME**

**Tuesday, Sep 22: National Voter Registration Day** – Contact Jean Howell (914 693-6755 or [erniejeanhowell@msn.com](mailto:erniejeanhowell@msn.com)) if you can help.

**Tuesday, Nov 3: General Elections** - all districts – 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **VOTE**

**Thursday, Dec 3: League Day at the United Nations** - briefings on **Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World** -10:00 a.m. -noon, followed by lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room and optional tours of the UN. Registration form at [lwny.org](http://lwny.org); click on Bulletins and LWNYS Voter, LWNYS Voter Newsletter, August 2015.

Future **LWVR** Board meetings: Hastings Community Center - 10:00 a.m. **Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14, Annual Meeting Jun date TBD**

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**ARE YOU A MEMBER OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE?**

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**LWV The Rivertowns – MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:            Single \$60 \_\_\_            Household \$90 \_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution to the Fund for Citizen Education (separate check) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My interests are: Voter Service\_\_\_ Water Front\_\_\_ Observer Corps\_\_\_ Youth Outreach\_\_\_  
Fund Raising\_\_\_ Membership\_\_\_ Bulletin/Public Relations\_\_\_ Health Care\_\_\_  
Global Warming \_\_\_ Poverty Study\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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