



League of Women Voters of Smithtown Township

VOTER

The LWV is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

June 2010

website: <http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/smithtown.htm>

In this issue of the Voter:

- Carol McNally receives 2010 LWVSC Liberty Award
- Report on Students Inside Albany
- Initial Update from the Town of Smithtown on Natural Hazard Mitigation and Groundwater Hazard Information

Our condolences go to Mary Zopf, on the loss of her husband Vincent, who was an active supporter of LWV Smithtown, and frequently in attendance at League programs and events.

Shirley Reiter, a long-time member of LWV Smithtown, and actively involved in Democratic politics in Smithtown for many years, passed away in late March. Shirley was also a long time member of the Smithtown anti-bias task force, a leader in the Suffolk Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and published the monthly Smithtown Democratic Committee newsletter.

LWV of Smithtown Annual Meeting

**BRING A
GUEST**

Thursday, June 17
Mills Pond House
5:30pm – 8:30pm

Guest Speaker: Lauren Abramson, PhD

Conflict and Transformation

How we can learn from others ways to effectively prevent and resolve conflicts and crime??

Whether Community Conferencing is being utilized by the juvenile justice system, schools, courts, or neighborhoods, the result is the same: People in conflict come to understand each other better and find ways to repair the harm and move forward in a better way.

(read more about Dr. Abramson on page 5)

There is no cost for this meeting, but we ask those planning to attend to bring hors d'oeuvres, finger food, salads, dessert, wine, soft drinks, etc.

*Please let Marie Manginelli 265-1791 know what you will bring.
Purchase raffle tickets to help support the League.
Tickets enclosed with meeting materials in this issue of the Voter.*

Share Your Point of View

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting on June 17 at the Mills Pond House, please contact Joyce Rosenthal at 265 6463 to make your voice heard regarding the budget, program, and nominations (all of which are included in this Voter) and give your suggestions for directions to the board.

President's Message

The LWV of Smithtown is very proud to announce that Carol McNally was the recipient of 2010 Liberty Award presented by the LWVSC and Arlene Lesser was the recipient of the Recognition Award for the LWV of Smithtown. They awards were presented at the LWVSC Annual Convention May 17th.

The Leadership in the Community program was conducted by Lisa Scott, assisted by Sondra Irvine, Carol McNally, and Joyce Rosenthal of the LWV of Smithtown, Patsy Hirschhorn and Kelly Brown from the Smithtown Youth Bureau, and Ed Ryder and Lauren Moreno, assistant principals from the Kings Park School District.

Due to the heavy rains of the past month many homes located near the Southeast branch of the Nissequogue River have been flooded. The water level in the area has been raised causing basements and areas around existing homes to be flooded. This area is located both north and south of RT. 347 in the former wetlands of the river. The river flows through Town, County and State owned land. In order to alleviate or remediate the problem the three political entities will have to cooperate with one another.

Joyce Rosenthal

LWV of SMITHTOWN

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VACANCIES:

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Government Action

Smithtown Town Board

Meeting Schedule

Tuesday: June 8

9:30 am work session
2:00 pm regular meeting

*Smithtown Town Hall
Second Floor Board Room*

Thursday: June 24

7:00 pm regular meeting

*Eugene A. Cannataro
Senior Citizen Center
420 Middle Country Road,
Smithtown, NY.*

Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Regular meeting:

Tuesday: June 15

Smithtown Main Library at 7pm



STAC
Smithtown Township Arts Council

Mills Pond House
660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780
631-862-6575 fax 631-862-8730

The League of Women Voters of Smithtown thanks
Allison J. Cruz, Executive Director
and the staff of the Smithtown Township
Arts Council/ Mills Pond House Gallery
for its support of the League.

*We encourage all Town Residents to support the Arts
Council, participate in its cultural programs,
and visit the historic Mills Pond House in St. James.
For info: www.stacarts.org.*

Students Inside Albany: Eye-Opening Experience

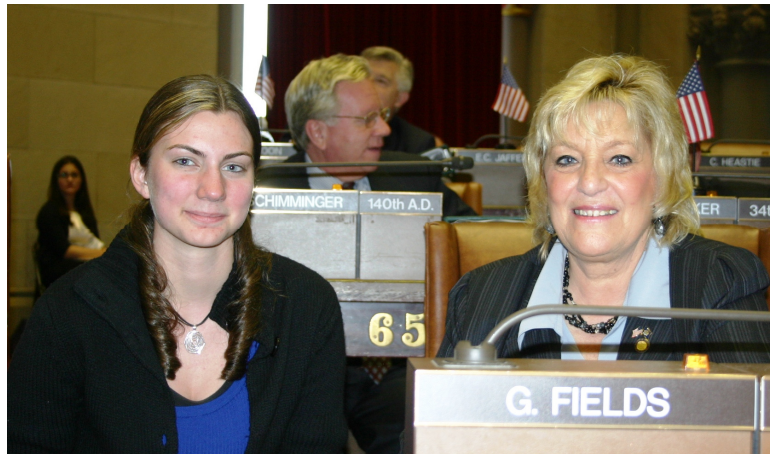
by Anna Elena Mizzi, SIA representative from LWV Smithtown

When I first arrived in that downstairs meeting room, set up with rows of tables populated by unknown students, all awkwardly attempting to mingle-I was more than a little nervous. But as I made friends with the girl sitting behind me, and the two sitting in front of me, I found we were all very like-minded. I began to laugh a little easier and as we played a crazy version of getting to know you bingo -Where's the would-be army pilot??- I found that we were all very like-minded, if not politically but academically and interest wise. While dinner began a little awkwardly, we soon progressed to easy conversation. Since the students came from all over, we were able to compare living upstate in a teensy town to living in a village on Long Island, what it was like to be five minutes from the bay, and what it was like to have less than 100 students in your grade. We sat down to the first round of speakers, who were talking about the basics of government. While I'd thought I had a 'basic' understanding, I found I didn't know what all of the terms meant exactly. As I retired to the hospitality room (after picking some of the speakers brains personally about various topics) I talked a little more with my roommate, Lara. We found a common ground in 24 and theatre, as well as various books we'd both read. When I went back to my room around ten o'clock, we stayed up an extra hour chatting back and forth a bit.

The next morning the alarm from my phone rang at quarter to eight. I hopped in the shower, put on my nice clothes and grabbed the blue folder and backpack I'd received the day before. The morning lectures were both very entertaining as well as informative. We

were beginning to get a feel for the politics in Albany, in addition to the straight facts and definitions. When we got to actually go to the capitol, and meet with our assemblyperson, that's when we truly learned how Albany worked. (after of course, a tour of the capitol, which is a beautiful and diverse piece of architecture)

I met with Assemblywoman Ginny Fields, who was very knowledgeable and very willing to tell me tons of information about the true inner workings of Albany. I can honestly say that I am much less naïve than I was when I first



Anna Mizzi and New York State Assemblywoman Ginny Fields

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More about our June 17 Speaker, Lauren Abramson, PhD

Lauren Abramson is a psychologist who has worked with children and families in communities for the past 25 years. She is the Founder and Executive Director of the Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore, Maryland and Assistant Professor (part-time) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Lauren focused attention on Community Conferencing in Baltimore in 1995. She advances conferencing as a means of building social capital and collective efficacy on many levels, including:

- empowering individuals and communities to resolve their own conflicts
- keeping young people out of the criminal justice system
- mobilizing the existing untapped human assets in communities

The Community Conferencing Center (CCC) is a conflict transformation and community justice organization that provides ways for people to safely, collectively and effectively prevent and resolve conflicts and crime.

The work of the Community Conferencing Center has been recognized nationally and internationally for its use of conflict management strategies in a variety of settings, including criminal justice, education, community development and business.

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entered the building. I got to see everything-the good, the bad and the ugly. What works in our system, and what doesn't. How power is held and how it's lost. I was able to learn valuable information about things I can do in my future, and ways I can use my government right now.

After returning to the hotel for dinner, we sat down to another panel discussion-this time about media. Between the four leaders, there was experience in all aspects of media-TV, blog, micro-blog, paper, radio...I was keen to hear their opinions on the role of media and the future of it. Afterwards, I got to speak individually with a writer for Newsday-He encouraged me to look into a future in journalism, or at least into freelancing, especially since I like writing so much. I have long said that I specifically don't want to go into journalism, and while I still don't think I want to do that full time, I've been giving more thoughts to free-lancing, because of this presentation.

The next morning, we learned about lobbying. Having seen a little real lobbying the day before while shadowing my assemblywoman, learning what goes into lobbying and the different types of lobbyists that exist was also interesting. By lunch, my friends and I got into an intense political debate, one I probably wouldn't have been able to have in such depth with most of my friends back home. I learned about other viewpoints and more information, and learned to better define what I myself believe in.

Shadowing the senate was interesting because I really had a lot of time to talk with the staff of the senator (Senator Owen Johnson). I began to understand what every day jobs go into politics. Since Senator Johnson has been involved in politics so long, I was given the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of some historical votes. This information is truly a precious resource, and one that I am glad I was able to partake in.

The final talk of the day was given by Ms. Nancy Bonesteel, a citizen lobbyist. She was a powerful speaker. Never have I felt so motivated to get up and change things. She proved to each and every one of us that we can make a difference if we only get up and DO something.

Afterwards, we celebrated our two days of almost non-stop learning with two hours of fun at Jillians, and then an hour of talking with the girls afterwards. That night, I cemented bonds with teens my age that I still talk to on a day-to-day basis.

The next morning was pervaded by a rather sad feel-none of us wanted to go home. We were having too much fun with learning things we never knew we never knew, meeting people we never thought we would get the chance to talk to and forming inside jokes with people we'd never forget. The very night I got home, I began telling my friends all the things we'd learned and forming plans to use the information I'd acquired for various new projects. I spent a lot of time on the train ride home thinking back on the almost four days I'd spent in Albany. I firmly came to the conclusion that I couldn't think of a better way to spend four days in April. I'd learned more than I thought was possible in a short time, about myself and about my government, and I'd had a lot of fun doing so.

Town of Smithtown Natural Hazard Mitigation Update 01-2010 Groundwater Hazard Information April 27, 2010

<http://www.smithtowninfo.com/PublicSafety/templateproc.cfm?PageID=441>

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Smithtown, as well as the 2009 Annual Report that includes a list of the some of the Town of Smithtown's recent accomplishments and future initiatives, can be viewed on the Town of Smithtown website via links.
- The Town of Smithtown is currently experiencing storm water inundation which began with the snowfall in December 2009, was exacerbated by rain storms in February 2010, and has culminated in two severe rain events which occurred March 12th thru the 14th, and March 29th, 2010.
- Over 16" of rain and 3' of snowmelt have occurred in the past six weeks - this is a record high; as a result, groundwater is also at a record high. Surface flooding, and

water in basements, has nowhere to go until we get an extended period of dry weather to allow everything to dry out.

- The Town of Smithtown is doing everything they can in terms of short-term measures like drain cleaning and pumping, and long term measures to increase drainage capacity, such as dredging the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue River and constructing capital drainage improvements. **Please understand, however, that drainage improvements are intended to have a positive effect when operating under average annual rainfall conditions, and will not eliminate the need to pump basements when excessive and prolonged precipitation occurs.**
- Phase I Dredging that has just occurred from Brilner Drive to Harcourt Avenue is a pilot project intended to demonstrate to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County Parks Department that stream cleaning is an acceptable method of wetlands restorations. The short term benefit is that 1200 feet

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of the Northeast Branch is flowing quickly and conveying **surface water** from new rain events efficiently away from adjacent and southerly neighborhoods. Long term this our evidence to get permission from higher governmental authorities to continue this work in other areas of the river. The work was not anticipated to have an **immediate** impact on **groundwater** levels.

- Based on monitoring data obtained from the United States Geological Survey and the Town of Smithtown Engineering Department, and based on no new rain events, it is anticipated the groundwater table will recede about 1 inch per week from the 3 foot increase that occurred from December 2009 through March 2010.

- The most important thing homeowners can do right now is to document all their time, money, and supplies used to safeguard their property, as well as keep records and receipts of damages, especially to utilities such as boilers and hot water heaters. There may not be any assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the future, but if any assistance may be forthcoming it will only be available to those with documented damages.

NOTE: You do not need to "register" with the Town or Federal Emergency Management Agency - whether or not a specific address is provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency during the preliminary damage assessment has no bearing on whether or not you will be eligible for any federal assistance that may or may not become available.

- It is up to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine if the disaster threshold for the County and State is severe enough to allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist individual owners with damages resulting from the March rain events. In the case that the Federal Emergency Management Agency declares a disaster, it will be widely publicized, and homeowners will have the opportunity to apply for loans and/or grants to re-coup certain types of damages. At this point in time, it does not appear likely that the State of New York will achieve the threshold for individual assistance.

- If you do have submerged utilities, including electricity, which may be unsafe and need to be turned off, please contact the Building Department to arrange for an inspection.

- Your input about when you start and stop pumping, etc., is useful to the Engineering Department from a technical standpoint, so we do appreciate your communication with us and encourage you to contact us when conditions change from dry to wet or wet to dry. You can report changes in conditions via email to Laura Feitner in the Engineering Department at lfeitner@tosgov.com

- The Town of Smithtown is aware of extensive basement

pumping that is going on throughout various areas of the Town, and our estimate of how many homeowners are affected is growing everyday. At this point, we believe approximately 1700 homes have been affected, primarily in the areas to the east and west of Old Nichols Road, Mount Pleasant Road, and Maple Avenue. If you have information about other affected neighborhoods, please email addresses to lfeitner@tosgov.com

- To keep the drainage systems in your neighborhood operating efficiently, please do not throw litter, grass clippings, leaves, or brush into storm drains or into parklands and wetlands. If you see someone violating Town code by doing this, please call the Department of Public Safety at 360-7553.

- Any questions regarding health concerns shall be directed to the Suffolk County Public Health Hotline at 787-2200.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (via links):

- Present and historic weather data may be found at Weather Underground [weather underground](#) and the National Weather Service [National Weather Service](#).
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [wetlands maps](#).
- United States Geological Survey groundwater monitoring information may be found at [USGS](#)
- General information regarding disaster assistance can be found at New York State Emergency Management Agency semo.state.ny.us.
- Certain types of remedial actions do require Building permits - more information can be obtained from the Town of Smithtown Building Department [here](#)

UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM

NEW YORK DISASTER NUMBER NY-00087 DISASTER DECLARATION NUMBER 12128 & NUMBER 12129

In response to the Town of Smithtown's efforts in documenting uninsured losses on private property, the United States Small Business Administration has announced a disaster loan program. The deadline for filing application's for this program is June 18, 2010. Residents can contact the United States Small Business Administration directly at (800) 659-2955 or by e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or on-line at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/>

LWV-Smithtown Program 2010-2011

A. Voter Service and Citizen Education

Voter Service is a primary function of the LWV of Smithtown. We will serve as a non-partisan source of information and education for voters and take action by:

1. Conducting voter registration drives throughout the community and encourage all eligible citizens to vote
2. Organizing as needed and providing trained moderators to serve for candidates forums to give every citizen the opportunity to hear the candidates views on important issues
3. Conducting educational forums about the local government process in order to promote greater citizen awareness
4. Training speakers as needed
5. Developing ideas for community service projects for students and youth organizations

B. Library

We will continue to have an observer at Library Board meetings to keep us aware of any changes in policy that will either improve or diminish service to the public.

C. Natural Resources Preservation

Under the Natural Resources position for preservation of open space and wetlands of the LWNYS, we will continue action in support and enforcement of measures for preservation of the waterfront, wetlands, bird sanctuaries and open space usage of properties within Smithtown township, including the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center property and others as they become available.

D. Township Development

1. We will support an updated Master Plan to provide for controlled growth within the Township and revitalization of downtown Smithtown within the context of our present and projected economic conditions.
2. We will explore and address other items of concern relating to the welfare of the Township and its residents as they may arise.

Nominating Committee Report

Nominees for 2 year terms 2010 – 2012

Officers

2 nd Vice President	Lisa Scott
Treasurer	Mary Zopf

Elected Directors for 2010 -2012

Director (2 yr):	Carole Samples
Health/Social Policy	
Director (2 yr):	Carol McNally
ATI/Prevention	

Nominating Committee for 2011

<u>Chairperson</u>	June Carlson
<u>Committee</u>	Sharon Kunz + _____

LWV Smithtown Board representative to be designated at January Executive Board meeting

Respectfully submitted by:
Garnet Marshall (Chair),
Pat LaWare, Mae Tierney

2009–2010 LWV Smithtown Board

OFFICERS

Joyce Rosenthal, *President*
Sondra Irvine, *1st VP, Program*
Lisa Scott, *2nd VP, Voter Editor*
Marie Manginelli, *Secretary, Membership*
Mary Zopf, *Treasurer*

DIRECTORS

Trudy Gaus, *Archivist*
Arlene Lesser
Carol McNally, *PR/Publicity, ATI*
Carole Samples, *Health/Social Policy*

OFF -BOARD

Carol Aquaviva, *Court Monitor*
Stella Baker, *ATI, Natural Resources*
Victoria Brown, *Court Reform*
June Carlson, *Ways and Means*
Sharon Kunz, *Phone Squad*
Mae Tierney, *Budget*

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Smithtown, NY 11787
e-mail: journeyaa@aol.com

Catherine Nilsen

Licensed Sales Associate
cathynilsen@optonline.net



Prudential

Douglas Elliman Real Estate

996 Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, NY 11787
220 Lake Ave, St. James, NY 11780
Direct 631 858-6904 Fax 631 543-9481
Cell 631 697-8040

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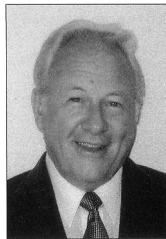


Prudential

Douglas Elliman Real Estate

996 Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, NY 11787
220 Lake Ave., St. James, NY 11780
Direct 631 858-6905 Fax 631 543-9481
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Fax: (631) 265-8676

email: cforgash@optonline.net
website: www.advancededucationalproductions.com

532 Rte. 25A
(North Country Rd.)
St. James, NY 11780
631.862.6660



Salon Dee La Rosa

www.salondeelarosa.com
Email: info@salondeelarosa.com



BANK of SMITHTOWN
Dedicated. To You.

Bonnie Luisi
Branch Manager

14 Park Drive
Kings Park, NY 11754-3811
Phone: 631-269-4900 Fax: 631-544-4881

2020 Jericho Turnpike
Commack, NY 11725-3097
Phone: 631-543-7400 Fax: 631-543-2754
E-mail: bluisi@bankofsmithtown.net

League of Women Voters of Smithtown
Membership Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Even if you do not have time for active participation, your membership alone will strengthen our voice.

Individual Membership	\$50.00
Household (2 at same address)	70.00
Student Membership	20.00
Additional Contribution	_____
Total	\$ _____

Make dues checks payable to LWV of Smithtown and mail to:

LWV of Smithtown
c/o Mary Zopf
21 Greene Drive
Commack, NY 11725

Please note:

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the League beyond the dues amount, a separate check for the donation must be written to "LWVNYS Education Foundation" and mailed to the address above. Thank you.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SMITHTOWN**

**322 River Road
St. James, NY 11780**

Address Correction Requested

**POSTMASTER:
DATED MAIL-
Please Rush!**

**Annual Meeting
Details Inside**

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 2010

Mon.	June 7	LWV Smithtown board meeting Mills Pond House, 7:00pm
Tues.	June 8	Town Board Meetings, 9:30am-Work Session; 2pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Tues.	June 15	Library Board Meeting, Smithtown Main Library, 7pm
Wed.	June 16	LWVSC Board Meeting, location to be announced
Thurs.	June 17	LWV Smithtown Annual Meeting, Mills Pond House, 5:30 - 8:30pm
Thurs.	June 24	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7pm